

April 16, 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: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/97-01 AND 50-410/97-01

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

This report transmits the findings of safety inspections conducted by NRC inspectors at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, from January 12 through February 22, 1997. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and other members of your staff.

During this period, your staff operated both units safely. The actions taken by your staff to shutdown Unit 1 upon identification of an increased drywell floor drain leakage rate were appropriate. During the shutdown, we noted improved control of reactor vessel water level. However, during this inspection period, several issues were identified by your staff and the NRC that were attributable, in part, to a lack of adequate management oversight. These included failing open both Unit 2 standby gas treatment system cross-connect valves at the same time without adequate prior evaluation, and not resolving a human-factors concern associated with disconnected Unit 2 high pressure core spray system local valve position indications that existed since initial operation. We believe that these are examples, similar to those identified in recent inspection reports, that indicate increased management oversight and involvement of activities important to reactor plant safety are warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, and its enclosures, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

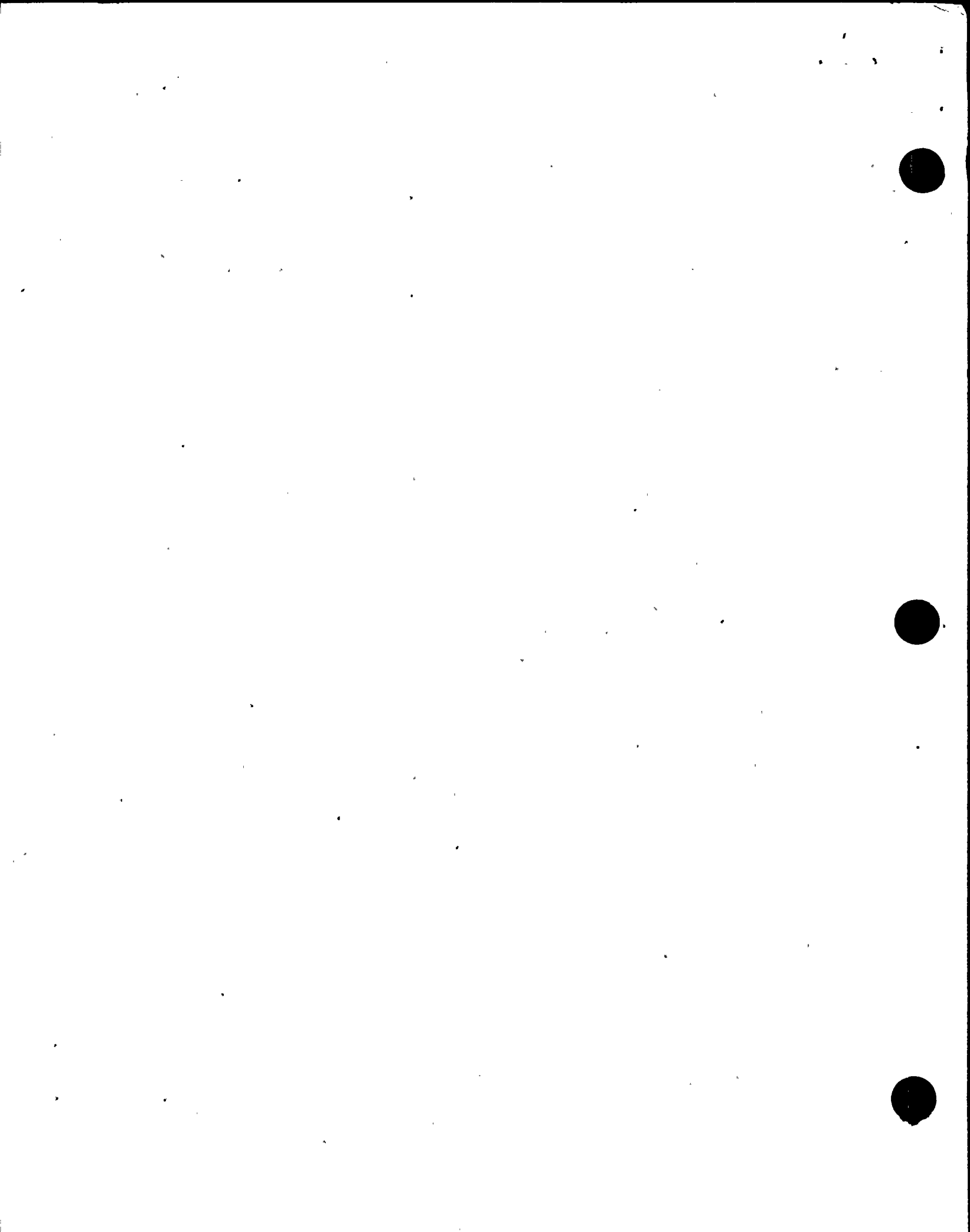
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Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410
License Nos. DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/97-01 and 50-410/97-01

cc w/enclosure:

R. Abbott, Vice President & General Manager - Nuclear
C. Terry, Vice President- Safety Assessment and Support
M. McCormick, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
N. Rademacher, Unit 1 Plant Manager
J. Conway, Unit 2 Plant Manager
D. Wolniak, Manager, Licensing
J. Warden, New York Consumer Protection Branch
G. Wilson, Senior Attorney
M. Wetterhahn, Winston and Strawn
J. Rettberg, New York State Electric and Gas Corporation
Director, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law
J. Vinqvist, MATS, Inc.
P. Eddy, Power Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York
F. Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority
J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research
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