

February 17, 1998

Mr. John H. Mueller
Senior Vice President
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Operations Building
2nd Floor
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 50-220/98-03 (OL)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Initial licensed operator examinations were conducted of four individuals that had applied for Senior Reactor Operator licenses to operate Nine Mile Point Unit 1. The examinations were conducted in accordance with NUREG 1021 "Examiner Standards", Rev. 8. The applicants were well prepared for the examination and were granted licenses.

We are concerned with the apparent ineffective corrective actions to improve the quality of initial examination submittals that resulted again in the postponement of the examination. Our assessment review of your initial examination submittal identified that the sample plan was adequate, however, major areas of difficulty were identified in question construction, implausible distractors, distractors not consistent with the stem of the question poorly defined performance standards and a low level of knowledge and difficulty tested. We have scheduled a meeting with your staff on March 19, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. in our Region I office to discuss with you your assessment and root cause determination(s) concerning the continuing submittal of poor quality licensed operator initial examinations and your plans to correct the identified deficiencies.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (610) 337-5211.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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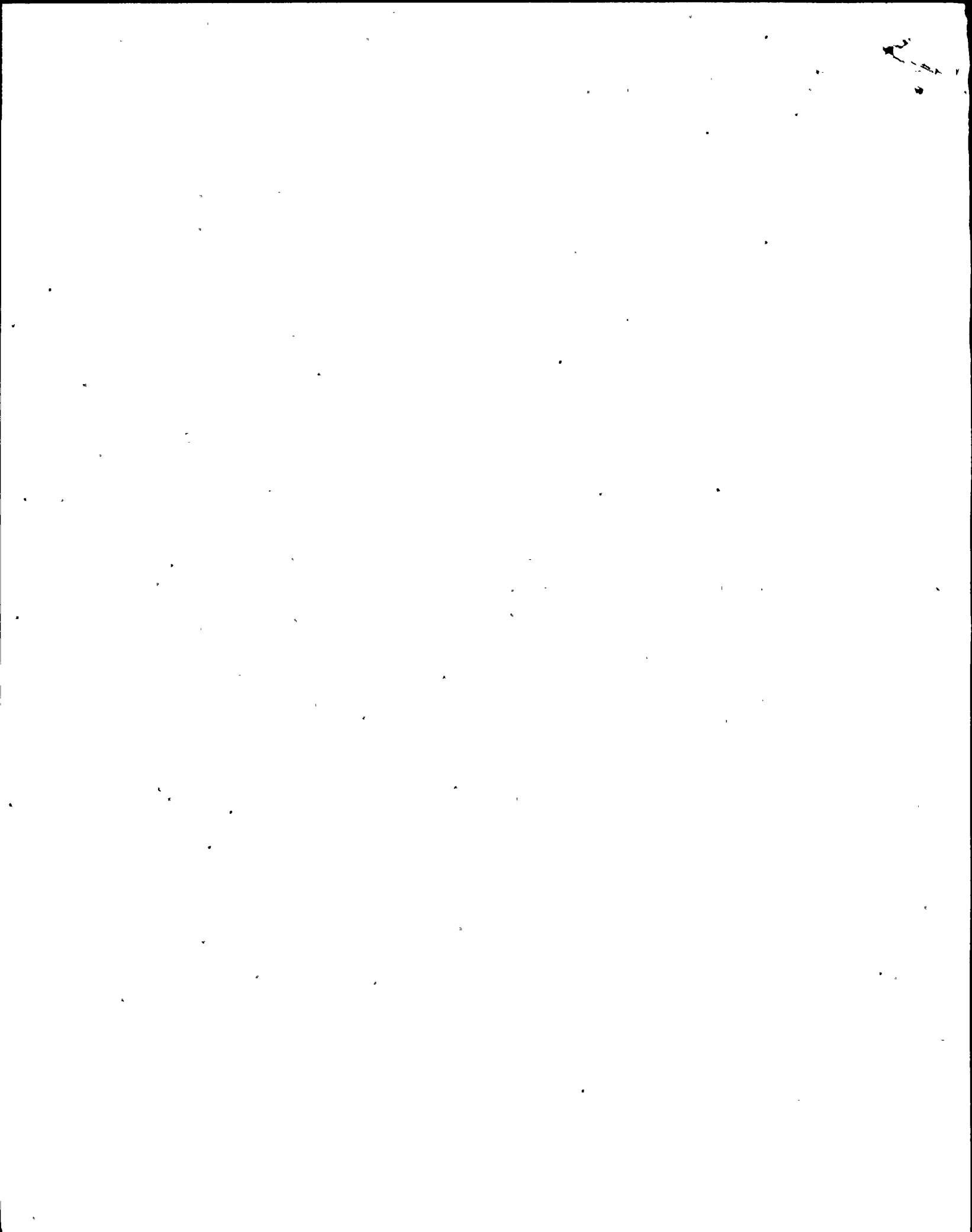
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Docket No. 50-220

