

situated only seven miles from Oswego, a town of about 23,000, so that design considerations are paramount, for should any major release of radioactivity to the air occur, the city of Oswego would be seriously endangered.

Because of the time and expense involved in building a nuclear power reactor, construction is usually begun before the design of the reactor is complete. A power company which wishes to build a reactor applies to the AEC for a construction permit, submitting preliminary plans. The AEC then prepares its own analysis of the proposal, and a public hearing before a specially constituted Licensing Board is held.

In the case of Niagara Mohawk, such a hearing was scheduled for December 15, 1964. Instead, however, a private conference among the applicant, the licensing board and other interested parties was held on this date, and the public hearing was postponed until January 15. Following the hearing, the findings and conclusions of the licensing board were made public, and a construction permit was granted. The findings and conclusions of the Licensing Board were written by the applicant, Niagara Mohawk Co., and were accepted with only minor changes by the AEC.

At some future date, Niagara Mohawk will submit final design plans for the reactor, and the AEC will decide whether or not to grant an operating permit.

In the near future, S/C will publish an analysis of normal operating hazards from nuclear reactors. In our April, 1964, issue we discussed in detail the accident hazard from the then proposed Bodega (California) reactor, which has since been abandoned. We plan a more general treatment of this problem, with special attention to reactors which are projected for the near future, such as Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point Station.