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 RECIPIENT NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Requests that safety evaluation accompanying Amend 15 be revised to indicate that alternate method of monitoring is to be located remote from Control Room & does not meet App R requirements.

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NIAGARA MOHAWK

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B. RALPH SYLVIA
Executive Vice President
Electric Generation
Chief Nuclear Officer

June 6, 1997
NMP1L 1228

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: "Technical Specification Amendment No. 155, Remote Shutdown Panels"

Gentlemen:

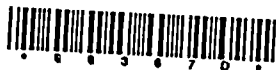
By letter dated February 1, 1995, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted an Application to amend the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) Technical Specifications (TS). Specifically, the Application proposed changes to the Limiting Conditions for Operation and the Bases for the instrumentation and controls of the Remote Shutdown System. One of the proposed changes was the added ability to establish an alternate method of monitoring a parameter if an instrument became inoperable.

In response to our Amendment Application, the NRC issued Amendment No. 155 on October 16, 1995. The Safety Evaluation accompanying Amendment No. 155 included the following statement:

"The staff finds that at NMP1, the temporary provision of an alternate method of monitoring the required instrumentation function, located remote from the control zone and consistent with Appendix R, is consistent with the intent of NUREG-1433 because it will provide the operator with indication of the parameter of interest, and is acceptable."

Since the words "located remote from the control zone and consistent with Appendix R" were not included in our Application, a conference call was made to the NRC on November 2, 1995, to clarify the intent of this statement. Specifically, NMPC asked the NRC if the alternate means of monitoring a parameter had to meet all Appendix R requirements. The NRC indicated the intent was only to require that the alternate means be located remote from the Control Room (i.e., Appendix R requirements need not be met). NMPC acknowledged this clarification.

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Based upon recent review of this issue, NMPC management has determined that written confirmation documenting this understanding is desirable to avoid future confusion regarding this matter. Discussion with the NRC has indicated that the appropriate means of documenting this understanding would be by revision to the NRC's safety evaluation. Accordingly, NMPC requests that the subject safety evaluation be revised to indicate that the alternate method of monitoring is to be located remote from the Control Room and does not need to meet Appendix R requirements. To facilitate closure of this issue, NMPC requests a response by September 30, 1997.

Sincerely,



B. Ralph Sylvia
Chief Nuclear Officer

BRS/JMT/lmc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. A. W. Dromerick, Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR
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