



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 22, 1994

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: GENERIC LETTER 89-10, SUPPLEMENT 5, "INACCURACY OF MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT" - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M87972)

On June 28, 1993, the NRC staff issued Supplement 5, "Inaccuracy of Motor-Operated Valve Diagnostic Equipment," to Generic Letter (GL) 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve Testing and Surveillance," requesting nuclear power plant licensees and construction permit holders: (1) to reexamine their motor-operated valve (MOV) programs and to identify measures taken to account for uncertainties in properly setting valve operating thrust to ensure operability and (2) to evaluate the schedule necessary to consider the new information on MOV diagnostic equipment inaccuracy and to take appropriate action in response to that information. Within 90 days of receipt of Supplement 5 to GL 89-10, licensees were required: (1) to notify the NRC staff of the diagnostic equipment used to confirm the proper size, or to establish settings, for safety-related MOVs and (2) to report whether they had taken actions or planned to take actions (including schedule) to address the new information on the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment.

The staff has reviewed the responses, and has found that, for the most part, licensees and permit holders have been actively addressing the uncertainties regarding the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment. The increased inaccuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment can raise questions regarding: (1) the adequacy of torque switch settings to provide sufficient thrust while not exceeding thrust or torque structural limits and (2) the capability of actuator motors at current settings. In their responses, licensees and permit holders indicated that many MOVs had the potential for underthrusting or overthrusting as a result of the higher than expected inaccuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment. Consequently, some licensees reported that MOVs have been retested, adjusted, or modified to resolve the concerns regarding the accuracy of MOV diagnostic equipment.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) responded to Supplement 5 by letter dated September 27, 1993, and stated that NMPC planned to use MOV diagnostic equipment manufactured by Liberty Technologies in the future, but had not purchased the VOTES equipment. During a future inspection, the NRC staff will evaluate NMPC's resolution of the MOV diagnostic equipment accuracy issue.

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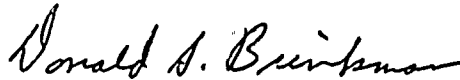
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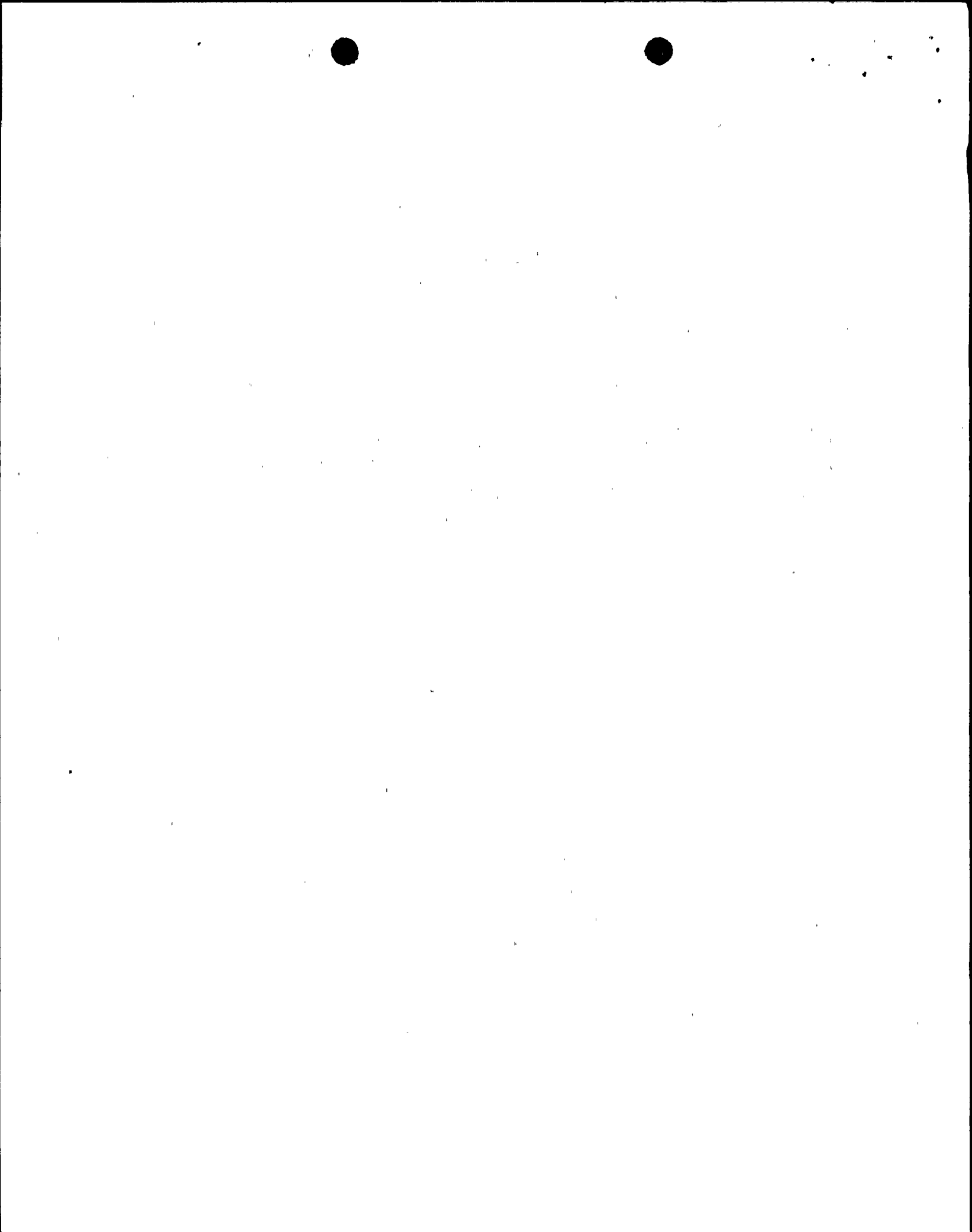
Although this completes all licensing efforts on TAC No. M87972, the NRC staff is concerned regarding NMPC's apparent lack of progress in resolving the MOV issues of GL 89-10. Therefore, we propose holding a meeting in which NMPC should discuss its progress to date on this issue and NMPC's plans and schedules for completing all activities related to GL 89-10 at Nine Mile Point Unit No. 1. I will contact Mr. Dave Baker of your staff to arrange the proposed meeting. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call me at (301) 504-1409.

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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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

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Original signed by:

Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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