

May 21, 1996

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Generation Business Group D-2
300 Eric Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 130202

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE LOCKING AND THERMAL BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES," NINE MILE POINT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M93488 AND M93489)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

On August 17, 1995, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves," to request that licensees take actions to ensure that safety-related power-operated gate valves that are susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding are capable of performing their safety functions. The NRC staff is reviewing your responses of October 16, 1995, and February 13, 1996. We find that additional information, identified in the enclosure, is needed to complete our review. We request that you respond within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Please call me at (301) 415-3049 if you have questions or are unable to meet the requested response date.

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 Nos. 50-220
and 50-410

Enclosure: Request for Additional
Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darl S. Hood".

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

Docket Nos. 50-220
and 50-410

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cc w/encl: See next page



B. Ralph Sylvia
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE LOCKING AND THERMAL
BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES"

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

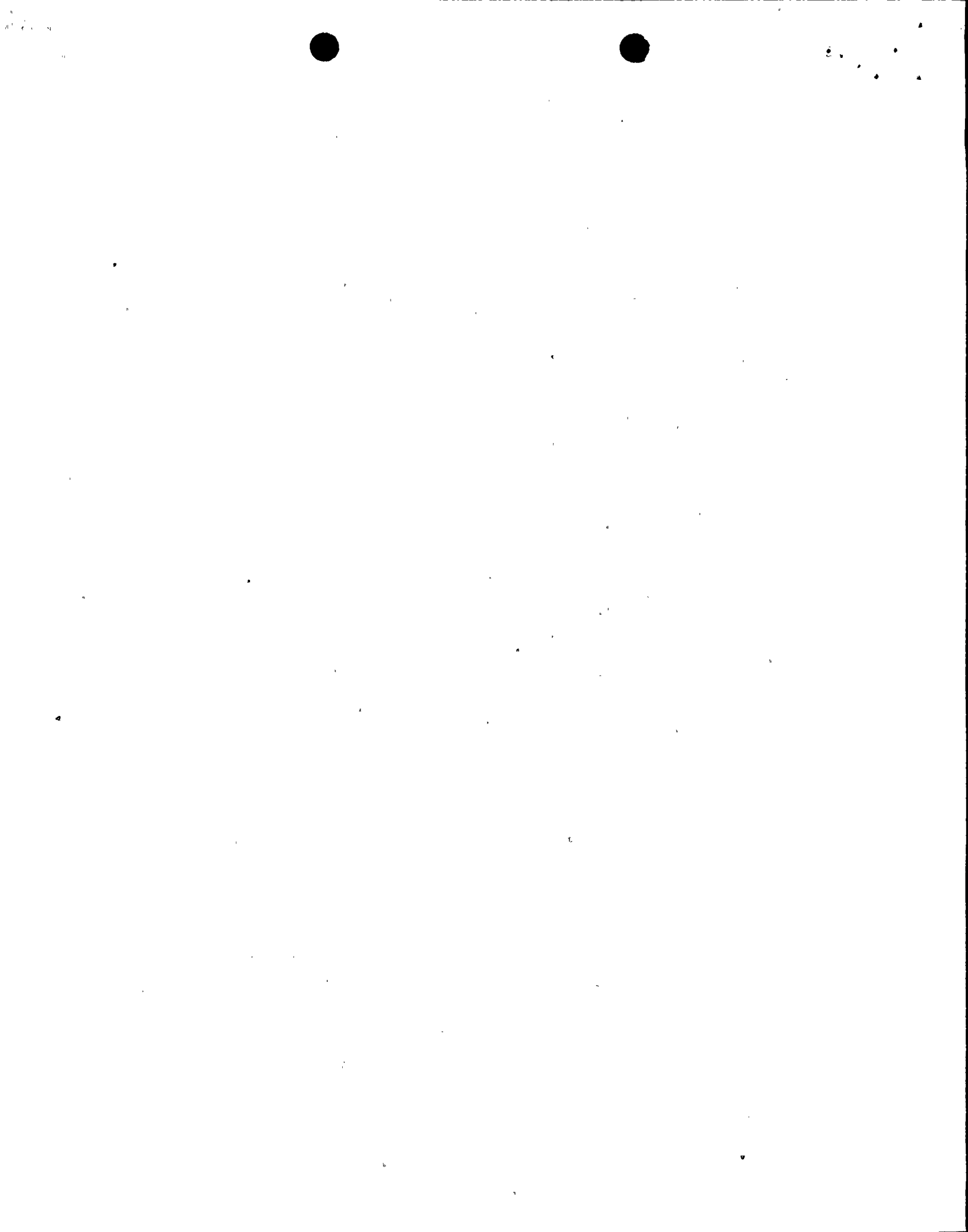
Please provide the following additional information regarding your responses of October 16, 1995, and February 13, 1996, to NRC Generic Letter (GL) 95-07:

1. Your February submittal states that valves 2CSH*MOV107, HPCS Pump Injection Isolation, and 2ICS*MOV126, RCIC Injection Isolation, have been evaluated as having adequate actuator capacity to overcome the applicable pressure locking scenarios at the specific point of operation during an accident and following the guidance of GL 95-07. Please provide these evaluations for our review. Also, please include any thrust requirement and actuator capability calculations that were performed.
2. In Attachment 1 to GL 95-07, the NRC staff requested that licensees include consideration of the potential for gate valves to undergo pressure locking or thermal binding during surveillance testing. During workshops on GL 95-07 in each Region, the NRC staff stated that, if closing a safety-related power-operated gate valve for test or surveillance defeats the capability of the safety system or train, the licensee should perform one of the following within the scope of GL 95-07:
 1. Verify that the valve is not susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding while closed,
 2. Follow plant technical specifications for the train/system while the valve is closed,
 3. Demonstrate that the actuator has sufficient capacity to overcome these phenomena, or
 4. Make appropriate hardware and/or procedural modifications to prevent pressure locking and thermal binding.

The staff stated that normally-open, safety-related power-operated gate valves that are closed for test or surveillance but must return to the open position should be evaluated within the scope of GL 95-07. Please state whether valves that meet this criterion were included in your review, and discuss how potential pressure locking or thermal binding concerns were addressed.

3. From its review of operational experience feedback, the NRC staff is aware of instances in which licensees have completed design or procedural modifications to preclude pressure locking or thermal binding

Enclosure



that may have had an adverse impact upon plant safety due to incomplete or incorrect evaluation of the potential effects of these modifications. Please describe the evaluations and training of plant personnel that you have conducted or plan for each design or procedural modification completed to address potential pressure locking or thermal binding concerns.

