

NIAGARA MOHAWK

GENERATION
BUSINESS GROUP

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MARTIN J. McCORMICK JR. P.E.
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering

April 7, 1997
NMP1L 1201

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: Analytical Evaluation of a Rejectable Weld Indication

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of Technical Specification 4.2.6.a, "Inservice Inspection," and the guidance of Generic Letter 88-01, Niagara Mohawk is submitting for NRC staff review and approval an analytical evaluation of a rejectable indication found in weld 32-WD-050 of Loop 12 of the Reactor Recirculation System. To support our schedule for resumption of operation, Niagara Mohawk requests staff approval of this evaluation by April 23, 1997. This weld was classified as a Category A weld in Niagara Mohawk's Generic Letter 88-01 submittal, dated March 7, 1991. As discussed in Section 2 of Attachment A, "Analytical Evaluation of Indication in Weld 32-WD-050 for DER 1-97-0877," there is not enough information at this time to positively characterize this indication. Therefore, Niagara Mohawk has evaluated the indication considering that it could be either a stress corrosion crack or other weld defect. Attachment A demonstrates the acceptability of this weld for continued service during the next operating cycle without repair based on flaw growth analysis considering growth by stress corrosion or by fatigue. These evaluations were performed in accordance with American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, and Generic Letter 88-01 guidance.

Section XI, Article IWB-2430(a), requires an expanded sample when examinations reveal indications that exceed Code allowable. An expanded sample of 9 additional examinations was selected in accordance with IWB-2430 and Generic Letter 88-01. These examinations have been satisfactorily performed. No additional indications were found.

The evaluation in Attachment A demonstrates that the weld is acceptable for continued service for the upcoming operating cycle. Future examinations of this weld will be performed during

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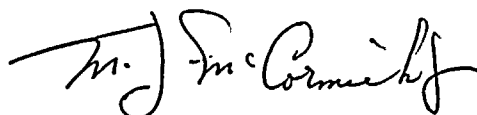


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the next refueling outage and in later refueling outages as required by Section XI IWB-2420(b) and Generic Letter 88-01. Assessment of the information obtained from future examinations will enable Niagara Mohawk to more specifically characterize this indication, and determine what, if any, additional actions are necessary.

Very truly yours,



M. J. McCormick Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

MJM/AFZ/lmc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC 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
Records Management



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