

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

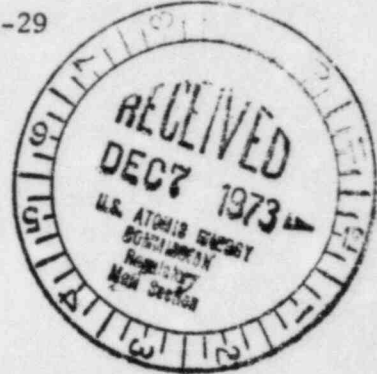
NIAGARA  MOHAWK

300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202

December 3, 1973

AOR 73-11-29

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



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

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

On November 26, 1973 at 0330 hours at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit #1, fifteen (15) control rod drives failed to insert to position 00 following a reactor scram. Pursuant to Technical Specifications: 1.13 d,

- d. Failure of one or more components of an engineered safety feature or Station system that causes or threatens to cause the feature or system to be incapable of performing its intended function,

this is an abnormal occurrence and was reported by telephone and photocopy to Director of Regulatory Operations, Region I.

Prior to the occurrence the unit was being shutdown, mode switch in start-up and reactor pressure was less than 850 psig. A scram occurred on neutron instrumentation (IRM's) and upon resetting the scram fifteen (15) control rods showed position 02. Seven (7) of those were the subject of AOR 73-11-20. The operator immediately inserted these control rods to 00 using normal drive pressure and the manual control system.

The apparent cause of this occurrence following a review of testing by SORC has been identified as leakage past the stop piston seals.

The reactor was shutdown even with fifteen (15) control rods at 02 as indicated by decreasing neutron instrumentation therefore no hazard was presented to the general public nor was plant safety in jeopardy.

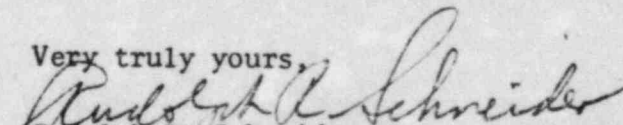
To correct this situation, the fifteen (15) control rods will be overhauled during the Spring 1974 refueling outage. This is the second incident of this nature (AOR 73-11-20) and appears to be a problem which occurs as a result of deteriorating stop piston seals causing a slowdown during the last 5% of drive travel.

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PDR ADOCK 05000220
S PDR

RRS:cm

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUEST

Very truly yours,


Rudolph R. Schneider
Vice President - Electric Operations

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COPY SENT REGION