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RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Revises original commitments contained in 970207 response to
GL 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability & Containment
Integrity During Design Basis Accident Conditions."

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NIAGARA MOHAWK

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JOHN T. CONWAY
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering

December 16, 1997
NMP1L 1276

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

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

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

*Subject: NRC Generic Letter 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability and
 Containment Integrity During Design Basis Accident Conditions"*

Gentlemen:

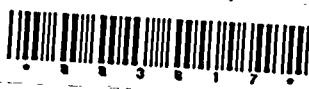
On September 30, 1996, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity During Design Basis Accident Conditions," and required that within 120 days of the date of the GL, licensees report actions taken in response to the requested actions. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) responded to the GL on February 7, 1997. The purpose of this letter is to revise our original commitments contained in that response.

Attachment A to NMPC's February 7, 1997 response addressed Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1). Corrective action 4 committed that design changes, if required, would be implemented prior to restart from refueling outage 15. Attachment B to that response addressed Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2). Corrective action 4 committed that design changes, if required, would be implemented prior to restart from refueling outage 6. NMPC is participating in ongoing industry efforts to evaluate and justify viable alternatives to plant modifications (e.g., use of ASME III, Appendix F criteria for long term resolution of thermal overpressurization issue). In addition, NMPC is involved in testing that is being performed on isolated piping sections by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Results may indicate that plant modifications to mitigate the phenomenon are not necessary. Accordingly, NMPC is changing its commitments to perform any required plant modifications until refueling outage 16 (spring 2001) and refueling outage 7 (spring 2000) for NMP1 and NMP2, respectively.

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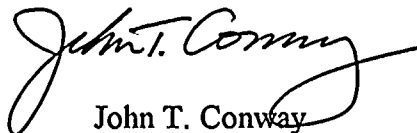


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Page 2

These revised commitments will allow adequate time for NMPC and the NRC to re-evaluate these issues. Should hardware modifications become necessary, the delay of one cycle will not pose undue risk based upon the low probability of the event as discussed in NUREG-0933 and the continued operability of potentially impacted equipment. NMPC will notify the NRC if it is determined that modifications are unnecessary.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

JTC/GJG/cmk

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. A. W. Dromerick, Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
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