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FACIL:50-220 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Niagara Powe 05000220  
50-410 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Moha 05000410

AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
DOERFLEIN, L.T. Region 1 (Post 820201)  
RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
MUELLER, J.H. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-220/98-01 & 50-410/98-01 on 980104-0214. Violations noted. Good performance noted in identification & response to reactor fuel leak at Unit 2.

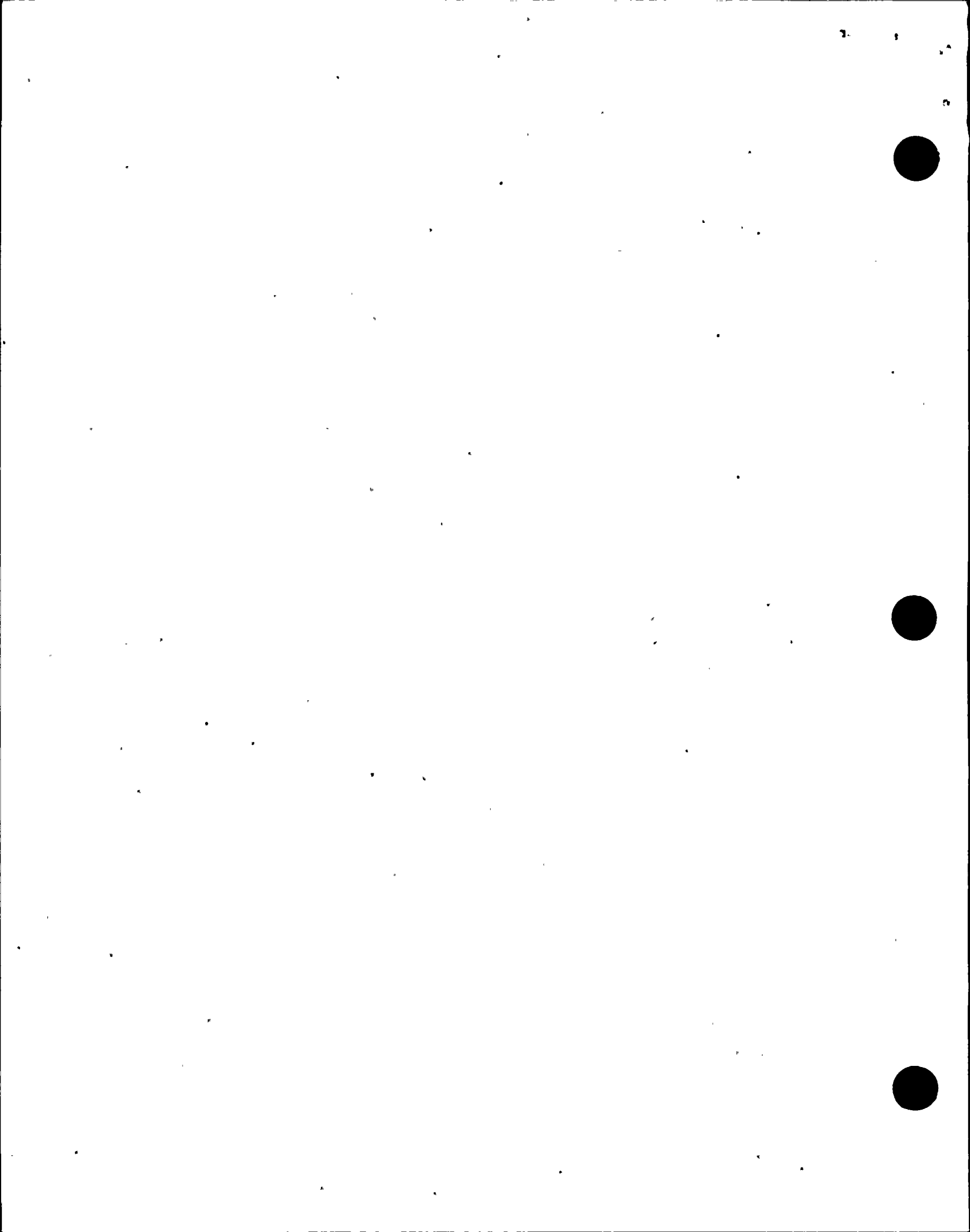
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March 20, 1998

Mr. John H. Mueller  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
Operations Building, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/98-01 AND 50-410/98-01  
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Mueller:

This report transmits the findings of safety inspections conducted by NRC inspectors at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, from January 4 through February 14, 1998. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you, and members of your staff.

During this period, your staff operated both units safely. Good performance was noted in the identification and response to a reactor fuel leak at Unit 2. During this period, a Unit 1 system engineer demonstrated good integrated plant awareness in identifying that maintenance on a service water valve in the reactor building violated secondary containment integrity. Additionally, your engineering staff took timely and appropriate actions in response to two industry concerns related to potentially defective equipment. However, the NRC identified that your staff appeared to have accepted several old deficient conditions at Unit 1, in lieu of correcting them or performing the appropriate engineering analyses to accept them as-is. Specific examples include: (1) numerous catch containments which were no longer required or did not have the required engineering evaluations for "permanent" installation; and (2) a longstanding holdout on a "failed-open" temperature control valve for the control room emergency ventilation system, for which an engineering evaluation was not performed to determine if continued operation with the degraded component was acceptable.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. Specifically, the violations involve the following: (1) surveillance testing did not adequately ensure Unit 1 liquid poison system functionality; and (2) an engineering evaluation had not been performed, nor was an unreviewed safety question determination made, to assess the impact that a failed temperature control valve had on the Unit 1 control room emergency ventilation system.

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Mr. John H. Mueller

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The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.           50-220, 50-410  
License Nos.          DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/98-01 and 50-410/98-01

cc w/enclosures:

- 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



Mr. John H. Mueller

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