May 24, 1985

Docket No. 50-220

Mr. B. G. Hooten
Executive Director, Nuclear Operations
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear Mr. Hooten:

SUBJECT: NUREG-0737, ITEM II.F.2,
INADEQUATE CORE COOLING INSTRUMENTATION

Re: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1

On October 26, 1984, the NRC staff sent Generic Letter (GL) No. 84-23 (Reactor Vessel Water Level Instrumentation in BWRs) to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and other BWR licensees. This generic letter outlined the importance of reactor vessel water level instrumentation in BWRs. The staff concluded that permanent physical improvements should be made on a deliberate schedule to reduce the burden on the operator. Two improvement categories were proposed that, if implemented, would result in increased assurance that the level instrumentation will provide the inadequate core cooling instrumentation required by NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2. Licensees were asked to submit descriptions of plans to implement these improvements and a proposed schedule.

By letter dated December 5, 1984, you responded to GL 84-23 and stated that modifications had been completed to reduce reactor water level indication errors resulting from high drywell temperature conditions (triple low water level setpoint change and installation of a five-zone reactor water level monitoring system with temperature correction for the vessel level reference leg. Further, you have committed to perform a more fundamental program considering the S. Levy, Inc. report and have it scheduled for completion at the Spring 1986 refueling. At that time you will identify any modifications, if necessary, and inform us of your completion schedule. Based on the work completed to date and your proposed program, we find your response acceptable on this item.

Your letter also addressed the second improvement category: replacement of mechanical level indication equipment with analog level transmitters. All mechanical level indication equipment used for reactor water level measurement has been replaced with analog level transmitter and trip units at the Spring 1979 refueling outage. We find that the above action already taken at the Nine Mile Point, Unit No. 1 facility adequately addresses the second improvement category and, therefore, we find no further modifications are necessary at this time.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

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Mr. B. G. Hooten
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1

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