

50-410



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 19, 1998

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, Second Floor
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: CORE SHROUD INSPECTION, EVALUATION, AND CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR
REFUELING OUTAGE 6, NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION,
UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. MA0816)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

By letter dated February 2, 1998, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted plans for inspection, evaluation, and repair of the core shroud at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). The plans will be implemented during refueling outage 6 (RFO-6) scheduled to begin in May 1998. The letter is in response to Generic Letter (GL) 94-03, "Intergranular Stress-Corrosion Cracking of Core Shrouds in BWRs" which requests that licensees inspect their plant's core shroud, perform an appropriate evaluation and/or repair based on these inspections, and perform a safety analysis supporting continued operation of the plant until inspections are conducted. It is also in response to NMPC's initial reply of August 23, 1994, committing to provide the NRC the NMP2 core shroud inspection plan and contingency plans for the evaluation and/or repair of the core shroud 3 months before performing the inspections.

NMPC states that its plans for inspection and evaluation satisfy the recommendations of the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project's (BWRVIP's) "BWR Core Shroud Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines" (BWRVIP-01), Rev. 2, with the revisions addressed in Mr. C. Terry's letter of December 10, 1997. The inspection recommendations that apply to Category B plants (the appropriate category for NMP2) are for limited inspection of circumferential shroud welds H3, H4, H5, and H7. However, since NMPC intends to use the longest reinspection interval allowed by BWRVIP-07, "Guidelines for Reinspection of Core Shrouds," more extensive inspections than recommended by BWRVIP-01 will be conducted; NMPC will examine all of the accessible regions of welds H3, H4, H5, and H7.

NMPC will evaluate the examination results in accordance with BWRVIP-01 using limit load, linear elastic fracture mechanics, or elastic-plastic fracture mechanics, depending upon the neutron fluence exposure.

If repairs are needed, NMPC plans to follow the recommendations of BWRVIP-02, "Core Shroud Repair Design Criteria," and BWRVIP-04, "Guide for Format and Content of Core Shroud Repair Design Submittals."

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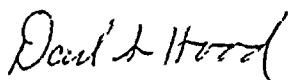
J. Mueller

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The NRC staff finds the above plans acceptable as they are consistent with the guidance in BWRVIP documents that have been approved for use by the NRC.

NMPC will examine the welds by ultrasonic testing performed in accordance with BWRVIP-03, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Reactor Pressure Vessel and Internals Examination Guidelines." Reinspections for future core shroud examinations will be performed in accordance with BWRVIP-07. The NRC staff is currently completing its review of BWRVIP-03 and a re-review of BWRVIP-07. Additional information of a plant-specific nature may be requested by the NRC staff to complete its review of your plans to use the guidance in these documents. Accordingly, TAC MA0816 remains open pending completion of the NRC staff's review of NMPC's plans regarding these two documents.

Sincerely,



Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit No. 2

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