

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

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

February 21, 1984

Mr. Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Engineering and Technical Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Re: Docket No. 50-220
Inspection Report 83-26

Dear Mr. Martin,

This refers to the routine Safety Inspection conducted by Mr. P. Clemons of your staff on November 7-10, 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. P. Clemons with Mr. T. Perkins and other members of our staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

ITEM A

10 CFR 71-12(c) requires that a person using a package to transport licensed material must have a copy of the Certificate of Compliance, and the person must also comply with the conditions of the Certificate.

1. Certificate of Compliance No. 9111, Revision No. 8, requires that the decay heat load not exceed 400 watts.

Contrary to the above, the licensee did not determine the decay heat load of a package of 14 curies of licensed material shipped on February 11, 1983, having the Certificate of Compliance No. 9111.

2. Certificate of Compliance No. 9094, Revision No. 6, requires that the contents of a package must meet the requirements for low specific activity material.

Contrary to the above, the licensee did not determine if a package shipped on April 22, 1983, having the Certificate of Compliance No. 9094, met the requirements for low specific activity material.

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RESPONSE

Due to inadequacies in procedures, the decay heat load of a package of 14 curies of licensed material shipped on February 11, 1983, having the Certificate of Compliance No. 9111, was determined not to exceed the limit, but not documented. Also, the specific activity of a package shipped on April 22, 1983, having the Certificate of Compliance No. 9094, was determined but compared to the LSA limits was not documented.

Procedure RP-6, Packaging and Transport of Radioactive Material, was issued via two revisions so as to include the specific activity documentation and the decay heat load documentation. The revisions were dated September 7, 1983 and January 13, 1984 respectively. Also, all radioactive waste shipments from the year 1983 will be reviewed and documented so as to show that the heat load and specific activity limits have not been exceeded. This review process is scheduled to begin immediately, and it is anticipated to be completed by March 1, 1984. These corrective actions should prevent these violations from occurring in the future.

ITEM B

10 CFR 71.101(b) requires each license to establish a quality assurance program for packages. 10 CFR 71.101(f) states that a Commission approved quality assurance program that satisfies the applicable criteria of Appendix B of Part 50 of this chapter, and which is established, maintained and executed with regard to transport packages will be accepted as satisfying the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section.

Criteria II, Appendix B of Part 50 of the licensee's previously approved program requires that the licensee identify the structures, systems and components to be covered by the quality assurance program.

Contrary to the above, as of November 9, 1983, the licensee has not identified transport packages as a structure, system or component to be covered by the quality assurance program.

RESPONSE

By a letter dated June 2, 1983 from Niagara Mohawk Nuclear Quality Control Supervisor Mr. David Palmer to Niagara Mohawk General Superintendent of Nuclear Generation Mr. Thomas Perkins, transportation packages were included in the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 Quality Assurance Program. Audit/surveillance reports are on file proving Quality Assurance activity in this area. However, radioactive material transport is not specifically included in the Q-list as desired by USNRC Region I Inspector Mr. Percy Clemons. We request a 30-day extension to clarify the legal requirements pertaining to this item and to provide a satisfactory resolution.

ITEM C

10 CFR 71.105(d) states, "The licensee shall provide for indoctrination and training of personnel performing activities affecting quality as necessary to assure that suitable proficiency is achieved and maintained."

Contrary to the above, one licensee employee performing activities affecting quality has not been trained in DOT and NRC regulatory requirements involved in the transfer, packaging and transport of radioactive material to assure that suitable proficiency was achieved and maintained.

RESPONSE

Mr. David Palmer, Niagara Mohawk Nuclear Quality Control Supervisor, has been in communication with Dr. Ronald Bellamy, Chief of Radiation Protection of your Region I office, to obtain a clarification of this item. We request a 30-day extension to clarify and provide a satisfactory resolution to this item.

Very truly yours,

Thomas E. Lempges

Thomas E. Lempges
Vice President
Nuclear Generation

TEL/RGR/jm