

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK300 ERIE BOULEVARD, WEST
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13202

December 9, 1983

Mr. Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Project and Resident Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Re: Docket No. 50-220
Inspection Report 83-24

Dear Mr. Starostecki,

This refers to the routine Safety Inspection conducted by Mr. S. Hudson of your staff on October 1-31, 1983, at Nine Mile Point Unit #1, Scriba, New York of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-63, and to the discussions of your findings held by Mr. S. Hudson with Mr. T. Roman of our staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

ITEM A

Tech. Spec. 3.6.8(b) states: "With a CO₂ system inoperable, establish a continuous fire watch with backup fire suppression equipment for unprotected area(s) within one hour."

Contrary to the above, on October 3, 1983, a roving fire patrol was established vice a continuous fire watch when the CO₂ system was inoperable in the recirculation pump motor generator set area, both emergency diesel generators and their power board rooms, the cable spreading room and the auxiliary control room.

RESPONSE

This event resulted from the fact that the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 staff used a proposed Technical Specification as a guideline for good operating practice, when in fact the fire watch should have been posted in accordance with the approved Technical Specification.

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It is Niagara Mohawk's policy to operate in a manner which is in total compliance with the approved Technical Specifications. However, the proposed Technical Specifications were being used as a conservative guideline for the operation of the new Fire Protection Systems installed to meet the 9.5.1 S.E.R. requirements, since there were no approved Technical Specifications applicable at the time of the event.

Upon discovery of the error, a continuous fire watch was immediately reinstated in the affected areas in compliance with the approved Technical Specifications. To prevent recurrence, a meeting was held with all involved personnel informing them that the approved Technical Specifications are the governing document at this time. The event was of minimal safety significance because fire detection sensors were operable in all affected areas.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Lempges".

Thomas E. Lempges
Vice President
Nuclear Generation

TEL/HTB/jm