Niagara Mohawk

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March 31, 2000
NMP2L 1948

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPF-69

Subject: ***Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program Interim Startup Report***

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specifications (TS) Sections 6.9.1.1, 6.9.1.2, and 6.9.1.3, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is providing this letter in regard to the NMP2 "Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program Interim Startup Report." NMPC's first interim report was submitted in a letter dated November 28, 1995 (NMP2L 1597). NMPC's most recent interim report was submitted in a letter dated January 5, 2000 (NMP2L 1924).

As reported previously, the power uprate power ascension test program could not be completed due to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow at 100% of uprated power level. NMPC continues to believe that the major contributor to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow is jet pump fouling. During the current refueling outage (RFO7), visual throat fouling inspections were performed on jet pumps 5, 6, 15, and 16. All four jet pumps exhibited crud deposits in the inlet mixer and the other visible high velocity flow areas. Jet pump performance will continue to be monitored in operation cycle 8. During this time, a decision regarding the need for jet pump cleaning in RFO8 to remove crud deposits will be made.

The inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow does not adversely affect the continued safe operation of NMP2. However, submittal of supplementary reports is required per TS 6.9.1.3 due to the present inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow, as required to complete the remaining tests.

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NMPC will continue to submit the supplementary reports required by the NMP2 TS until the remaining testing described in our revised interim report has been completed. A final startup report will be submitted within 90 days following completion of the startup test program.

Very truly yours,

John T. Conway
Vice President Nuclear Generation

JTC/IAA/tmk

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Ms. M. K. Gamberoni, Acting Section Chief PD-I, Section I, NRR
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