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SUBJECT: Notifies NRC staff that util wishes to maintain current commitment to complete GL 96-01 actions prior to restart from Refueling Outage 15.

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Vice President  
Nuclear Engineering

August 22, 1997  
NMP1L 1244

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

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

**Subject:**       *Proposed Schedule Regarding Generic Letter 96-01 - Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TAC NO. M94701)*

Gentlemen:

By the letter dated July 11, 1997, the NRC requested that NMPC complete the actions needed to resolve Generic Letter (GL) 96-01 prior to restarting from the shutdown for the core shroud inspection and, if NMPC found that schedule to be unacceptable, notify the NRC staff in writing within 45 days. The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC staff that NMPC wishes to maintain its current commitment to complete GL 96-01 actions prior to restart from Refueling Outage 15 (RFO15).

By letter dated April 18, 1996, and as supplemented by the letter dated June 18, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) responded to GL 96-01, "Testing of Safety-Related Logic Circuits," dated January 10, 1996, for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 (NMP1). Our response noted that the actions requested by GL 96-01 could not be completed to the schedule requested by GL 96-01 (i.e., prior to startup from the first refueling outage commencing one year after issuance of the GL). Rather, NMPC stated that GL 96-01 activities were planned to be completed prior to startup from RFO15 which is scheduled to occur during early 1999. Subsequently, as indicated in the NRC's letter dated May 8, 1997, an unrelated matter associated with the core shroud has resulted in a commitment to perform inspections of the core shroud at 10,600 hours of hot operation (about 14-1/2 months). By letter dated April 8, 1997, NMPC informed the NRC staff that the scope, duration, and timing of the core shroud inspection was still under evaluation.

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NMPC believes that the previously proposed completion date of RFO15 remains appropriate based on the following: as discussed in our letter dated April 18, 1996, (1) the proposed date is comparable to the schedular allowances under GL 96-01 provided to other nuclear stations to complete the required reviews and procedure changes (i.e., utilities with an outage in late December 1996 or early January 1997 would have an additional cycle, potentially until December 1998 or January 1999, respectively); and (2) the Surveillance Verification Program (SVP) provides confidence that the current surveillance procedures fulfill Technical Specification requirements. The additional reviews required to complete NMPC's evaluation have not yet been completed and, therefore, the scope of the surveillance procedure changes has not yet been identified.

The completion date proposed by the NMPC letters dated April 18, 1996, and June 18, 1996, was based on a manpower evaluation performed by NMPC management. It was not established according to any specific analysis required to be performed during a plant refueling outage. Rather, the GL 96-01 efforts were scheduled to ensure a thorough review and complete resolution based on available resources. Those resources have already been allocated in accordance with this schedule. In addition, the core shroud inspection outage will not be a normal operating cycle outage. In order to ensure a safe, successful core shroud inspection outage, NMPC believes that focus on planning for that outage should not be unnecessarily complicated by attempting to accelerate the unrelated tasks required to complete GL 96-01 implementation.

Accordingly, NMPC believes it is appropriate to maintain the schedule established by the NMPC letters dated April 18, 1996, and June 18, 1996. The tasks required to finish the review and incorporate any potential procedure changes associated with GL 96-01 will be completed prior to restart from RFO15.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway  
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

JTC/JMT/cmK

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