



December 22, 2000
NMP2L 2003

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:

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is providing this letter in regard to the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (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 September 22, 2000 (NMP2L 1984).

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 jet pump fouling is a contributor to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow. During refueling outage number 7 (RFO7), visual throat fouling inspections were performed on jet pumps 5, 6, 15, and 16, which revealed crud deposits in the inlet mixer and the other visible high velocity flow areas. Jet pump performance will continue to be monitored in operating cycle 8. During this time, a decision regarding the need for jet pump cleaning in refueling outage number 8 (RFO8) to remove the 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 (interim) reports is required due to the present inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow, as required to complete the remaining tests.

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The requirement to submit supplementary reports was originally contained in Section 6.9, "Reporting Requirements," of the NMP2 Technical Specifications (TS). The TS have now been converted to the Improved Technical Specifications and, as a result, the TS Section 6.9 requirements are being relocated to the Updated Safety Analysis Report. NMPC plans to continue to submit the supplementary reports 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,



Michael F. Peckham
Plant Manager - NMP2

MFP/IAA/cld

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Ms. M. K. Gamberoni, Section Chief PD-I, Section 1, NRR
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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