

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK

300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13202

November 30, 1973



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

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

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

Unusual Event 73-11-2

In accordance with Section 6.6. b 2 of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit #1 Technical Specifications, the following information is forwarded concerning an unusual event occurring at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit #1.

During the Spring 1973 refueling outage, the circuitry to cause the trip of all recirculation pumps upon reaching a pre-established reactor pressure was installed in accordance with reviewed and approved design change drawings. The requirement for this change is discussed in detail in the "Technical Supplement To Petition For Conversion From Provisional Operating License To Full Term Operating License" page IV 39 - IV 47.

A review of the existing Technical Specification with regard to updating was conducted this Fall, when a discrepancy was noted in the pressure set point trip of the recirculation pumps for the Analysis of Transients without scram. A thorough review by the Site Operating Review Committee revealed that the pumps will be tripped at 1080 psig rather than the intended 1150 psig as stated in the above mentioned document. The effect of lowering this set point has no detrimental effect on the Analysis of Transients without scram. However, it does have an adverse effect on the margin between peak pressure reached in a transient involving scram with turbine trip and failure of the bypass system and the lowest safety valve setting. Although no safety limits are reached, the degradation of the pressure margin is of concern. General Electric Company has concluded that existing power operation is permissible with no infringement on the safe operation of the plant or safety of the general public. However, as stated in my letter of November 30, 1973, to Mr. Giambusso, the trip of recirculation pumps on high reactor pressure is being deleted from the protection system circuitry to prevent assumed aggravation of other transients.

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*Amended
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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
November 30, 1973

The General Electric Company is completing a review of safety analysis to determine the effect of this new parameter on performance on transient conditions. When their review is complete, design changes will be formulated, reviewed, approved and installed.

Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY R.R.SCHNEIDER

R. R. Schneider
Vice President - Electric Operations

cc Mr. James P. O'Reilly