

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA MOHAWK

300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202

March 8, 1974



Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for Reactor Operations
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Re: Provisional Operating License: DPR-17
Docket No.: 50-220

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

Persuant to Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1 Technical Specifications 1.13 d and 4.14 d we are reporting as an abnormal occurrence, an alarm limit drift on one core spray differential pressure instrument.

On February 25, 1974 during routine surveillance testing, one core spray differential pressure instrument (Barton 288-4802, RV-30A) was found to actuate at a lower value than that as set forth in the instrument surveillance checklist. This is the second drift in set point of this particular instrument¹. Notification was made to Region I, Division of Regulatory Operations on February 26, 1974.

The instrument surveillance checklist set point is 5 psid +0-1.0. The instrument actuated on alarm at 3.5 psid or at a lower differential than is required. However awareness of an abnormal condition in the core spray piping would have alarmed sooner than required thus the drift was in a safe direction. The instrument as designed is intended to provide an alarm only and serves no protective circuitry function.

The primary function of the core spray differential pressure indicators is to monitor the condition of the core spray piping between the reactor vessel. A loss of integrity would create a differential pressure in the range of 20-25 psid under normal operating conditions.

To prevent re-occurrence of this instrument set point drift a modification will be made to the Barton instrument to minimize if not eliminate the problem. This modification will be made during the upcoming Spring refueling outage scheduled to commence this month.

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Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

March 6, 1974

Based upon the fact that the drift was in the safe direction,
no undue hazard was presented to the general public as a result of
this instrument drift.

Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY R.R.SCHNEIDER

R.R. Schneider

Vice President - Electric Operations

TJD:cm

¹ Ltr. Schneider - Skovholt July 6, 1973

CORE SPRAY HEADER DIFF. PRESS. RV-30A

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1974, DURING ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE TESTING, ONE CORE SPRAY DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE INSTRUMENT (RV-30A, BARTON 286-4602) WAS FOUND TO ACTUATE LOWER THAN THE VALUE AS SPECIFIED ON THE SURVEILLANCE CHECK LIST. NOMINAL SET POINT IS 5 PSID AND THE INSTRUMENT OPERATED AT 3.5 PSID. REASON FOR THE CHANGE IS ATTRIBUTED TO SET POINT DRIFT. A MODIFICATION TO THE BARTON SWITCH WILL BE DONE WHICH SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ELIMINATE DRIFT IN THESE INSTRUMENTS.

THESE INSTRUMENTS ARE DESIGNED AND INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN ALARM ONLY AND SERVE NO PROTECTIVE CIRCUITRY FUNCTION.

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THESE INSTRUMENTS IS TO INDICATE A LOSS OF INTEGRITY OF THE CORE SPRAY PIPING BETWEEN THE REACTOR VESSEL WALL AND THE SHROUD INSIDE THE REACTOR VESSEL. IF LOSS OF INTEGRITY SHOULD OCCUR THE DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE INSTRUMENT WOULD READ ESSENTIALLY RECIRCULATION PUMP DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE IN THE RANGE OF 20-25 PSID. WITH THE LOWERED SET POINT ON THIS INSTRUMENT THE ALARM WOULD OCCUR SOONER THEREFORE THE CHANGE WAS CONSERVATIVE AND NO HAZARD WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO THE PLANT OR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE INSTRUMENT WAS CALIBRATED TO NOMINAL VALUE PENDING OUTCOME OF THE SET POINT MODIFICATION.

T.J. PERKINS
STATION SUPERINTENDENT
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION

Perkins
50220

MEMO ROUTE SLIP		See me about this.	For concurrence.	For action.
Form AEC-93 (Rev. May 14, 1947) AECM 0240		Note and return.	For signature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For information.
TO (Name and unit) RO Chief FS&EB RO HQ (4) DL (4) RO Files ✓ DR Central Files	INITIALS	REMARKS NIAGARA MOHAWK, NINE MILE POINT AO 50-220-74-1		
	DATE			
TO (Name and unit) OGC	INITIALS	REMARKS The above AO is forwarded for information. Distribution will be made by this office to the PDR, Local PDR, NSIC, DTIE, and State Representatives.		
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	DATE			
FROM (Name and unit) E. J. Brunner Region I <i>E. J. Brunner</i>	REMARKS			
PHONE NO. 8-337-1246	DATE 3/4/74			

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

GPO : 1971 O - 445-469