

May 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Marsha Gamberoni, Acting Chief, Section 1  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager, Section 1 **/RA/**  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 -  
ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION, ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH  
THE LICENSEE REGARDING RELIEF REQUEST DATED  
OCTOBER 28, 1999 (TAC NOS. MA7116, MA7117 AND MA7118)

By letter dated April 7, 2000, the licensee provided additional information supporting the subject relief request. The NRC staff and its contractor, INEEL, reviewed the April 7, 2000, submittal and have comments. These were transmitted to the licensee today by e-mail (attached). This memorandum and the attached e-mail do not currently impose an NRC staff position and do not formally request information. The staff will discuss with licensee personnel in a phone call in the near future regarding disposition of the comments in the e-mail.

Docket Nos. 50-220 and 50-410

Attachment: As stated

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**From:** Peter Tam  
**To:** INTERNET:leonardm@nimo.com, INTERNET:paget@nimo.c...  
**Date:** Mon, May 1, 2000 8:57 AM  
**Subject:** Request for conference call re. your 4/7/00 response to RAI

Tim:

In response to question 4 of the NRC staff's 3/24/00 Request for Additional Information, you (letter of 4/7/00) proposed the following alternative for the examination of bolting and bolted connections:

*NMPC will perform General visual examinations of all bolted connections in each inspection period. The General visual examinations will be performed in accordance with an inspection period schedule. Each scheduled bolted connection, within each period, will be examined in place under tension, or when the bolted connection is disassembled. Visual examination of disassembled bolted connections at other than a scheduled period examination is not required. Therefore, in conclusion, only those bolted connections disassembled at the time of the scheduled period examinations will be examined.*

Based on the review and discussion of the relief requests for the use of 1998 Code, and to have an equivalent quality and safety for bolted connections, the staff has previously found the following position, proposed by other licensees using the 1998 edition of the Code, acceptable:

All accessible bolted connections shall be visually examined each inspection period per the requirements of the 1998 Edition of IWE, Table IWE-2500-1, Category E-A which corresponds to an examination of all bolted connections three times per inspection interval. Licensees shall A general visual examination (VT-3 or equivalent) on the exposed portions of the connection shall be performed. Bolted connections need not be disassembled solely for the performance of VT-3 examinations. If the general visual examination indicates possible areas of degradation or damage, a detailed visual examination (VT-1 or equivalent) is required. If assembled, the bolted connection shall be disassembled to facilitate the detailed examination. Furthermore, if a bolted connection is disassembled at the time of inspection, all accessible surface areas of the connection shall be visually examined (VT-3 or VT-1 if necessary). If a disassembled connection is not visually examined by a VT-3 or VT-1 qualified individual before reassembly, written maintenance procedures shall be followed to ensure that the integrity of reassembled bolted connections are maintained. The written procedures shall include acceptance criteria for the continued use of all part of the connection including bolts, studs, nuts, bushings, washers, and threads in base material an flange ligaments between fastener holes.

NMPC's proposed alternative does not address the procedures to be followed when suspect areas of degradation or damage is found during the general visual examination or when the connections are disassembled. Please consider the above.

We can discuss your proposal in a conference call. Thanks.

Peter

**CC:** Hansraj Ashar

Attachment