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

May 28, 1991

Docket No. 50-410

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13211

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: UTILIZATION OF AN ULTRASONIC FLOW METER ON RHR MINIMUM FLOW LINES AT NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. 79383)

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted a response to NRC staff questions concerning the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 inservice testing program for pumps and valves on September 30, 1988. One of the questions (6b) raised a concern that testing to verify flow in the check valves in the residual heat removal (RHR) minimum flow lines would not be conclusive. The NRC staff's concern was that the instrumentation may not be able to detect adequate flow within the accuracy of the pump differential pressure gauge because the readings are on the flatter portion of the pump characteristic curve. NMPC responded to this concern stating that modifications to the RHR minimum flow line would be required to verify the minimum flow rate.

In a letter submitted January 3, 1991, NMPC stated it had decided to use a calibrated clamp-on ultrasonic flowmeter to verify flow in the minimum flow lines. NMPC stated that it had been using the flowmeter in surveillance testing and had obtained satisfactory results. NMPC also stated that the modifications to install flow elements in the RHR system are no longer necessary.

NRC staff members held discussions with members of your staff on May 21, 1991, regarding the selection, installation, and calibration of the ultrasonic flow meters. The vendor for these meters supplies application and installation guidelines and certificates of calibration based on those guidelines. Based on these discussions, we have concluded that the use of ultrasonic flowmeters

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in this application will be suitably accurate for full-flow exercising of the RHR minimum flow line check valves. Therefore, the NRC staff concerns on this subject have been resolved.

This completes our efforts on TAC No. 79383.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Brinkman

Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
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

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit 2

cc:

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This completes our efforts on TAC No. 79383.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

cc: See next page

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