

March 7, 2001

Mr. David Lochbaum  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1707 H Street NW Suite 600  
Washington DC 20006-3919

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LETTER DATED DECEMBER 7, 2000

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

This letter responds to your December 7, 2000, letter which questioned the adequacy of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's (NMPC) Licensee Event Report (LER) No. 00-03, dated October 27, 2000. LER No. 00-03 addressed a reactor trip event at Nine Mile Point Unit 1 which occurred on September 27, 2000. Specifically, you considered NMPC's explanation of this event to have lacked sufficient detail. You also suggested that rather than the NRC staff respond to your specific technical questions and concerns, that NMPC submit a revision to LER No. 00-03 to address those issues.

As you are aware, our resident inspectors routinely review and assess the adequacy of LERs. Accordingly, our review of LER No. 00-03 was documented in Inspection Report No. 05000220/2000-008, 05000410/2000-008, dated December 22, 2000. As discussed in Section 4OA3 of this report (Enclosure 1), the inspectors found that LER No. 00-03 adequately described the plant and operators' response and provided an appropriate analysis of the safety consequences of the event in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73.

Per our telephone conversation with you on January 16, 2001, and based upon our discussions with NMPC, the licensee committed to respond to the specific questions and concerns you raised in your letter of December 7, 2000. By letter dated February 12, 2001, NMPC docketed their response to your concerns. A copy of this letter is provided for your review (Enclosure 2).

We thank you for your interest in the NRC activities regarding the NMPC Nine Mile Point nuclear plants. Please feel free to call me or Michele Evans, the responsible Projects Branch Chief (610-337-5224) to discuss any future concerns or insights you have regarding the NMPC units.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard V. Crlenjak, Deputy Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures: As stated

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