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SUBJECT: Informs of intent to change facility power ascension test
 Phase 2 power limit to 75%.

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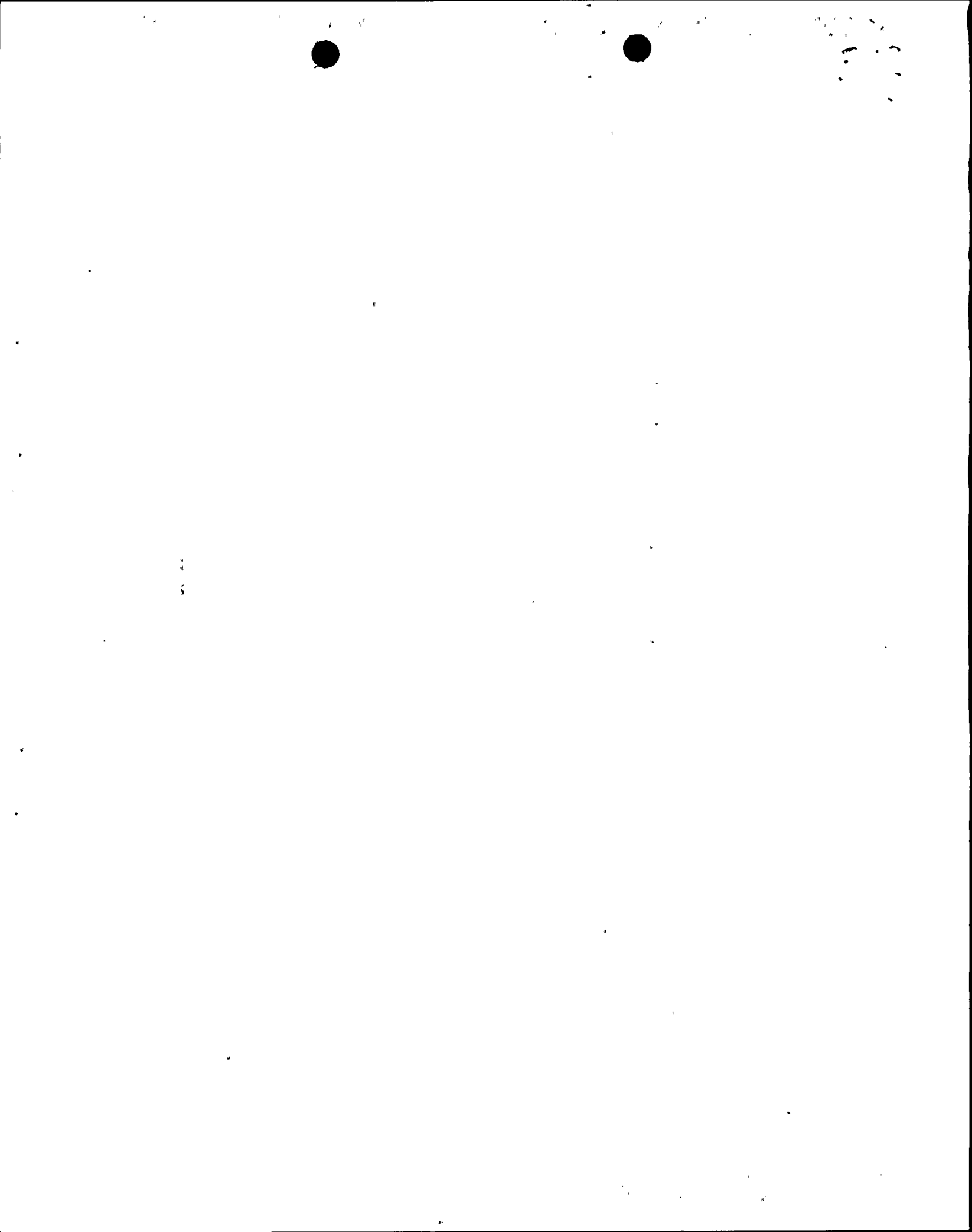
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NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION / P.O. BOX 32 LYCOMING, NEW YORK 13093 / TELEPHONE (315) 343-2110

Lawrence Burkhardt, III
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Operations

June 29, 1990
NMP1L 0513

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
DPR-63

Gentlemen:

In our letter of January 30, 1990, we provided copies of the approved procedures which govern the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) Power Ascension Program. These procedures limit power operation to 60% of rated core thermal power during Phase 2 of the NMP1 Power Ascension Test Program. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our intent to change the NMP1 Power Ascension Test Phase 2 power limit from 60% to 75%.

Currently, the NMP1 Power Ascension Program phases are defined at 25%, 60% and 100%. Regulatory Guide 1.68, Revision 2 recommends Power Ascension Program phases be defined by power levels of 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%. The Phase 2 power limit of 60% was established primarily as a function of fuel preconditioning and reactivity management activities. Although we desire to change the Phase 2 maximum power level limit to 75%, we will be conducting various tests at power levels between 30% and 40% during this phase with only motor driven feedwater pumps in service.

In a June 25, 1990 telecon with your staff, we informed you of our plans to revise the Phase 2 power level from 60% to 75% with only the shaft driven feedwater pump in operation. At power levels of 75% or less, only the shaft driven feedwater pump is required to be in operation to meet the necessary feedwater flow requirements. The revision to the Phase 2 power level is necessary because excessive pump vibration has been observed below the 65% power level. This vibration is indicative of greater pump internal recirculation coupled with high flow velocities and changes in the flow attack angle relative to the impeller blades. Although pump performance has been satisfactory throughout each fuel cycle, extended operation below 65% power would result in accelerated erosion damage to the pump.

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The revision of the Phase 2 power level from 60% to 75% will minimize the concern for accelerated erosion damage to the shaft driven feedwater pump while still allowing Power Ascension Program testing to assure safe and effective operation of plant equipment.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION



L. Burkhardt, III
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Operations

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