

March 3, 2003

Mr. John T. Conway  
Vice President Nine Mile Point  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Conway:

On February 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station. The end-of-cycle review for Nine Mile Point involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2002. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Nine Mile Point was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety, and fully met all cornerstone objectives. 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 PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2004.

While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the licensee response column of the Action Matrix, there were two white PIs during the assessment cycle. The Unit 1 "High Pressure Safety Injection Unavailability" PI was white for the first two quarters of 2002. The Unit 2 "Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours" PI was white for the first quarter of 2002. A 95001 supplemental inspection (reference Inspection Report 50-220, 410/2002-09, dated October 7, 2002) concluded that Nine Mile Point had performed comprehensive evaluations of the causes for both issues. The Nine Mile Point evaluation identified the primary root cause of the white performance indicators to be long-standing cultural issues relating to low standards and acceptance of equipment problems. Your actions to address these issues will be monitored by the baseline inspection program.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2004. 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. The inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections, conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. Based on our final determinations in this regard, we will notify you of any inspection plan changes.

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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 James Trapp at 610-337-5186 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410  
Licensee Nos. DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosure: Nine Mile Point Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: M. J. Wallace, President, Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC  
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OFFICE	RI/DRP		RI/DRP		RI/DRP	
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DATE	02/26/03		02/26/03		03/03/03	

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**Nine Mile Point**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**12/29/2002 - 03/27/2004**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>93812 - NMP 1 RBCLC SPECIAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	IP 93812	Special Inspection		02/10/2003	02/14/2003	Event Response Insp
	<b>71121 - OCC RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/24/2003	03/28/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/24/2003	03/28/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152 - PIR SAMPLE - FIRE BRIGADE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/24/2003	03/28/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108 - INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		03/31/2003	04/04/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71122.02 - RETS - UNIT 1</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71122.03 - RETS - UNIT 2</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		04/14/2003	04/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>T1148BC - SEC ICM</b>		<b>6</b>			
1, 2	IP 2515/148	Inspection of Nuclear Reactor Safeguards - Interim Compensatory Measures		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Safety Issues
	<b>7111105T - FIRE PROTECTION - UNIT 2</b>		<b>5</b>			
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		06/02/2003	06/06/2003	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		06/16/2003	06/20/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121.03 - OCC RAD SAFETY - INSTRUMENTATION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71122.02 - RADWASTE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		07/21/2003	07/25/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71122.03 - REMP</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111117B - PERMANENT PLANT MODS</b>		<b>5</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		08/11/2003	08/15/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121.01 - OCC RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/25/2003	08/29/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152B - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION</b>		<b>4</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/20/2003	10/24/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111111B - L. O. REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		11/17/2003	11/20/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121 - OCC RAD SAFETY</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

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Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/17/2003	11/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111401</b>	<b>- EXERCISE EVALUATION AND PI VERIFICATION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		12/11/2003	12/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/11/2003	12/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/23/2004	02/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108G</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections