

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

June 19, 1997

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL REGARDING NRC BULLETIN 96-03 - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M96157)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

By letter dated October 4, 1996, as supplemented November 4, 1996, you responded to NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors," dated May 6, 1996, for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 (NMP1). Your response noted that the final resolution of Bulletin 96-03 for NMP1 could not be implemented by the end of the spring 1997 refueling outage and should be deferred until the next outage which, at that time, was scheduled to occur during the spring of 1999. Subsequently, as indicated in the NRC's letter of May 8, 1997, an unrelated matter associated with the core shroud has resulted in the current operating cycle being limited to 10,600 hours of hot operation (about 14-1/2 months), rather than the previously planned 24 months.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to Bulletin 96-03 which included a number of actions that were completed during the spring 1997 outage. We conclude that these actions provide reasonable assurance of the continued safe operation of NMP1 until the existing strainers are replaced with high capacity strainers. We request that you install the high capacity passive suction strainers while shutdown for the core shroud inspection, but no later than December 31, 1998. If this is not acceptable, you should notify the NRC staff in writing within 45 days.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

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Docket No. 50-220

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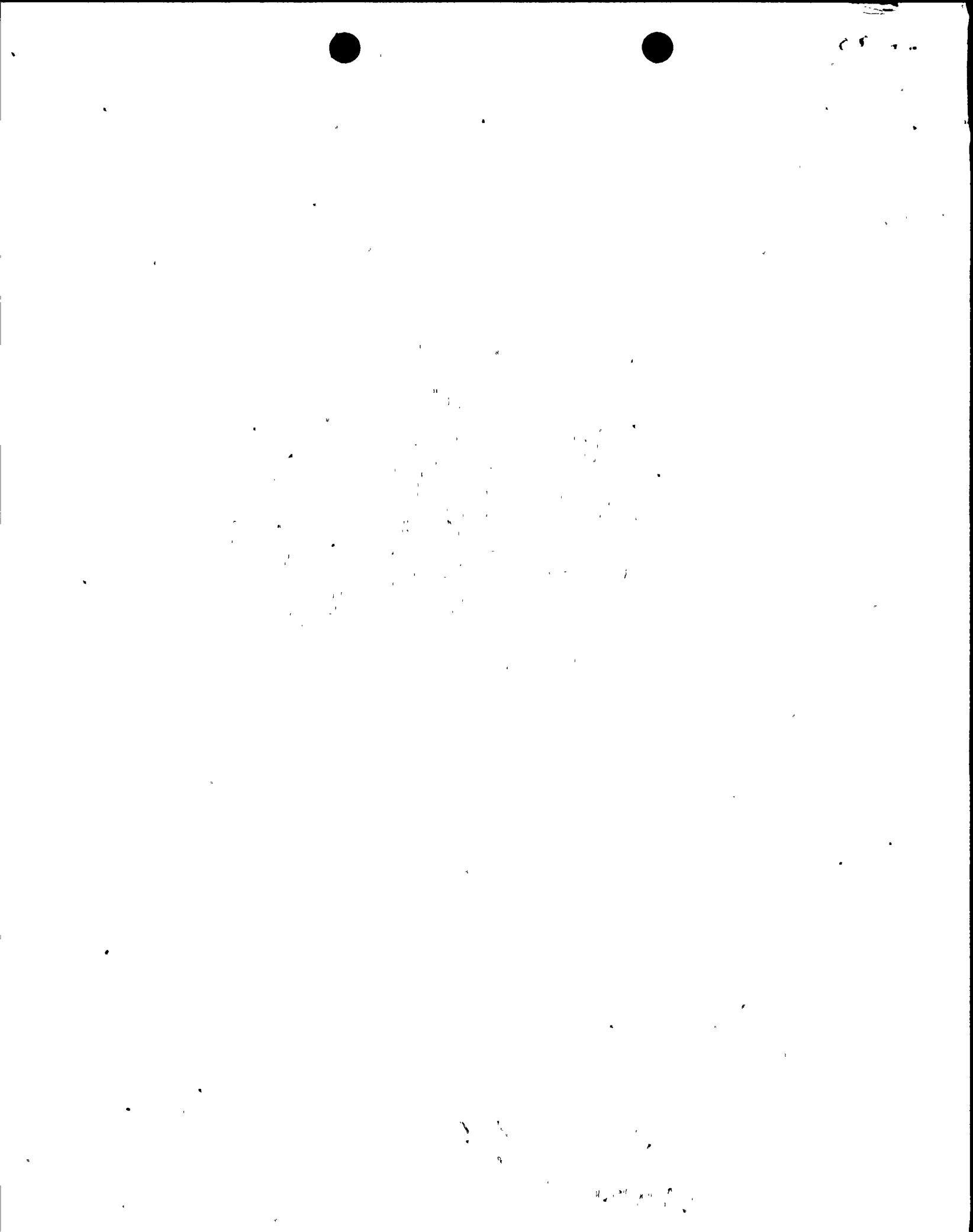
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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

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