

May 12, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-023

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
Nine Mile Point 1
Lycoming, New York
Dockets: 50-220

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: REACTOR CORE SHROUD REPAIR - MEDIA INTEREST

During the 1997 refueling and maintenance outage, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) discovered cracking in vertical welds joining sections of the cylindrical stainless steel reactor core shroud. Inspection and analyses determined that the plant could be operated safely until the next scheduled refueling outage. In 1997 and 1998, the NRC reviewed and approved the licensee's analyses.

The current refueling outage started on April 11. During this refueling outage, NMPC performed inspections that identified indications of crack growth around a portion of one of the vertical welds. NMPC concluded that the crack growth rate was consistent with their previous analyses. NMPC also concluded that the reactor core shroud continues to be structurally sound and does not pose any concern to the continued safe operation of the plant.

Based on the results of the examination of the reactor core shroud and analysis, NMPC has decided to install a pre-planned modification, consisting of clamps over two vertical welds, including the one weld which exhibited some crack growth. The repair modification for the shroud vertical welds is expected to take approximately five days to complete.

NMPC activities have been monitored by the resident staff, as well as, regional and headquarters staff.

NMPC has contacted local media representatives and has issued a press release. The State of New York has been informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

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