June 26, 2001

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, Second Floor
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI), PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM ELECTRICAL POWER MONITORING ASSEMBLIES (TAC NO. MB1163)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

The NRC staff is reviewing the subject proposed amendment from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) dated February 27, 2001. On May 17, 2001, the staff held a telephone discussion with Messrs. S. Leonard and C. Mackaman, et al. of NMPC on comments we previously e-mailed (publicly available in ADAMS Accession No. ML011160024). The NRC staff summarized the information verbally communicated by NMPC staff during the conference call (enclosure).

Please review the enclosure and confirm, clarify, or otherwise correct the information. We request your timely response to support NMPC's requested target date of February 28, 2002.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-410

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl.: See next page

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Accession Number: **ML011620025**

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NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM ELECTRICAL POWER

MONITORING ASSEMBLIES

On May 17, 2001, the NRC staff conducted a telephone conference with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation personnel. The NRC staff received verbal information on the following items. Please confirm, clarify, or otherwise correct the accuracy of the these items:

1. The main steam isolation valve (MSIV) trip solenoids supplied by General Electric are designed for 40 years of operation if operated continuously at 125 volts (i.e., the solenoids' maximum design rating of 125 volts).

2. If operated at 128 volts (a voltage above the maximum design rating), the MSIV trip solenoids supplied by GE are designed for 2.2 years of operation (i.e., the solenoids have a qualified life of 2.2 years if operated continuously at 128 volts).

3. A voltage of 124 volts is the maximum normal voltage expected from the reactor protection system (RPS) power supplies.

4. MSIV trip solenoids supplied by GE are replaced before they reach 2.2 years of operation at normal voltages.

5. MSIV trip solenoids supplied by GE are in the process of being replaced with solenoids designed for 40 years of operation if operated continuously at 128 volts.

6. The proposed Technical Specifications (TSs) overvoltage Allowable Value change will reduce margin from 8 volts (132 volts, the current TS overvoltage Allowable Value, minus 124 volts, the maximum expected normal voltage from the RPS power supplies) to 4 volts (128 volts, the proposed TS overvoltage Allowable Value, minus 124 volts, the maximum expected normal voltage from the RPS power supplies).

7. The probability for tripping of an electric protective assembly (EPA) will not change due to a set point drift with a 4 versus 8 volt margin.

8. Bypassing one EPA for testing and calibration does not adversely affect the probability for EPA trip (and thus reactor trip).

9. The proposed calibration frequency of 184 days was selected to assure that there would be no change in the probability for EPA trip (and thus reactor trip) due to set point drift.