

May 31, 2001

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: Annual Assessment Letter - Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station

Dear Mr. Mueller:

On May 8, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station. The review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period of April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility. On June 19, 2001, at 1:00 p.m., we plan to discuss this assessment with you and your staff in a meeting at the Nine Mile Point Training Center. The meeting will be open for public observation.

Overall, Nine Mile Point operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives, throughout the 12-month assessment period. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002.

During this 12-month assessment period, the NRC staff issued a severity level III Notice of Violation (NOV) to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy (reference our letter of May 2, 2001). This NOV involved a violation of 10 CFR 50.9(a) that resulted from a former licensed reactor operator who provided false and incomplete medical history information in 1996 and 1997. We plan no further review or follow-up of this issue in the next assessment cycle.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1- December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e. the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the

third calendar quarter (July 1- September 30) in lieu of a mid-cycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as Enclosure 1, is minimal.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Our assessment process and terminology are further described in the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 610-337-5224 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michele G. Evans, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 05000220
05000410
License Nos. DPR-63
NPF-69

Enclosure: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Inspection / Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

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Nine Mile Point
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	7112101 - OCC RAD SAFETY		1			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/18/2001	06/22/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112201 - RETS		1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	71152 - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & RESOLUTION		3			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		08/06/2001	08/10/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112201 - RETS		1			
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/16/2001	07/20/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112202 - PUB RAD SAFETY		1			
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		08/13/2001	08/17/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112103 - OCC RAD SAFETY		1			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		10/15/2001	10/19/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7111401 - EP EXERCISE EVALUATION		7			
1, 2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		12/03/2001	12/07/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/03/2001	12/07/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7111117B - MODS & 50.59		3			
1, 2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		12/10/2001	12/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	71130 - SECURITY		1			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		01/07/2002	01/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		01/07/2002	01/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY		1			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		02/11/2002	02/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/11/2002	02/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY		1			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/11/2002	03/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	7111108 - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections