March 3, 1987

Docket No. 50-410

DISTRIBUTION:
Docket No. 50-410
NRC PDR — RBernero
Local PDR — Atty, OGC
BWD-3 r/f — JPartlow
EAdensam — EJordan
EHylton — BGrimes
MHaughey — ACRS (10)

Mr. C. V. Mangan, Senior Vice President
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plain Field Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Dear Mr. Mangan:

Subject: Nine Mile Point 2 Main Steam Isolation Valves

In Supplement 5 to the Safety Evaluation Report (SSER-5) for Nine Mile Point 2 (NMP-2) the staff identified the prototype test program to be performed on the main steam isolation valves (MSIVs) as a confirmatory program. This position was based on a belief and understanding that the root causes and corrections for valve problems had been identified and would be resolved for early operation of the plant. The NRC staff has had several recent conversations with your staff regarding the progress of your prototype testing program for the MSIVs. Based on the information provided during these discussions, we no longer consider the prototype test program to be confirmatory, but we consider acceptable results from the prototype test program to be required to justify operation of NMP-2 with the MSIV ball valves for the first fuel cycle.

Enclosure 1 identifies what we consider to be the minimum testing, elements of which are in addition to that required by the MSIV license condition, and additional information that will be required to demonstrate that the valves will operate as required. We now consider your testing program to be a developmental program to demonstrate the acceptability of these valves and their ability to meet regulations and Technical Specification requirements.

In addition, we note your license requires that the results of the prototype test program be submitted by May 15, 1987. If, because of problems that have been or will be encountered in the testing program, you are not able to meet that date, then a request to amend the license should be submitted in a timely manner.

We are ready to provide any necessary clarification of our position on MSIV testing as discussed above and in the enclosure. Please advise the Project Manager, Ms. Mary Haughey on (301) 492-9422 should you wish to discuss this issue with the NRC staff.

Sincerely,

/S/

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Division of BWR Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: See next page

BWD-3:DBL*	LA:BWD-3:DBL*	EICSB*	AD:BWR:DBL	D:BWD-3:DBL	D:DBL
MHaughey/vag	EHylton	JHulman	GLainas	EAdensam	RBernero
03/3/87	03/3/87	03/3/87	03/3/87	03/3/87	03/3/87

*see previous concurrence

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03/3/87	03/3/87	03/3/87	03/ /87	03/ /87	03/ /87

w/corrections

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cc:
Mr. Troy B. Conner, Jr., Esq.
Conner & Wetterhahn
Suite 1050
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Richard Goldsmith
Syracuse University
College of Law
E. I. White Hall Campus
Syracuse, New York 12223

Ezra I. Bialik
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Bureau
New York State Department of Law
2 World Trade Center
New York, New York 10047

Resident Inspector
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Station
P. O. Box 99
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. John W. Keib, Esq.
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Mr. James Linville
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. Peter E. Francisco, Licensing
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Don Hill
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Suite 550
4520 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. Paul D. Eddy
New York State Public Serice
Commission
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station -
Unit II
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. Richard M. Kessel
Chair and Executive Director
State Consumer Protection Board
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

ENCLOSURE 1

NMP-2

MINIMUM TEST PROGRAM TO DEMONSTRATE

ACCEPTABILITY OF MSIV BALL VALVES

PRIOR TO CRITICALITY

1. PROTOTYPE TESTING

   a) complete testing on the valve assembly with the first ball to qualify the valve assembly for the number of actuations expected for the first fuel cycle;

   b) complete testing on the valve assembly with the second ball to qualify the valve assembly for the number of actuations expected through the 100 hour warranty run;

   c) verify that the prototype test program encompasses expected plant operation; and

   d) perform an additional Type "C" test during the prototype tests following the MSIV heat-up at a point which corresponds to the MSIV closure test following operation in test condition 1 (see item 2C); the acceptance criteria for this test shall be 6 SCFH.

2. PLANT VALVES

   a) replace packing in all eight MSIVs with packing demonstrated to be acceptable during prototype testing discussed above; perform preoperational closure time and Type "C" tests in accordance with the Technical Specifications and Appendix J;

   b) verify that the plant valve assemblies are replicates of the prototype test valves; and

   c) commit to Type "C" test all of the plant MSIVs when the MSIV closure tests are performed following test condition 1 (this testing is in addition to, not in place of, other Type "C" tests required by the license and the regulations).

3. Verify that the problems with the ball valves in Leibstadt, Switzerland, as documented in the October 1986 report from General Electric, have been resolved for the NMP-2 MSIVs.

4. Submit for NRC review the results of items 1, 2 and 3 above.

FOLLOWING START-UP

1. successfully complete prototype testing and submit the prototype test report.

2. notify the NRC within 72 hours of any actuations of any of the plant MSIVs which exceed the number of cycles included in the prototype test program.