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FACIL: 50-220 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Niagara Powe 05000220
50-410 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Moha 05000410
AUTHOR: DOERFLEIN, L.T. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Region 1 (Post 820201)
RECIPIENT: SYLVIA, B.R. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-220/97-03 & 50-410/97-03 on 970406-0517 & notice of violations. Implementation of security & radiation protection programs were reviewed & found effective.

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July 10, 1997

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC)
Nuclear Learning Center
450 Lake Road
Oswego, NY 13126

**SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/97-03 AND 50-410/97-03
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

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 April 6 through May 17, 1997. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and members of your staff. We are providing one integrated report for all the inspections conducted during this period, in order to better consolidate our findings into a consistent regulatory message and more clearly communicate how these findings may reflect a change in your performance.

During this period, your staff operated both units safely. We noted good performance at Unit 1, in particular with shift supervision command and control, during the core reload and the response to the turbine vibration issue and subsequent plant shutdown. However, while some improvement in the use of three-part communications was noted, we observed inconsistencies in communications and the use of alarm response procedures at Unit 1. In addition, we noted examples of personnel inattention to the task at hand. For example, two instances occurred at Unit 1 where, during refueling, a double blade guide was removed while supporting the respective control rod. Continued management attention in these areas is warranted. The implementation of your security and radiation protection programs was reviewed and found effective.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in the enclosed report. Specifically, the violations involved: (1) a procedure change was not processed even though the Unit 1 Station Shift Supervisor recognized that some prerequisites for lowering the reactor cavity water level were not satisfied; (2) a procedure change to address a deficiency in the procedure for the remote shutdown of Unit 2 was not properly reviewed with respect to the fire protection program; and (3) vehicles designated to normally remain within the protected area were not adequately controlled. The corrective actions for the first violation were reviewed and found to be adequate, no response is required for this violation. However, for the other two violations, you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine



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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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whether enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

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

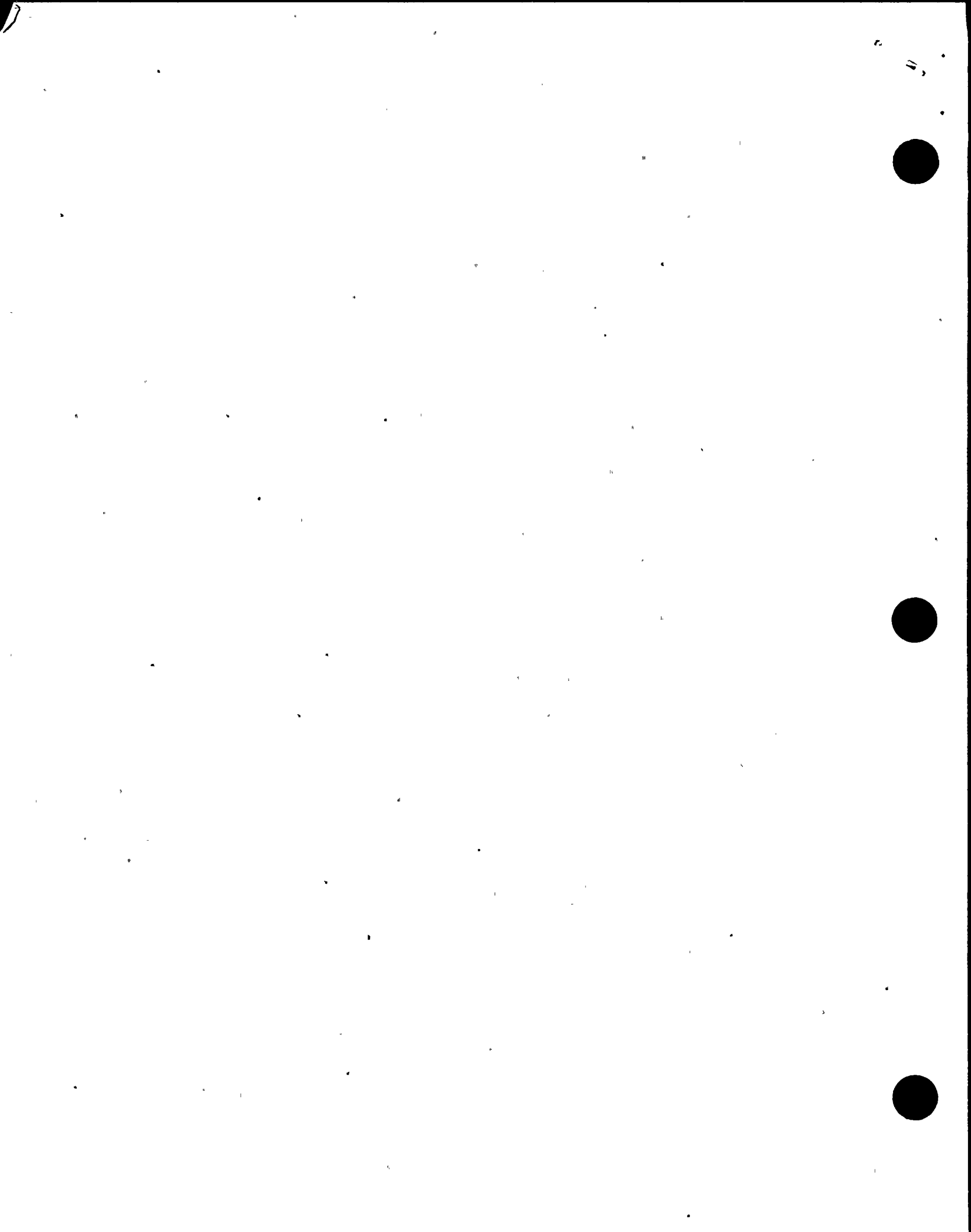
Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410
License Nos. DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/97-03 and 50-410/97-03

cc w/encls:

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

3

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