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50-410 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Moha 05000410

AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
GINS, J.T. Region 1 (Post 820201)
RECIPIENT NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
SYLVIA, B.R. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-220/97-05 & 50-410/97-05 on 970310-0418. No violations noted.

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July 17, 1997

EA No. 97-228

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/97-05 AND 50-410/97-05

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

This letter refers to the NRC inspection conducted by Mr. Leonard Cheung and Mr. Richard Skokowski from March 10-14, 1997, and from April 14-18, 1997, at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the licensee were conducted safely, and in accordance with the NRC requirements. At the April 18, 1997, exit meeting, the findings were discussed with Messrs. R. Abbott and M. McCormick and other members of your staff. Additional findings were also discussed with Mr. D. Baker of your staff in a telephone call on June 4, 1997.

The inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. The areas examined during this inspection included: 1) your corrective actions in response to your identification of multiple motor-operated valves (MOVs) at both Units 1 and 2 being vulnerable to mechanical damages caused by fire induced hot shorts during a postulated control room fire; 2) your corrective actions following your identification, on two separate occasions, that isolation switches were not provided to the control circuitry for the Unit 2 Division I and II emergency service water outlet valves; 3) your corrective actions in resolving the issue associated with the service life of Unit 2 Agastat GP relays; and 4) your corrective actions taken to resolve several previously identified inspection items.

Based on the information developed during the inspections, as well as information described in License Event Report LER No. 96-10 for Unit 1, issued on December 2, 1996, and LER 96-15 for Unit 2, issued on January 16, 1997, and supplemented on March 27, 1997, a number of apparent violations were identified. These apparent violations include the failure to appropriately consider the possibility of electrical "hot shorts" in your fire protection analysis, to determine whether such hot shorts could affect safe shutdown of the reactor in the event of a fire in the control room. Reanalysis indicated the fire-induced hot shorts could render certain MOVs from performing the intended safe shutdown function. The NRC is concerned that your engineering and design organization did not fully evaluate the MOVs' vulnerability to hot shorts in their original analyses that were conducted in 1992.

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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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The above apparent violations are being reviewed by NRC management. We will inform you of the review result at a later date.

In addition to the above, based on this inspection, the inspectors determined that your program for calculating the service life of Unit 2 normally-energized Agastat relays was not based on sound engineering judgement. Although not a violation of NRC requirements, we understand that you were in a process of revising your program to develop a better calculation method.

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

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James T. Wiggins, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410

Enclosure:
Inspection Report

cc w/enclosures:

R. Abbott, Vice President & General Manager - Nuclear
C. Terry, Vice President- Safety Assessment and Support
J. Conway, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
K. Dahlberg, Vice President - Nuclear Operations
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and Development Authority
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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia

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