

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

Mar 28, 1996

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION  
 UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M93867)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

On November 16, 1995, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) responded to NRC Bulletin 95-02, "Unexpected Clogging of a Residual Heat Removal (RHR) Pump Strainer While Operating in Suppression Pool Cooling Mode" for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1. The NRC staff is reviewing this response and finds that additional information requested in the enclosure is needed.

Please provide your response by April 26, 1996, so that we can complete our review consistent with the current schedule. If you have questions about the enclosure or are unable to meet the requested response date, please call me at (301) 415-3049.

This requirement affects nine or fewer respondents and, therefore, is not subject to the Office of Management and Budget Review under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager  
 Project Directorate I-1  
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-220

Enclosure: Request For Additional  
 Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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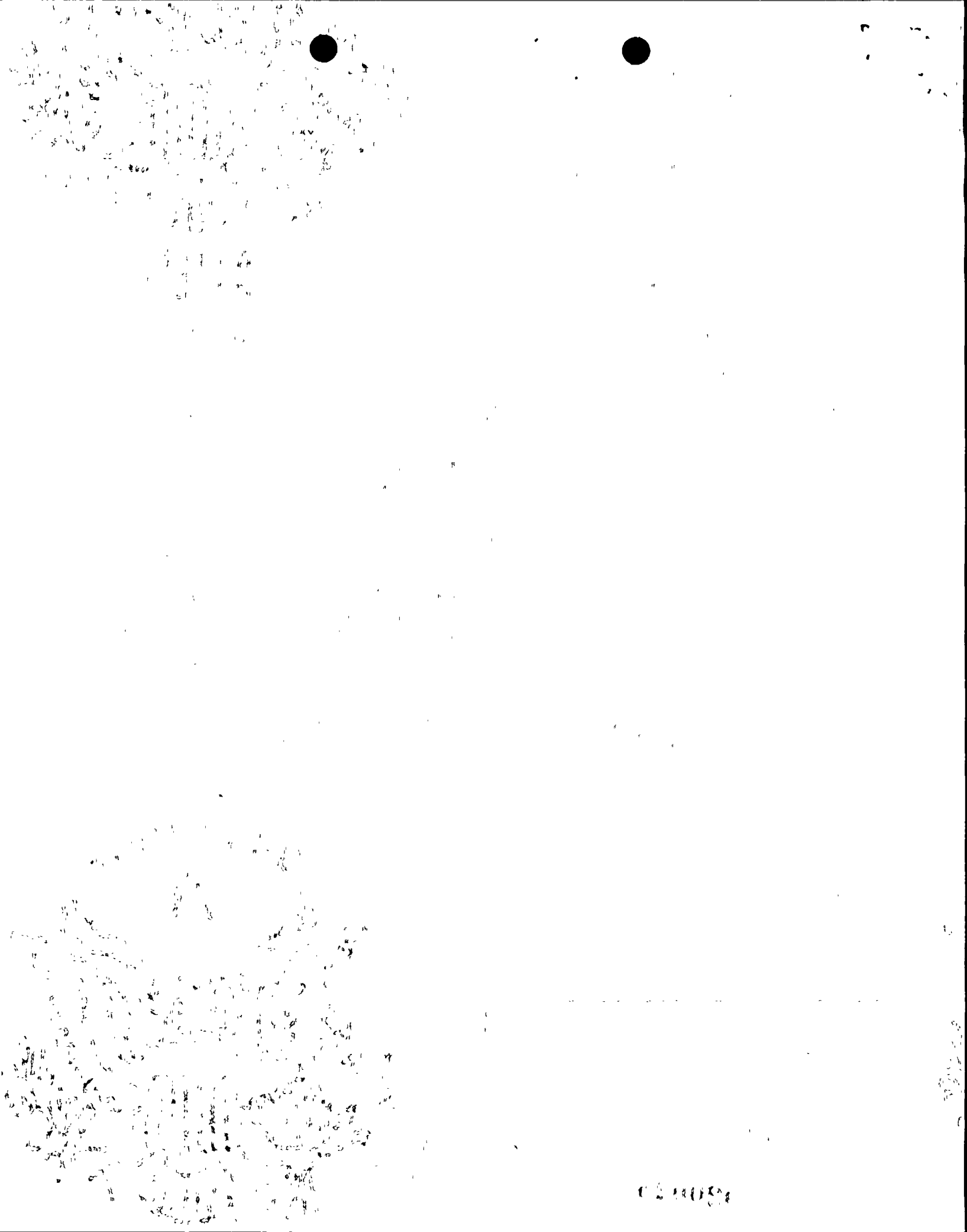
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 28, 1996

