



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 27, 1993

Docket No. 50-220

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

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: RECONSIDERATION OF INSERVICE RELIEF REQUEST 1IIRR22 FOR
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M85178)

The first 10-Year Inservice Inspection Program for Nine Mile Point 1 was prepared to comply with the requirements of the 1980 Edition with Addenda through Winter 1981 of Section XI of the ASME Code. This edition of the ASME Code required, in part, a visual examination of the internal surfaces of Category B-M-2 valves once every 10-year interval.

By letter dated August 16, 1989, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted Relief Request 1IIRR22 which requested relief from the requirement for a 100 percent visual examination of the valves' internal surfaces of certain Category B-M-2 valve groups during the First 10-Year Interval which ended in June 1986. The NRC staff denied this relief request by letter dated April 26, 1990, and requested that the required visual examination be performed during the next refueling outage (outage currently scheduled to begin on February 19, 1993).

The 1989 Edition of the ASME Code does not require the previously required periodic visual examinations. The 1989 Edition of the ASME Code requires a visual examination of the internal surfaces of the Category B-M-2 valves only when a valve is disassembled for maintenance, repair, or volumetric examinations. Visual examinations of the internal surfaces of Category B-M-2 valves are required only once during a 10-year interval even if the valves are subjected to multiple disassemblies. Effective September 8, 1992, (57 FR 34666) the NRC amended 10 CFR 50.55a to incorporate by reference the 1989 Edition of Section XI, Division I, of the ASME Code. Therefore, by letter dated December 11, 1992, NMPC requested the NRC to reconsider its April 26, 1990, denial of Relief Request 1IIRR22 and proposed to perform the visual examinations of the internal surfaces of the affected valve groups only when a valve is disassembled for maintenance, repairs, or volumetric examinations in lieu of performing the visual examinations during the next refueling outage.

The NRC staff has reviewed NMPC's request for reconsideration of Relief Request 1IIRR22. NMPC's proposed visual inspection requirements would be consistent with the requirements of the 1989 Edition of the ASME Code. These requirements were incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a effective

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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January 27, 1993

September 8, 1992. Therefore, the NRC staff agrees with NMPC's request to perform visual examinations of the internal surfaces of Category B-M-2 valves only when a valve is disassembled for maintenance, repairs, or volumetric examinations provided that all related requirements of the 1989 Edition of the ASME Code are met.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Capra

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page



Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

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Ms. Donna Ross
New York State Energy Office
2 Empire State Plaza
16th Floor
Albany, New York 12223



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Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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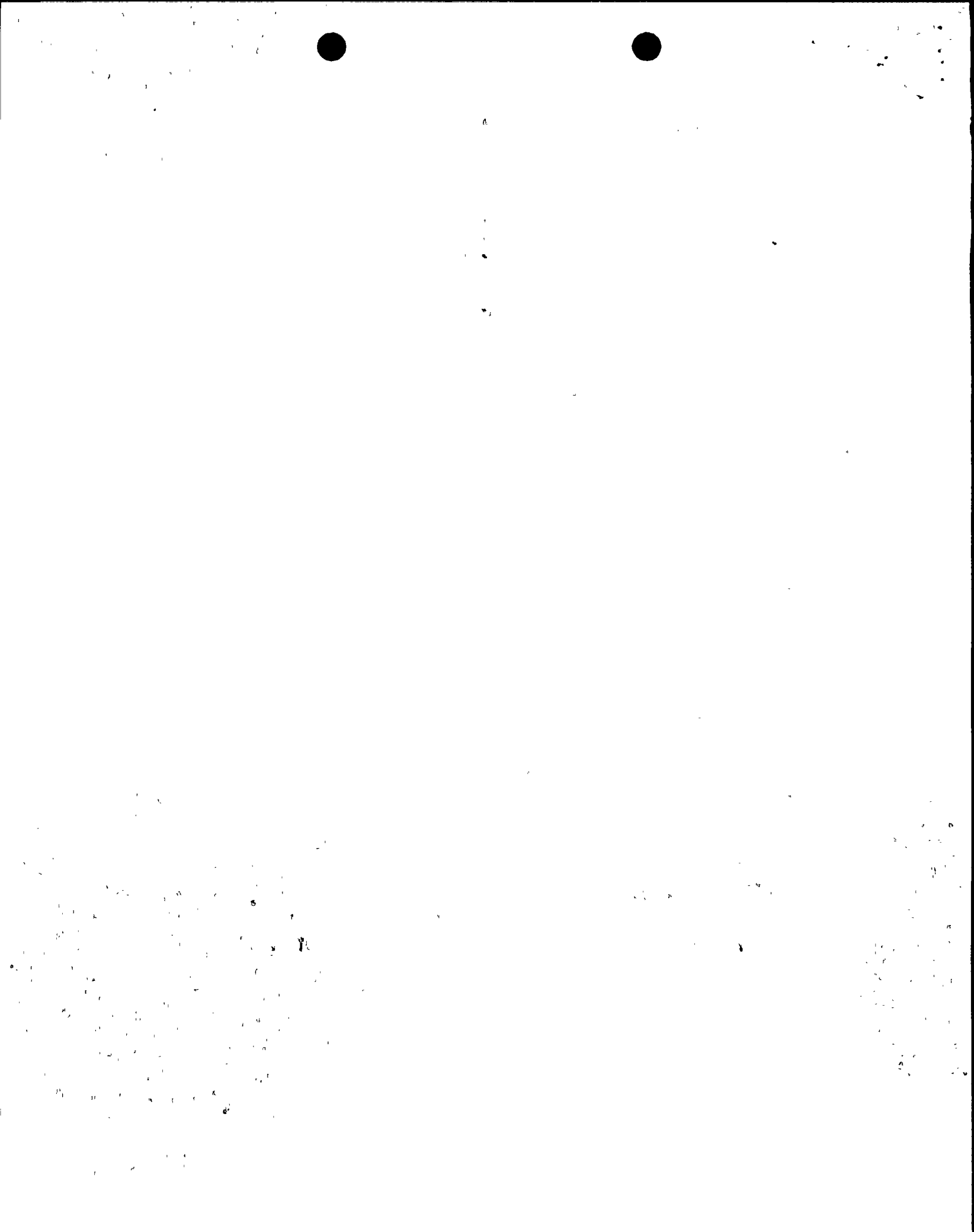
J. Strosnider, 7/D/4

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*See previous concurrence

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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Sincerely,

Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*with corrections
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