

50-220



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

February 20, 1997

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President Generation
Business Group and Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nuclear Learning Center
450 Lake Road
Oswego, NY 13126

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF THE CORE SPRAY SYSTEM PIPING AND SPARGERS FOR NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 SPRING 1997 OUTAGE (TAC NO. M95100)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

By letter dated January 29, 1997, you provided the NRC staff with plans for performing core spray internal piping system inspections during the spring 1997 refueling outage for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 (NMP1), including your intention to modify the present commitments associated with IE Bulletin (IEB) 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," dated May 12, 1980. Specifically, you stated that you plan to modify the scope and examination techniques previously used to perform inspections of the core spray internal piping and spargers. The modification would follow the industry guidance contained in the BWR Vessel and Internals Project document, "Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines" (BWRVIP-18), dated July 26, 1996.

Using the BWRVIP-18 guidance for the inspection and scope of the core spray internal downcomer piping and spargers, a baseline inspection of all welds in the downcomer piping will be performed using enhanced VT-1 for NMP1 which is capable of achieving a resolution of 0.0005 inches (0.0127 mm). For the spargers, a baseline inspection of welds at locations S1, S2, and S4 using CS VT-1 which is capable of achieving a resolution of 0.001 inches (0.0254 mm) will be used. For welds at locations S3 and SB, a VT-3 inspection will be used. Except for the welds at S3 and SB, the proposed inspection methods for the core spray internal downcomer piping and spargers are equivalent to, or more stringent than, those recommended in IEB 80-13. The use of a VT-3 inspection for welds at S3 and SB was determined to be acceptable per BWRVIP-18. Because the proposed inspection methods focus on areas of the core spray piping and spargers which are more likely to experience intergranular stress corrosion cracking, the NRC staff finds that the scope and inspection methods used for the inspection of the core spray internal piping and spargers at NMP1 are acceptable for this outage.

The NRC staff review of your January 29, 1997, letter is limited to your planned activities for the NMP1 spring 1997 outage. As you know, the NRC staff is presently reviewing the generic acceptability of BWRVIP-18. If the NRC staff's further generic review of BWRVIP-18 should reveal concerns, then licensees who intend to follow the BWRVIP-18 guidance in the future may be requested to address these concerns on a plant-specific basis.

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B. Ralph Sylvia

- 2 -

February 20, 1997

If you have questions regarding this letter, contact me at (301) 415-3049 or via e-mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/S/

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

Docket No. 50-220

cc: See next page

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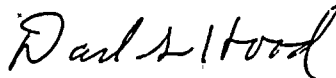
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B. Ralph Sylvia

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Sincerely,



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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
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cc: See next page



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