



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 7, 1994

Docket No. 50-410

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

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 93-03, "RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BWRs" - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. M86903)

We acknowledge receipt of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's (NMPC's) response, dated July 28, 1993, to NRC Bulletin (NRCB) 93-03. The NRCB was issued May 28, 1993, to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling water reactors (BWRs) with the exception of Millstone 1 and Big Rock Point. The NRCB requested licensees to take short-term compensatory measures within 15 days of the NRCB to ensure operators can identify and mitigate potential level errors. The NRCB also requested licensees to implement hardware modifications at the first cold shutdown after July 30, 1993, to ensure the level instrumentation system design is of high functional reliability for long-term operation.

The response of July 28, 1993, stated that NMPC: (1) had implemented appropriate short-term compensatory measures; (2) planned to install a modification during the next refueling outage (October 1993) that would provide a continuous supply of control rod drive water to the cold reference legs; and (3) would complete a 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation to ensure that the modification does not involve an unreviewed safety question. By letter dated December 21, 1993, NMPC advised the staff that installation of the modification was completed on November 25, 1993. The December 21, 1993, letter also indicated that this modification had been evaluated pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59.

Based on the information provided in the letters dated July 28 and December 21, 1993, we consider NMPC's response to NRCB 93-03 acceptable. Please retain records related to the actions taken in response to this NRCB for possible future inspection by the NRC staff.

On November 26, 1993, the NRC staff issued NRC Information Notice (IN) 93-89, "Potential Problems With BWR Level Instrumentation Backfill Modifications." The staff is still reviewing the concerns identified in this IN, and any possible actions will be addressed separately from TAC No. M86903. We note that NMPC's letter of December 21, 1993, stated that NMPC's Safety Evaluation

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STUDY

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

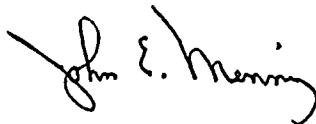
- 2 -

February 7, 1994

Report for the backfill modification addressed all of the staff's concerns raised in the IN.

This completes the licensing action for TAC No. M86903.

Sincerely,



John E. Menning, 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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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
Unit 2

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

- 2 -

February 7, 1994

Report for the backfill modification addressed all of the staff's concerns raised in the IN.

This completes the licensing action for TAC No. M86903.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

John E. Menning, 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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