

DCS

OCT 08 1991

Docket Nos. 50-220; 50-410
EA No. 91-134

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President - Nuclear
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

Subject: NRC Region I Combined Inspection Nos. 50-220/91-17 and 50-410/91-17

This refers to the results of resident safety inspection conducted by Messrs. W. Schmidt, R. Laura, and R. Temps from July 28 to September 7, 1991, at Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2, Scriba, New York. The inspection findings were discussed with members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

This inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. Areas examined during the inspection are described in the NRC Region I inspection report, which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of observation of activities, interviews with personnel, and document reviews.

Overall, performance in the observed areas was good, including the response to the Unit 2 Site Area Emergency. However, based on the results of this inspection, a previously unresolved item, which concerns the ability of your Unit 2 standby gas treatment system to perform its containment drawdown function with a secondary containment unit cooler inoperable for 14 days, is now considered an apparent violation. Also of concern is the loss of configuration control on a service water supply valve to a secondary containment unit cooler which led to this situation. This matter is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1991). Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled, tentatively, for October 17, 1991. The purposes of this conference are to discuss the apparent violation, its causes and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed corrective actions; and to discuss any other information that will help us determine the appropriate enforcement action in accordance with the Enforcement Policy.

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OCT 08 1991

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Further, our inspectors identified instances of inadequate controls over temporary modifications at both units. We consider this matter to be a violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation. As described in the enclosed inspection report, we note that adequate corrective actions were taken in response to this violation and to prevent recurrence. Therefore, no written response to this violation is required.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James T. Wiggins
Charles W. Hehl, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

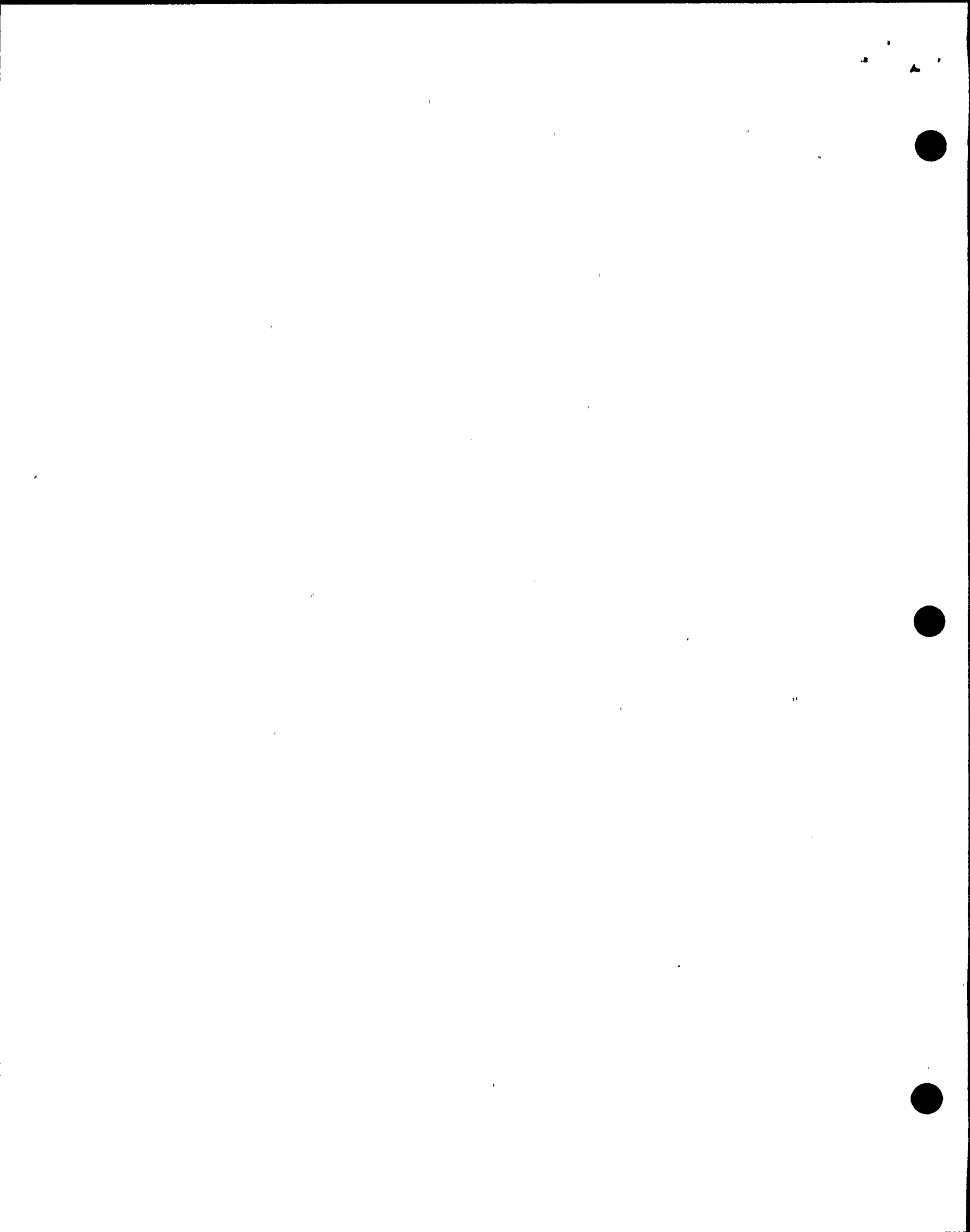
1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Combined Inspection Nos. 50-220/91-17 and 50-410/91-17

cc w/encls:

J. Firlit, Vice President, Nuclear Generation
C. Terry, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
J. Perry, Vice President, Quality Assurance
S. Wilczek, Vice President, Nuclear Support
K. Dahlberg, Manager, Unit 1
M. McCormick, Manager, Unit 2
J. Warden, New York Consumer Protection Branch
M. Wetterhahn, Jr., Esquire
G. Wilson, Senior Attorney
Director, Power Division, Department of Public Works, State of New York
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Department of Law, State of New York
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
K. Abraham, PAO-RI (2)

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bcc w/encls:

- Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
- Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encls)
- R. Lobel, EDO
- J. Lieberman, OE
- L. Chandler, OGC
- R. Capra, NRR
- D. Brinkman, NRR
- J. Menning, NRR
- D. Holody, EC
- T. Easlick, EC
- C. Cowgill, DRP
- D. Haverkamp, DRP
- R. Summers, DRP
- J. Tappert, DRP
- W. Schmidt, SRI - Nine Mile Point
- W. Cook, SRI - FitzPatrick
- N. Blumberg, DRS

bcc w/Letter, Appendix A, Report Cover Sheet and Executive Summary only:

- W. Hehl, DRP
- J. Wiggins, DRP
- W. Hodges, DRS
- W. Lanning, DRS
- J. Durr, DRS
- L. Bettenhausen, DRS
- M. Knapp, DRSS
- R. Cooper, DRSS
- J. Joyner, DRSS

W. Schmidt
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 WSchmidt/mjc
 10/2/91

D. Haverkamp
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 DHaverkamp
 10/2/91

RI:DRP
 CCowgill
 10/3/91

RI:DRP
 WHehl
 10/8/91

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