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SUBJECT: Forwards application for amend to license DPR-63, revising
 TS sections 3.2.3 & 4.2.3 to reflect BWR water chemistry
 guidelines.

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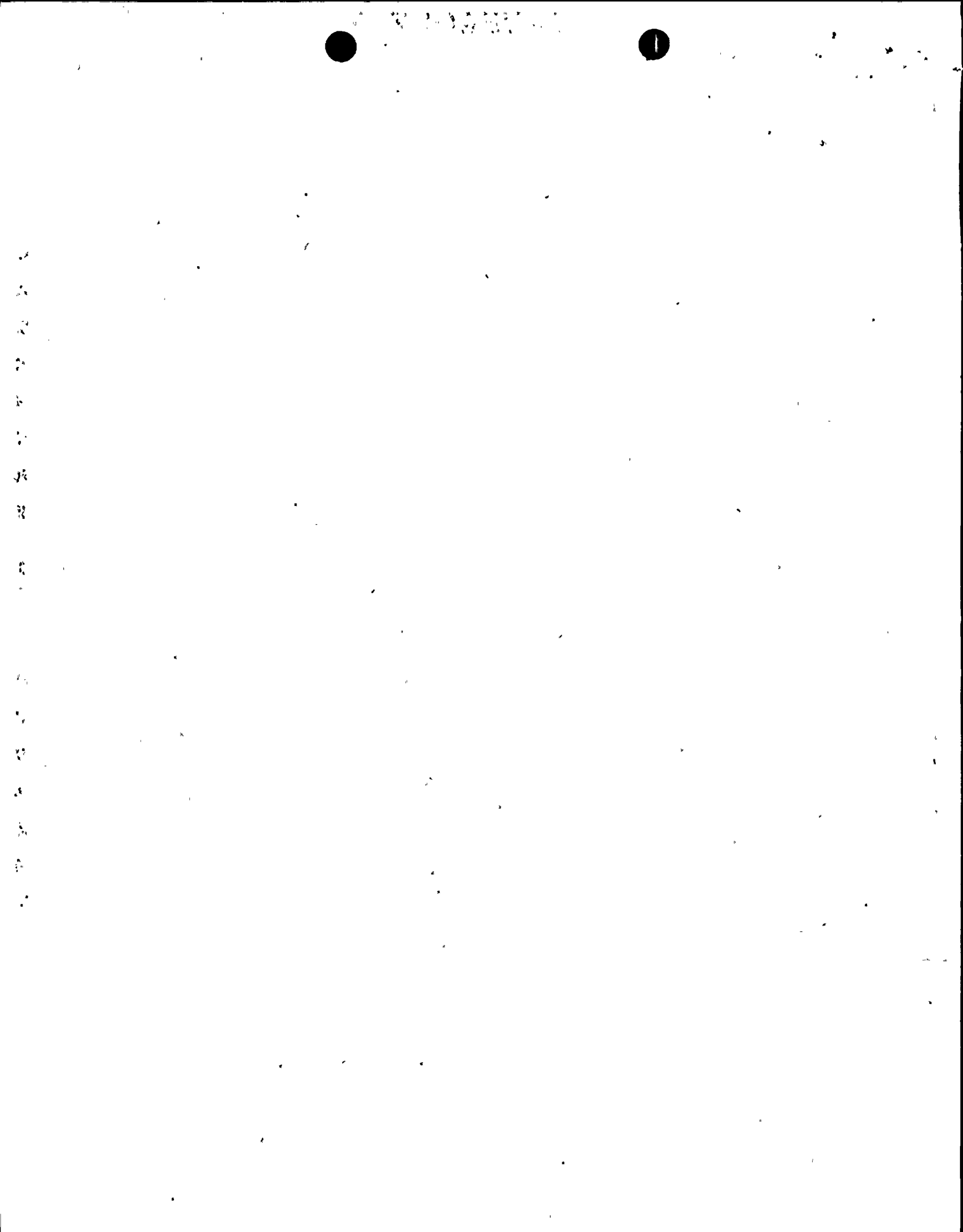
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B. RALPH SYLVIA
Executive Vice President
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Chief Nuclear Officer

July 2, 1997
NMP1L 1232

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
 Docket No. 50-220
 DPR-63

Gentlemen:

During the 1997 refueling outage at Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1), inspection of the core shroud vertical welds revealed cracks in excess of the screening criteria. By letter dated April 8, 1997, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) provided design documentation and evaluations to demonstrate the acceptability of the as-found vertical weld cracking in the NMP1 core shroud for at least 10,600 hours of hot (above 200 degrees F) operation. By letter dated May 8, 1997, the NRC issued a Safety Evaluation approving the restart of NMP1 contingent on: 1) maintaining reactor coolant chemistry within the guidelines set forth in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) technical report TR-103515-R1 (BWRVIP-29), "BWR Water Chemistry Guidelines - 1996 Revision," and 2) the requirement that NMPC submit an application for a license amendment to address the difference between the current TS conductivity limits for reactor coolant chemistry and the analysis assumptions for core shroud crack growth rates. The NRC approved the NMPC analysis predicated on the condition that NMP1 is operated in accordance with the BWR water chemistry guidelines. This application for amendment is being submitted to address the NRC's second contingency.

NMPC hereby transmits an Application for Amendment to NMP1 Operating License DPR-63. Also enclosed as Attachment A is the proposed change to the Technical Specifications (TS) set forth in Appendix A to the above mentioned license. Supporting information and analyses which demonstrate that the proposed change involves no significant hazards consideration pursuant to 10CFR50.92 are included as Attachment B. A marked-up copy of the affected TS pages is provided as Attachment C to assist your review.

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The proposed change revises Sections 3.2.3 and 4.2.3 to reflect the BWR water chemistry guidelines. In addition, the Bases for 3.2.3 and 4.2.3, "Coolant Chemistry", has been revised. These changes address the differences between the current TS conductivity limits for reactor coolant chemistry and the analysis assumptions for core shroud crack growth rates.

Pursuant to 10CFR50.91(b)(1), NMPC has provided a copy of this license amendment request and the associated analysis regarding no significant hazards consideration to the appropriate state representative.

Very truly yours,



B. R. Sylvia
Chief Nuclear Officer

BRS/TRE/cmK
Attachments

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
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