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NIAGARA MOHAWK

GENERATION
BUSINESS GROUP

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION/LAKE ROAD, P.O. BOX 63, LYCOMING, NEW YORK 13093

January 29, 1997
NMP1L 1180

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

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
 DPR-63

**Subject: *Reactor Vessel Internals Examination Plans For The Core Spray
 Piping and Spargers***

Gentlemen:

By letter dated April 6, 1994, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) received a Safety Evaluation Report for the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) Second 10-Year Interval Inservice Inspection Program. The program plan describes, in the augmented inspection section, the examinations planned for the Core Spray System piping and spargers in response to IE Bulletin No. 80-13. The purpose of this letter is to describe changes to our current plans for the inspection of the NMP1 Core Spray System piping and spargers, internal to the reactor pressure vessel, for the Spring 1997 refueling outage (REFOUT97).

Augmented visual examinations of the Core Spray System piping and spargers inside the reactor pressure vessel have been conducted each refueling outage since 1980, as requested by IE Bulletin No. 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," dated May 12, 1980. The examinations will be changed for REFOUT97 to incorporate industry experience, and to follow the current guidance being developed by the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Inspection Program (BWRVIP) ("BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," BWRVIP-18, dated July 1996). The inspections required by IE Bulletin No. 80-13 are a visual examination (VT-1) of all accessible piping surfaces, spargers, and support brackets including non-IGSCC susceptible base materials. The BWRVIP-18 examination scope allows a combination of enhanced visual examination, VT-1/VT-3 examination, and ultrasonic examinations to be selected by a utility based on a plant specific sparger configuration and on the material IGSCC susceptibility of welds. NMPC has determined that use of visual examinations (EVT and VT-1) and the resultant reinspection schedule is the most appropriate

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for NMP1. Based on input provided by Staff members to BWRVIP representatives during information sharing meetings, NMPC understands that substitution of the inspections conducted to BWRVIP guidelines in place of the IE Bulletin No. 80-13 inspection approach is preferred by, and acceptable to, the Staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. McCormick Jr.", written in a cursive style.

M. J. McCormick Jr.
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

MJM/MSL/lmc

xc: Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR
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