50-220

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

March 3, 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: CORE SHROUD REINSPECTION PLANS FOR REFUELING OUTAGE 14 (RFO-14), NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1, (TAC NO. M97917)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

The NRC staff has reviewed the reinspection plans submitted by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) for the repaired core shroud at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (NMP-1). The plans are presented in your letter dated February 7, 1997, as supplemented February 28, 1997.

By letter dated March 31, 1995, the NRC staff issued a safety evaluation (SE) regarding the NMP-1 core shroud stabilizer design. The SE acknowledged that NMPC would address certain issues by the spring 1997 inspection during RFO-14, and that NMPC had committed to submit its plan for reinspection of the core shroud and core shroud repair assemblies following RFO-13. The NRC staff recommended that NMPC perform certain actions to qualify the ultrasonic testing (UT) techniques used to inspect weld H8 and to develop an effective method to locate the segment welds of the top guide support ring. The safety evaluation further noted that NMPC would reinspect all the reported indications on the top side of the H8 weld during the spring 1997 outage.

As stated in the enclosed SE, the NRC staff finds NMPC has adequately addressed these issues by the February 7 letter as supplemented February 28, 1997. However, after completing the inspections for RFO-14, NMPC should evaluate the results of its reinspection of the H8 weld, develop a plan for the next reinspection of this weld, and submit the results and the plan to the NRC staff before the next scheduled refueling outage.

You state that NMPC will conduct shroud inspections in accordance with BWRVIP-07, "Guidelines for Reinspection of BWR Core Shrouds," (EPRI Report TR-105747), dated February 1996, except for the vertical weld inspections to be conducted during the spring 1997 refueling outage. Specifically, you propose to change the BWRVIP criteria for sample expansion because the NMP-1 core shroud has less total length of vertical welds than other typical boiling water reactor plants. As noted in the enclosed SE, the NRC staff has reviewed your proposed change to the BWRVIP's recommendation for conducting reinspection of the vertical welds and finds it to be unacceptable at this

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time. It is our position that NMPC should conduct its inspections in accordance with the BWRVIP-07 criteria during RFO-14. Although the NRC staff's review of these guidelines has not been completed, our review to date indicates their use is acceptable for the near term while we complete our generic review.

This completes our efforts under TAC No. M97917. If you have questions regarding this letter, contact me by phone at (301) 415-3049, or by electronic mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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

Enclosure: SE

Docket No. 50-220

cc w/encl: See next page

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Sincerely,

Darl Hood

Darl Hood, Senior Project Manager
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: SE

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cc w/encl: See next page

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