

50-220



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

May 8, 1997

Ms. Colleen Scott
130 Calkins Road
Volney, NY 13069

Dear Ms. Scott:

During the meeting of April 14, 1997, in Fulton, New York, between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the public, you provided a petition requesting that the NRC and State of New York not allow Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation to restart Nine Mile Point Unit 1 unless and until the cracked core shroud is replaced. The petition was signed by 134 residents of New York. On May 6, 1997, you faxed five additional pages to this petition containing the signatures of 68 residents of New York.

The NRC has reviewed Niagara Mohawk's letter of April 8, 1997, as supplemented April 11, 23, 25 (two letters), 26, 27 (two letters), 30, and May 7, 1997. In these letters, Niagara Mohawk describes changes made to ensure that the four tie rod assemblies will perform as originally intended to eliminate the need for any horizontal weld integrity. Niagara Mohawk describes and evaluates the cracks in the vertical welds in the Unit 1 core shroud using conservative assumptions to determine their future growth potential. The results demonstrate that the shroud is acceptable for continued operation for at least 10,600 hours (about 14-1/2 months), at which time Unit 1 will shut down for reinspection and further evaluation. The NRC finds that the changes to the tie rod assembly are acceptable and that the shroud is suitable in its present condition for at least this period of operation. Enclosed is a copy of the NRC's safety evaluation report to this end.

We have discussed our findings with the State of New York and they had no comment.

Accordingly, we find that replacement of the core shroud at this time is unnecessary inasmuch as it continues to comply with codes and standards required by the Commission's regulations and is acceptable for continued service for at least 10,600 hours.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please convey my gratitude and response to the other residents that signed the petition.

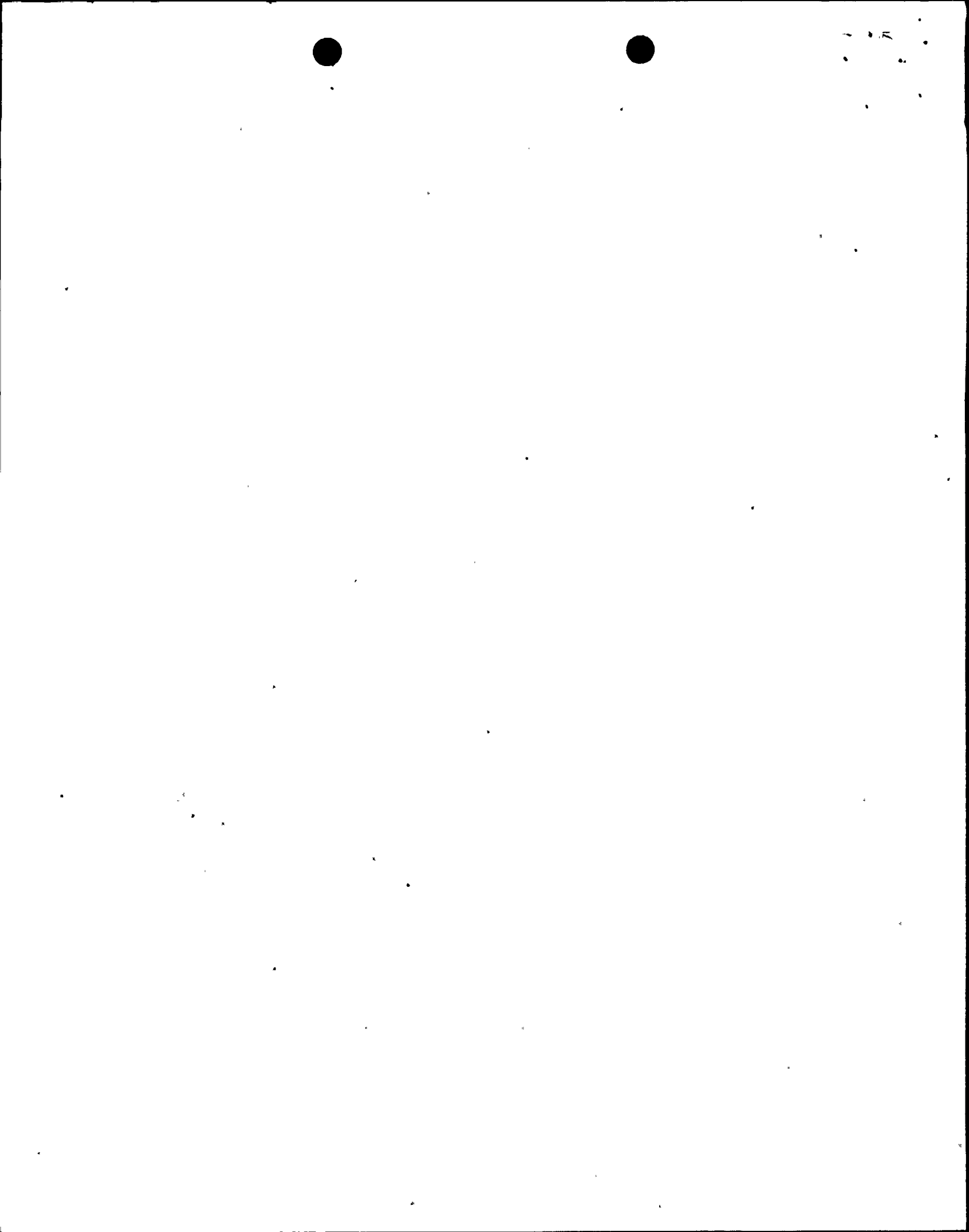
Sincerely,

Darl S. Hood

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

Docket No. 50-220

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation Report



I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please convey my gratitude and response to the other residents that signed the petition.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Docket No. 50-220

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation Report

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