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April 13, 2000
NMP1L 1507

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

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
DPR-63

Subject: Fracture Toughness Testing

Gentlemen:

By letter dated September 30, 1997 (NMP1L 1254), Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted the results of the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) core shroud vertical welds "boat" sample metallurgical testing. In subsequent letters dated February 27, 1998 (NMP1L 1290) and April 30, 1998 (NMP1L 1310), NMPC informed the NRC that it was seeking industry involvement in completing fracture toughness testing and that testing results would be submitted upon completion. The two letters also pointed out that neither the NRC's safety evaluation of May 8, 1997, assessing the reinspection results and analyses of the NMP1 core shroud, nor the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP)-01 guidelines require fracture toughness testing to support the core shroud vertical weld fracture analyses. In a letter to NMPC, which forwarded the NRC's review of the 1999 core shroud reinspection results (October 20, 1999, TAC No. MA6073), the NRC did not request or require fracture toughness testing to support the core shroud vertical weld evaluation.

NMPC has concluded that the decision to complete fracture toughness testing should be made at the industry level. As a result, the NMP1 boat sample material originally reserved for fracture toughness testing has been made available to the BWRVIP research project dealing with fracture toughness of irradiated stainless steel. Consequently, no further NMPC action is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard B. Abbott".

Richard B. Abbott
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

RBA/IAA/tmk

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Ms. M. K. Gamberoni, Acting Section Chief PD-I Section 1, NRR
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. P. S. Tam, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Records Management

Handwritten initials "DF" and "Aool" with the date "1/0" below them.