

# CATEGORY 1

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 YLVIA, B.R. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.  
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Responds to NRC ltr re violations noted in insp repts  
 50-220/97-09 & 50-410/97-09. Corrective actions: Nuclear  
 Engineering Procedure NEP-DES-25 was revised.

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NIAGARA MOHAWK

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B. RALPH SYLVIA  
Executive Vice President  
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December 4, 1997  
NMP1L 1273

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:**    *Notice of Violation 97-09-02 and 97-09-03 Contained in NRC Inspection Report 50-220/97-09 and 50-410/97-09*

Gentlemen:

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's (NMPC) reply to the subject Notice of Violation is enclosed as Attachments A and B to this letter. We do not dispute these violations.

Very truly yours,

*B. Ralph Sylvia*  
B. Ralph Sylvia  
Chief Nuclear Officer

BRS/GJG/cmk  
Attachment

*IED 11/1*

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

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2  
DOCKET NO. 50-410  
NPF-69**

**"RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION," AS CONTAINED IN  
INSPECTION REPORT 50-410/97-09**

**A. VIOLATION 50-410/97-09-03**

10CFR50, Appendix B, Criterion V, Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings, requires activities affecting quality to be prescribed by documented instructions or procedures, and accomplished with these instructions or procedures.

Contrary to the above, on August 29, 1997, the following activities affecting quality were not prescribed by documented instructions or procedures:

- (1) The calculations of mechanical equipment qualified lives, that were used to support the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 power uprate, were not prescribed and accomplished with documented instructions or procedures; and
- (2) The restriction limiting the use of the environmental qualification environmental design criteria (EQEDC) and EQEDC II databases only to the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 power uprate calculations was not prescribed in documented instructions or procedures.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement 1).

**I. THE REASON FOR THE VIOLATION**

The cause of this violation was inadequate procedure review during Equipment Qualification (EQ) procedure development. Prior to April 1990, applicable EQ procedures were sufficiently prescriptive to assure compliance with 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion V. However, the current governing EQ procedure, NEP-DES-25, does not provide sufficiently prescriptive direction. Subsequent to 1990, when the EQ procedures were revised, there was an inadequate technical assessment during the preparation and review of the procedure and as such, 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion V requirements were not adequately considered to prevent the discrepancies noted in this violation.



## II. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

The following corrective actions have been taken:

1. A revision has been issued for Nuclear Engineering Procedure NEP-DES-25 to:
  - a. Require any EQ evaluations to conform to the requirements of NEP-DES-02, "Evaluations and Analysis" and/or NEP-DES-08, "Calculations". These two procedures comply with 10CFR50, Appendix B, Criterion V.
  - b. Limit the use of the EQEDC II database to power uprate components until data validation is documented and retained in file for each new application.
2. EQEDC II database access has been restricted to only personnel authorized by the EQ Program Manager.
3. The effect of the NMP2 power uprate on MEQ and EQ equipment was reevaluated in accordance with procedure NEP-DES-02. The evaluation confirms the previous conclusion that affected equipment is environmentally qualified.

## III. ACTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

The following actions will be taken:

1. A review of the procedures related to and defining the implementation of EQ Program requirements will be performed. This review will include evaluation of how the requirements of 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion V are being implemented and the need for additional higher tier procedures. Where necessary, procedures will be developed and/or revised. This action will be completed by December 31, 1998.
2. A review of other programs which were managed in the Nuclear Technology organization will be performed to assure that similar problems with program documents and procedures does not exist. This review and any required corrective actions will be completed by December 31, 1998. The comparable procedures utilized by the design organizations (NEP-DES-02 and NEP-DES-08) have already been confirmed to contain adequate detail to assure compliance with 10CFR50 Appendix B Criterion V requirements.
3. The process for review and approval of procedures has been upgraded. This combined with Action III.1 above will prevent reoccurrence of the error that occurred during the revision of EQ procedures.





**IV. DATE WHEN FULL COMPLIANCE WILL BE ACHIEVED**

NMPC was in full compliance on December 4, 1997, when the Corrective Actions II.1 and II.2 were completed.



**ATTACHMENT B**

**NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2  
DOCKET NO. 50-410  
NPF-69**

**"RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION," AS CONTAINED IN  
INSPECTION REPORT 50-410/97-09**

**B. VIOLATION 50-410/97-09-02**

10CFR50, Appendix B, Criterion VI, Document Control, requires that measures shall be established to control the issuance of documents, such as instructions and procedures, and that these measures shall assure that documents are reviewed for adequacy and approved for release by authorized personnel.

Contrary to the above, as of August 29, 1997, the acceptance test plan for the EQEDC II database was not approved for release by authorized personnel, and the acceptance test was conducted on March 30-31, 1994, using the unapproved test plan.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement 1).

**I. THE REASON FOR THE VIOLATION**

The cause of this violation has been determined to be a personnel error in that the persons responsible for completing and supporting the test plan failed to follow Nuclear Interfacing Procedure NIP-NCS-01, "Nuclear Computer Software Control." Management oversight of the development of the EQEDC II database did not assure that the development of the database was in compliance with procedures. Corrective actions for previously identified problems in the Software Development Group were ineffective in identifying and correcting deficiencies in maintaining documentation.

**II. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN AND RESULTS ACHIEVED**

Equipment qualification personnel successfully implemented the EQEDC phase II test plan, and Software Quality Assurance has verified that required approvals were documented.



**III. ACTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE**

Engineering and Software Development personnel who failed to follow procedure NIP-NCS-01, left NMPC employment prior to the violation being identified. Since the time of the violation, significant organizational changes have been implemented in the Information Management group; including the appointment of a new Manager.

During the third quarter of 1997, the Software Development Quality Instructions (SDQI), which include instructions for the authorization and release of databases, were reviewed at weekly Software Development staff department meetings with the system analysts responsible for maintaining and modifying software applications. Expectations that the SDQIs are to be followed were reinforced by management.

In 1997, a Software Quality Assurance (SQA) group was established to ensure that software applications are developed in accordance with the applicable requirements. To assure that newly developed applications are properly documented and approved, Nuclear Software Development/Software QA Instruction SQA-01 was developed. The SQA group is completing an audit of all existing software application documentation packages which are the responsibility of Information Management to assure compliance with that procedure. This audit and any required corrective action will be completed by June 30, 1998.

**IV. DATE WHEN FULL COMPLIANCE WILL BE ACHIEVED**

NMPC was in full compliance on December 4, 1997, when the corrective action in Section II was completed.

201-1-10

