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

August 11, 1994

Docket No. 50-220

See Ltr.

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: APPROVAL OF REDUCTION FACTORS FOR CONDENSATION OSCILLATION LOADS IN NINE NILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 (NMP1) TORUS (TAC NO. M85003)

By letter dated May 14, 1991, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted for NRC staff review, NMPC's analysis for a proposed method which would allow a reduction in the NMP1 suppression pool (torus) hydrodynamic loads. The NRC staff issued its safety evaluation (SE) on August 25, 1992, regarding NMPC's analysis. However, by letter dated November 23, 1992, NMPC informed the NRC that NMPC had determined that our August 25, 1992, evaluation was inconsistent with NMPC's method of analysis. Therefore, in its November 23, 1992, letter, NMPC requested the NRC to rereview NMPC's May 14, 1991, submittal in conjunction with additional information provided in a Teledyne Engineering Services Report submitted with the November 23, 1992, letter. NMPC also proposed in its November 23, 1992, letter to continue operation of NMP1 for one more fuel cycle (until the 1995 refueling outage) without modifications to the NMP1 torus.

The NRC staff agreed in a December 23, 1992, letter that NMPC could continue to operate NMP1 for one more fuel cycle in accordance with our previously approved criteria (January 25, 1985, SE which required a minimum torus wall thickness of 0.447 inch) provided NMPC also performed the torus monitoring programs outlined in our August 25, 1992, SE. The NRC staff and NMPC representatives conducted a meeting on March 23, 1993, (meeting summary dated April 9, 1993) in which the differences in analysis methodologies were discussed and in which the NRC staff agreed to perform the requested re-review.

The NRC staff, with assistance from its contractor, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), has completed the requested rereview. Based on the NRC staff's own rereview and the technical evaluation report (TER) by BNL, we have concluded that the proposed method for calculation of condensation oscillation load reduction is acceptable. We have also concluded that the NMP1 torus currently meets the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) requirements and with the implementation of the corrosion monitoring programs described in the enclosed SE, we have

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further determined that NMPC has provided sufficient justification for concluding that the torus will continue to meet the ASME Code requirements provided that the average minimum wall thickness of the torus shell is not reduced to less than 0.431 inch.

NMPC is requested to provide a written commitment to the proposed corrosion monitoring program described in the attached SE. This commitment should be provided within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The requirement affects one respondent and, therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P.L. 96-511.

A copy of our SE and BNL's TER is enclosed.

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

Enclosures:
1. Safety Evaluation
2. Technical Evaluation Report

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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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

Enclosures:
1. Safety Evaluation
2. Technical Evaluation Report

cc w/enclosures:
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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

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