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

May 23, 1994

Docket No. 50-220

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, New York 13093

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: ACCEPTABILITY OF POST-ACCIDENT NEUTRON FLUX MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION AT NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M69209)

Section 6.2 of Generic Letter 82-33 requested applicants and licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.97. The Boiling Water Reactors Owners Group responded by submitting NEDO-31558, "Position on NRC Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3, Requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Monitoring System," which proposed alternative criteria for neutron flux monitoring instrumentation in lieu of the Category 1 criteria stated in the RG. In a safety evaluation dated January 13, 1993, the NRC staff concluded that the criteria of NEDO-31558 were acceptable.

By letter dated April 15, 1993, the staff requested Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) to review the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 (NMP-1) neutron flux monitoring instrumentation against the criteria of NEDO-31558 and document the results of NMPC's review. NMPC was also requested to review the emergency operating procedures to assure that there is no plant-specific role for neutron flux monitoring that differs from that identified in NEDO-31558.

NMPC's letter of June 18, 1993, provided the results of NMPC's review. In this letter NMPC made a commitment to calculate the instrument loop accuracy and either meet NEDO-31558 accuracy criteria or provide appropriate supporting justification for deviating from the criteria. NMPC also stated that the role of neutron flux monitoring at NMP-1 is essentially the same as that at all other boiling water reactors (BWRs).

The staff completed its review of NMPC's June 18, 1993, submittal and concluded, in a letter dated February 10, 1994, that the post-accident neutron flux monitoring instrumentation at the NMP-1 meets the criteria of NEDO-31558 and is, therefore, an acceptable alternative to the guidance in RG 1.97.

By letter dated May 2, 1994, NMPC provided the results of the instrument loop accuracy calculation and a justification for deviating from the NEDO-31558 accuracy criteria.

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Based on NMPC's determination that the role of neutron flux monitoring at NMP-1 is essentially the same as that at all other BWRs, the staff concludes that the criteria of NEDO-31558 is applicable in lieu of the Category 1 criteria in RG 1.97. The staff has completed its review of NMPC's May 2, 1994, submittal and concludes that the deviations from NEDO-31558 specified in NMPC's submital are acceptable. Therefore, the post-accident neutron flux monitoring instrumentation at NMP-1 is an acceptable alternative to the guidance in RG 1.97.

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

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Based on NMPC's determination that the role of neutron flux monitoring at NMP-1 is essentially the same as that at all other BWRs, the staff concludes that the criteria of NEDO-31558 is applicable in lieu of the Category 1 criteria in RG 1.97. The staff has completed its review of NMPC's May 2, 1994, submittal and concludes that the deviations from NEDO-31558 specified in NMPC's submital are acceptable. Therefore, the post-accident neutron flux monitoring instrumentation at NMP-1 is an acceptable alternative to the guidance in RG 1.97.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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