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CONWAY,J.T. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
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SUBJECT: Discusses power uprate power ascension test program-interim rept.Final startup rept will be submitted within 90 days following completion of remaining power uprate tests.

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FAX (315) 349-2605

JOHN T. CONWAY
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering

August 5, 1997
NMP2L 1720

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

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPF-69

Subject: *Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program - Interim Report*

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specifications Sections 6.9.1.1, 6.9.1.2, and 6.9.1.3, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is providing this letter in regard to the NMP2 "Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program Interim Startup Report." The interim report was submitted by NMPC in a letter dated November 28, 1995 (NMP2L 1597). Subsequently, this interim report was revised by NMPC letters dated February 23, 1996 (NMP2L 1610), May 20, 1996 (NMP2L 1631), August 16, 1996 (NMP2L 1654), November 14, 1996 (NMP2L 1673), February 11, 1997 (NMP2L 1687), and May 9, 1997 (NMP2L 1705).

In our revised interim report dated November 14, 1996, NMPC stated that the power uprate power ascension test program could not be completed due to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow at 100% of uprated power level. During continuing power uprate testing, NMP2 was unable to attain 105% core flow at the NMP2 maximum drive flow limit of 45,000 gpm.

NMPC believes the inability to achieve 105% core flow may be attributed to jet pump fouling. The jet pump fouling phenomena has affected other nuclear utilities, and several options may be available to correct or mitigate the affects. NMPC is currently evaluating the viability of cleaning the NMP2 jet pumps to verify the cause of the inability to reach 105% of core flow. However, due to the planning required to arrange jet pump cleaning, NMP2 would not be able to complete the evolution until Refueling Outage 7 (RFO7) at the earliest.

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The inability to achieve 105% rated core flow does not adversely affect the continued safe operation of NMP2. However, the continued submittal of supplemental reports is required due to the temporary inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow in order to complete the remaining tests. In accordance with Technical Specification 6.9.1.3, supplementary reports will be submitted every 90 days until the remaining testing described in our revised interim report has been completed. A final startup report will be submitted within 90 days following completion of the remaining power uprate tests.

Very truly yours,

John T. Conway
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

JTC/KLL/lmc

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