



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

June 18, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-220
50-410

Mr. John M. Endries
President
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear Mr. Endries:

On June 4 and 5, 1991, NRC senior managers met to review the performance of nuclear power plants licensed to operate by the NRC. This meeting is conducted semiannually to focus NRC resources on those plants and related issues of greatest safety significance. At this meeting, it was concluded Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 have demonstrated sustained improvement sufficient to warrant removal from the category of plants that requires increased attention from both NRC Headquarters and the Regional office.

A summary of the discussions held relating to Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 is provided below:

Since the January 1991 Senior Management Meeting, the licensee has continued to improve performance in all previously identified problem areas. In particular, improved problem identification and self assessment initiatives, enhanced processes for establishment and communication of goals, increased corporate and station management involvement in day-to-day activities and greater emphasis on procedure adherence and quality have contributed significantly to this positive trend in performance. The improved performance of the management, staff and facilities was reflected in the safe and successful completion of the Unit 1 Power Ascension Program, successful completion of a Unit 1 mid-cycle maintenance and surveillance outage both ahead of schedule and significantly below radiation exposures goals, and the successful restart of Unit 2 from its first refueling outage, which was observed to have been conducted safely and cautiously. Based on the continued good safety performance of both units, the NRC has concluded that the management and process changes that have been implemented have been successful in resolving past performance problems.

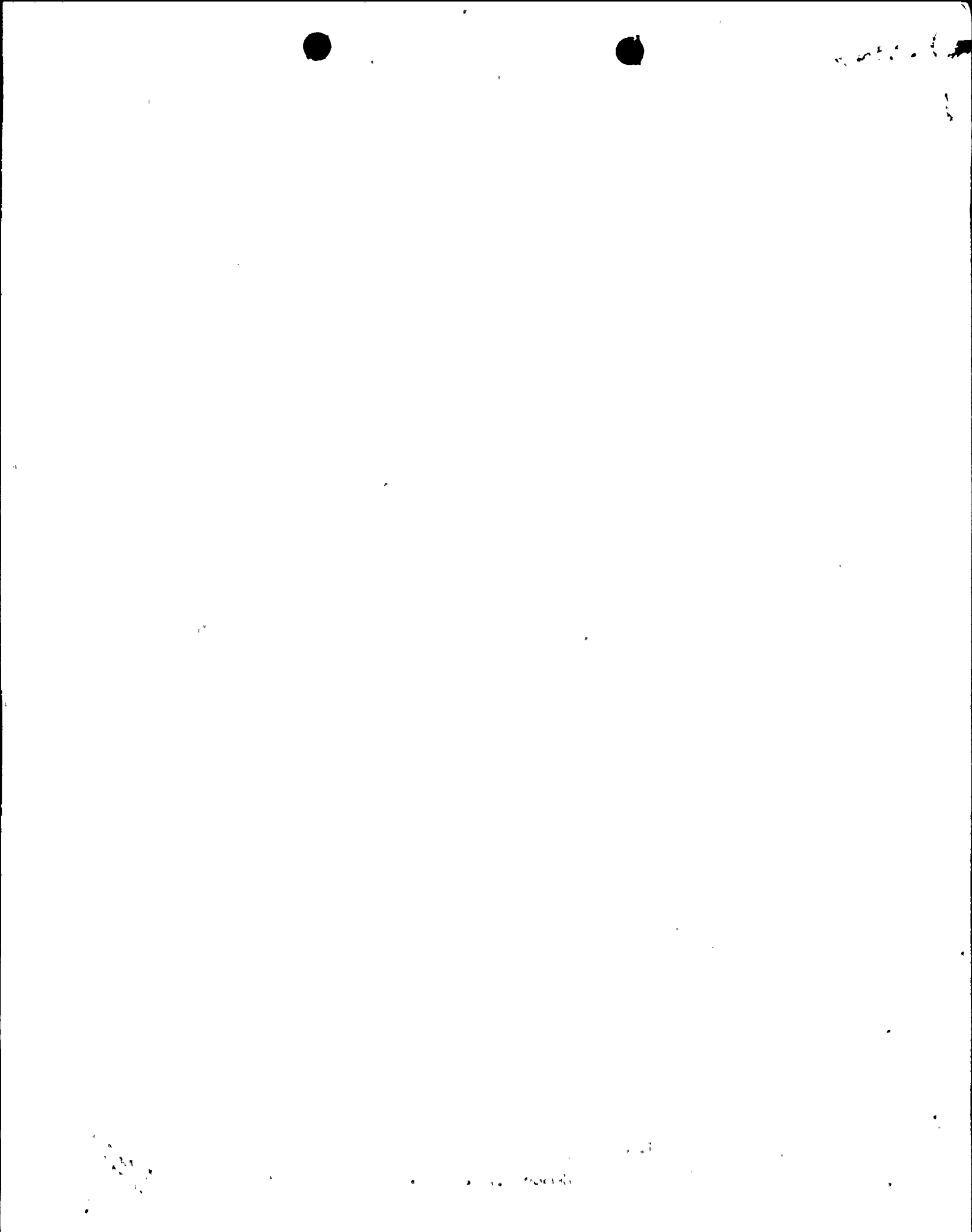
As a result, the NRC has determined that sufficient overall improvement in management oversight and staff performance has been demonstrated by the licensee such that close NRC monitoring of licensee activities is no longer warranted. Long-term effects of the improvement programs on the safety performance of the units will continue to be evaluated by routine NRC inspection activities.

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Mr. John M. Endries

- 3 -

cc:

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Operations
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

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

Supervisor
Town of Scriba
R. D. #4
Oswego, New York 13126

Mr. Kim Dahlberg
Unit 1 Station Superintendent
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 32
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. Joseph. F. Firlit
Vice President - Nuclear Generation
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 32
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. M. McCormick
Unit 2 Station Superintendent
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 32
Lycoming, New York 13093

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Post Office Box 126
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. Charlie Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, New York 10271

Mr. Gary D. Wilson, Esquire
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Mr. Paul Eddy
State of New York Department of
Public Service
Power Division, System Operations
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

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

Mr. D. Greene, Licensing
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212



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Mr. John M. Endries

- 2 -

An NRC Commission meeting, open to the public, has been scheduled for June 20, 1991, to review the results of the latest meeting of NRC managers. Mr. Thomas T. Martin, the Region I Administrator, has discussed the basis for our conclusions with regard to Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 with members of your staff.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By
James M. Taylor
James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: See next page

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 J Sniezek
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Dear Mr. [Name],

I have received your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].

The information you provided is being reviewed.

I will contact you again once a decision has been reached.

Sincerely,
[Signature]