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SUBJECT: Provides schedule for response to GL 94-02, "Long-Term Solutions & Upgrade of Interim Operating Recommendations for Thermal Hydraulic Instabilities in BWRs."

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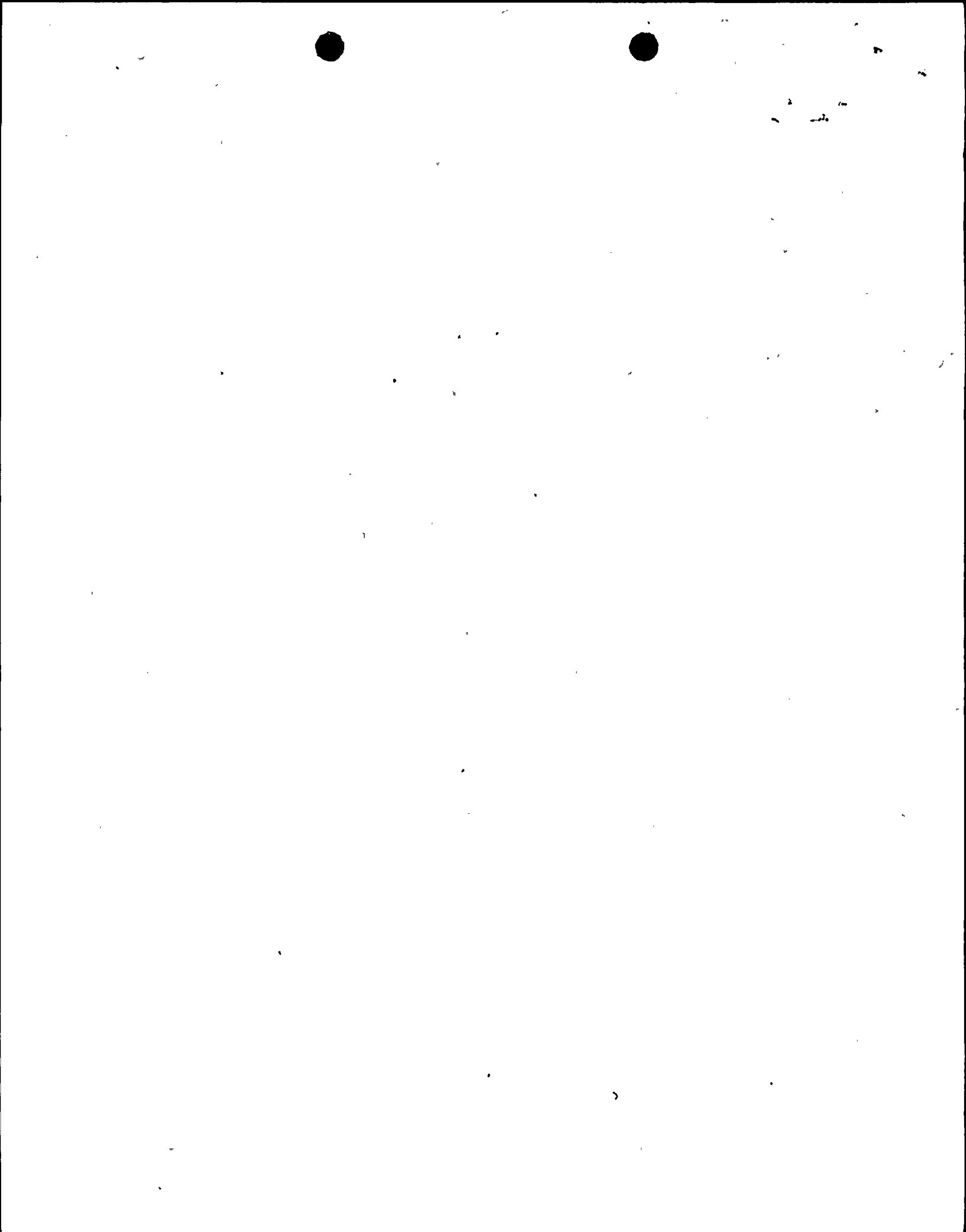
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CARL D. TERRY
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering

March 5, 1996
NMP2L 1613

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPE-69

Subject: Generic Letter 94-02, "Long-Term Solutions and Upgrade of Interim Operating Recommendations for Thermal-Hydraulic Instabilities in Boiling Water Reactors"

Gentlemen:

By letter dated July 11, 1994, the Commission issued Generic Letter 94-02, "Long-Term Solutions and Upgrade of Interim Operating Recommendations for Thermal-Hydraulic Instabilities in Boiling Water Reactors." Generic Letter 94-02, in part, requested that licensees submit a plan describing the long-term stability solution option it has selected and the associated implementation schedule.

Our letter dated November 8, 1994, indicated that Niagara Mohawk had selected stability Option III, as delineated in NEDO-31960, BWR Owners' Group Long-Term Solutions Licensing Methodology, to address the thermal-hydraulic stability issue at Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2). Specifically, Niagara Mohawk elected to replace the current Power Range Monitor system with the General Electric (GE) Nuclear Measurement Analysis and Control (NUMAC) Power Range Neutron Monitor (PRNM) system with the core stability monitoring function (Oscillation Power Range Monitor (OPRM)). The NUMAC-PRNM together with the OPRM uses LPRM signals to initiate a reactor SCRAM upon identification of neutron flux oscillations characteristic of a thermal-hydraulic instability. Accordingly, the NUMAC-PRNM meets the detection and suppression criteria of General Design Criteria-12, Suppression of Reactor Power Oscillations. Our letter also indicated that the NUMAC-PRNM was scheduled to be installed by the end of the fifth refueling outage (RFO5) scheduled to begin in late 1996. At that time, NMP2 was scheduled to be the fourth nuclear station, behind Hatch (Units 1 and 2) and Fermi, to install the NUMAC-PRNM. Installation in RFO5 was considered achievable based on GE's projected issuance of the NUMAC-PRNM final design by December 1995, the required Technical Specification amendment application submitted in January 1996, the experience derived from the Hatch and Fermi installations and a starting date of October 11, 1996 for RFO5. The OPRM trip function was scheduled to be monitored for one cycle to ensure the monitor would not result in unnecessary challenges to plant safety systems prior to activation in RFO6.

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The purpose of this letter is to inform you that because of significant delays in GE's design delivery schedule, Niagara Mohawk will defer the NUMAC-PRNM installation from RFO5 until RFO6. RFO6 is currently scheduled to begin in May 1998. Accordingly, the OPRM trip function will be activated in RFO7 (i.e., one cycle for monitoring) which is scheduled to begin in May 2000. GE's design delays will result in insufficient time to ensure quality design, testing, and thorough planning for implementation of the NUMAC-PRNM modification in RFO5 (which is planned to begin on September 28, 1996). Sufficient time to ensure proper reviews, testing and planning of the NUMAC-PRNM modification has become even more critical as Niagara Mohawk, and the Commission's reviewers, will not benefit from Hatch and Fermi's experience due to their deferrals. NMP2 will continue to operate in accordance with the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group Interim Corrective Action recommendations until RFO7 to preclude thermal-hydraulic instabilities.

Sincerely,



C. D. Terry
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

CDT/JMT/kap

xc: Regional Administrator, Region I
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