Enclosure: Examination Report No. 50-220/98-03 (OL) w/Attachment 1

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V PDR





Mr. John H. Mueller

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cc w/encl; w/o Attachment 1:

B. Ralph Sylvia, Executive Vice President

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

D. Wolniak, Manager, Licensing

G. Wilson, Senior Attorney

M. Wetterhahn, Winston and Strawn

J. Rettberg, New York State Electric and Gas Corporation

P. Eddy, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York

C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law

J. Vinqvist, MATS, Inc.

F. Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority

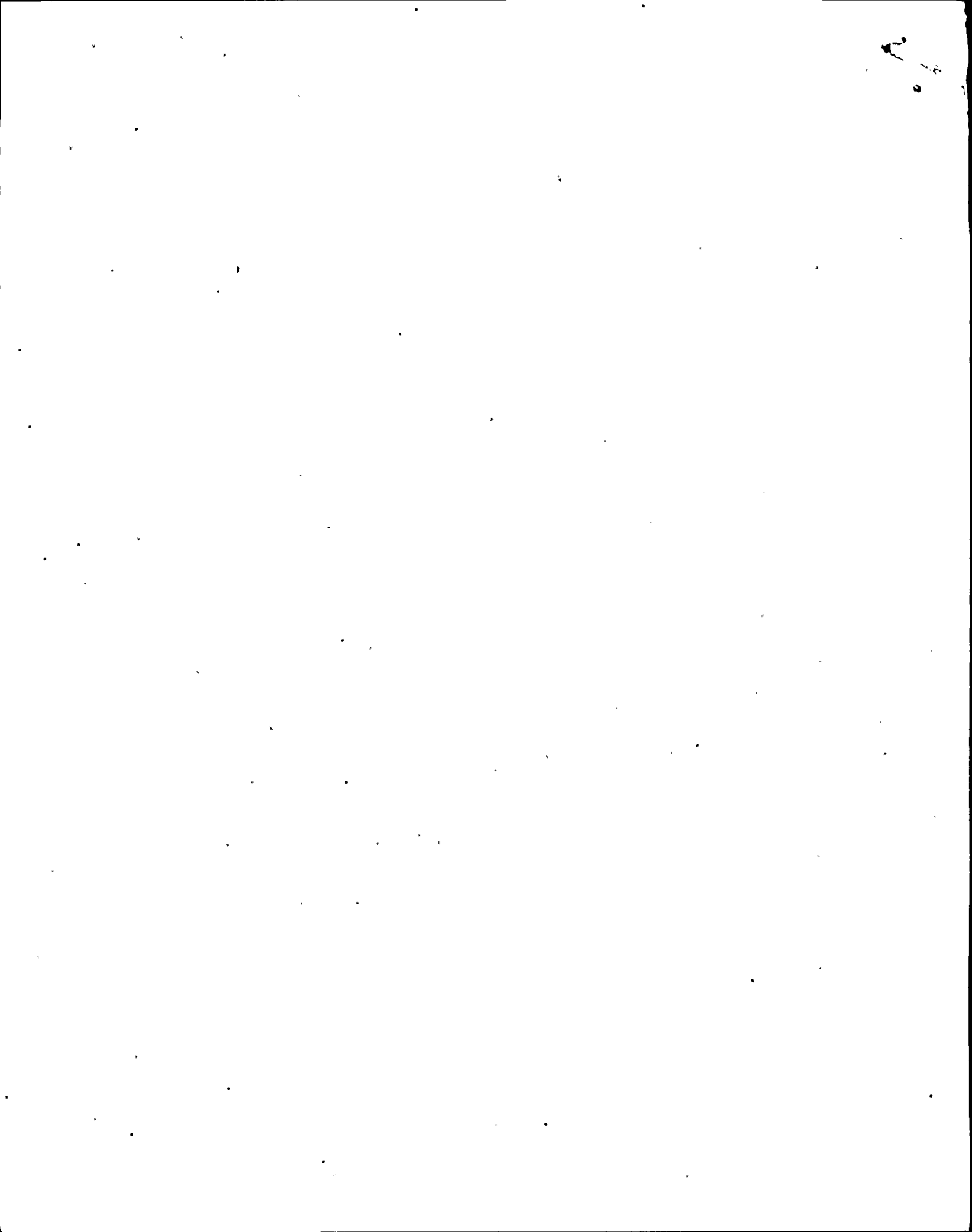
J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority

cc w/encl; w/Attachment 1:

R. Tessier, Manager of Training

B. Mertha, General Supervisor, Unit 1 Operations Training

R. Slade, Unit 2 Operations Training General Supervisor



Mr. John H. Mueller

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J. Wiggins, DRS
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R. Conte, DRS
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L. Doerflein, DRP
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B. Norris - Nine Mile Point
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