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SUBJECT: Advises NRC of results of investigation re basemat const.

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Vice President  
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February 20, 1997  
NMP1L 1185

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

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

                          Nine Mile Point Unit 2  
                          Docket No. 50-410  
                                  NPF-69        

**Subject:       *Basemat Construction***

Gentlemen:

In July 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) became aware of an issue of potential basemat concrete degradation at another utility's power plant site. Niagara Mohawk proactively initiated a Deviation/Event Report (DER) to evaluate the industry experience with respect to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) construction. The DER was focused on NMP2 because of similarities between plant sites in terms of construction era, contractors, and other factors. However, a similar review of Unit 1 records was also conducted.

Subsequent to the identification of this issue, verbal feedback was provided on the results of our investigations to Mr. Darl Hood, NRC's Project Manager for Nine Mile Point. Mr. Hood requested that we document our conclusions to close the issue. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to advise the Staff of the results of our investigation.

The DER disposition specified performing chemical analysis of a mat drain sump water sample for potential concrete leachate compounds, i.e., calcium aluminate, and comparison to a normal groundwater sample. Based on the analysis and evaluation of the results, Engineering concluded that neither the Reactor Building concrete mat nor the porous concrete basemat over the bedrock sub-base is significantly contributing to the presence of calcium aluminate in the groundwater. Therefore, it is our conclusion that the NMP2 basemat is not degrading due to groundwater filtration or other mechanisms.

With respect to NMP1, an Engineering review of original construction drawings concluded that the aluminum oxide content for cement used was not a high concentration, i.e., less than 6%. Further, only one type of concrete was used in the basemat foundation, and therefore, no interaction between concrete layers would occur.

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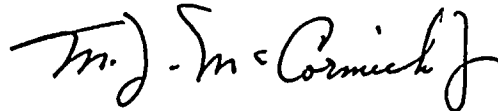


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Page 2

If any additional information is needed, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Martin J. McCormick Jr  
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

MJM/WDB/kap

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator  
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR  
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Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR  
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