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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DARL HOOD".

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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B. Ralph Sylvia  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
Unit No. 1

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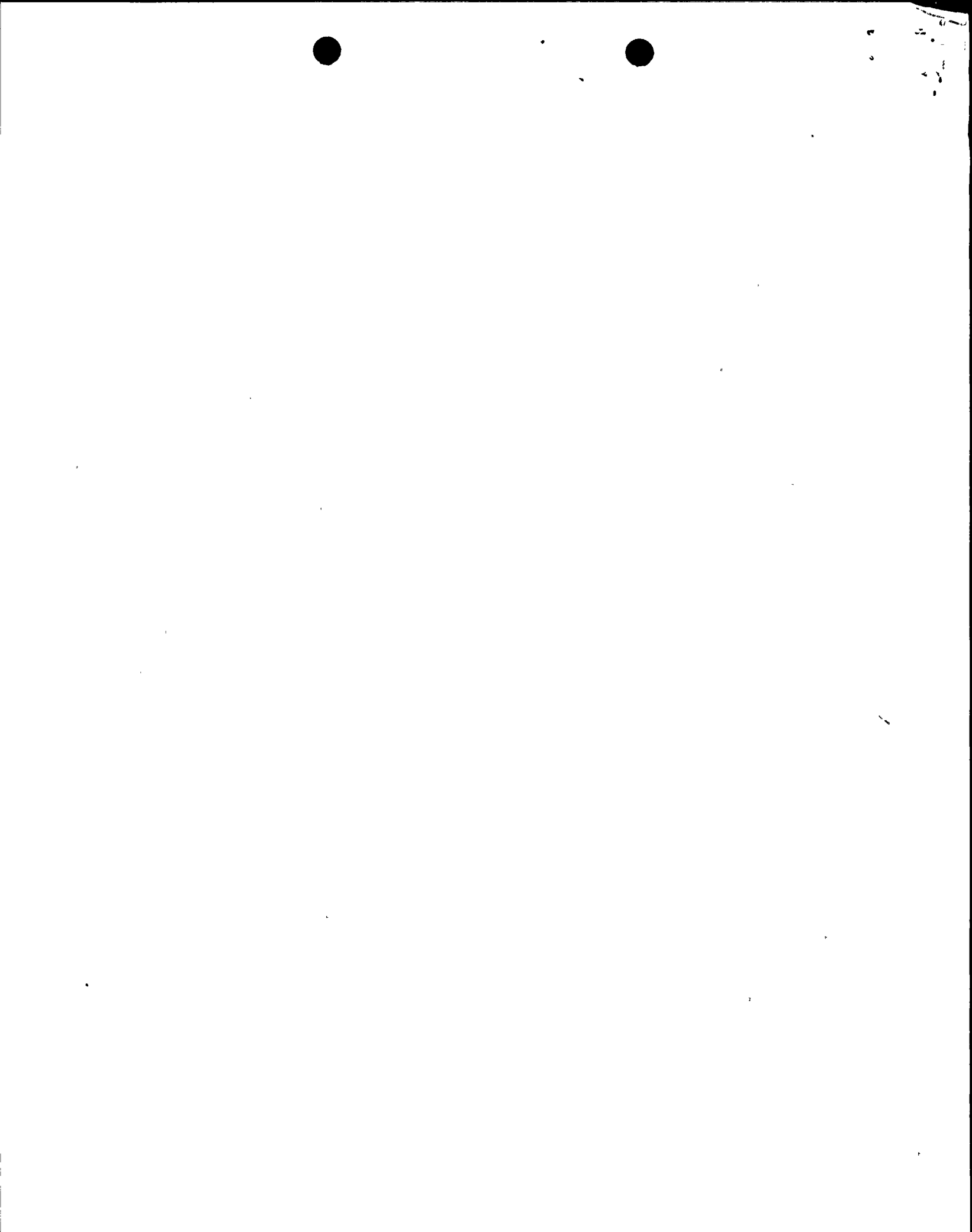
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P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093



REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1

The NRC staff has the following questions and requests with respect to your response of November 16, 1995, to NRC Bulletin 95-02, "Unexpected Clogging of a Residual Heat Removal (RHR) Pump Strainer While Operating in Suppression Pool Cooling Mode":

1. Why did you not clean the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) suppression pool (torus) during the last outage? We note that the pool for NMP2 was cleaned during its last refueling outage which occurred just after the outage (i.e., about the same general time frame) for NMP1. In view of the heightened sensitivity to this RHR clogging potential and the numerous generic communications on this subject since the Barsebäck and Perry events, have you taken any other significant measures to protect the operability of the emergency core cooling system (ECCS)?
2. Why have you not cleaned the NMP1 suppression pool since 1981? Did you ever evaluate the potential impact of not cleaning the pool for such a long time? If so, when, and what were your findings?
3. Please describe the considerations given to, and limitations associated with, performing a multi-pump test to verify the operability of the ECCS as requested in the bulletin. (Are you able to conduct a multiple pump test at power to demonstrate operability, and if not, why not? We understand that the strainers are accessible for inspection at power, and do not fully understand your limitations with respect to multiple pump tests). Given your plant limitations, is it possible to perform a multi-pump test using one train of core spray and one train of containment spray? If not, provide the basis for your conclusion that such a test is not needed to assure that the pool is sufficiently free of debris to allow continued operation until the torus pool cleaning scheduled for the next refueling outage.
4. During anticipated transients (such as a stuck open safety relief valve) or other abnormal events, would the plant operators ever be required by procedure to run more than one loop of RHR in torus cooling mode?
5. Have you conducted any underwater inspections of the suppression pool floor or ECCS inlet piping since the last pool cleaning? If so, what were the findings? What were the results of your downcomer and ringheader inspections? You appear to be relying upon the results of three samples taken in March 1995 for your statement that there is no evidence of fibrous material in the torus. We are concerned that three random samples might miss fibrous material lying on the pool floor or located in an area other than that where the sample was taken. What is





the possibility that other non-fibrous material is present in the pool that would not likely be detected by a sample (e.g., plastic bags, duct tape, etc.)?

6. You indicate your belief that operation of more than one loop of low-pressure core spray would not significantly increase turbulence and mixing in the pool. Would the turbulence created by such operation be representative of turbulence expected during an abnormal operating condition or transient? In what direction are the return lines from low-pressure coolant injection to the suppression pool oriented (e.g., do they discharge directly towards the center of the torus, or do they direct flow axially around the torus)?
7. What is the basis for your confidence that the Unit 1 pool is sufficiently clean? (We note that the Perry staff also thought their pool was clean, but found otherwise during a later test of the pumps. Limerick staff also found additional debris accumulation when they conducted a test after cleaning.)
8. Have there been any significant changes to your Foreign Material Exclusion program since the pool was cleaned in 1981? What was the potential for debris introduction into the torus prior to any changes that were made?
9. To what extent were the RHR pumps operated in the torus cooling mode during the last operating cycle? Have you had occasion to run more than one pump at a time?
10. Describe the instrumentation that alarms in the control room upon high differential pressure. How does the operator know what the actual pressure differential is? What actions would the operator take upon receiving an indication that the strainers were clogging, and at what point would the operator take these actions? Can the strainers be cleaned during an abnormal event or transient?
11. Please provide a clear statement of your intention to clean the pool during the next available outage (planned or unplanned) of sufficient duration. This statement should include your definition of sufficient duration.

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