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SUBJECT: Discusses insp repts 50-220/98-07 & 50-410/98-07 & transmits results of meeting held on 980319. Purpose of meeting was to allow NRC to gain insight re root causes & plan for C/As re poorly constructed OL exams.

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Mr. John H. Mueller Chief Nuclear Officer Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Operations Building, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 63 Lycoming, NY 13126

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-220/98-007;50-410/98-007

This report transmits the results of our meeting in the Region I office in King of Prussia, PA on March 19, 1998. The purpose of the meeting was to allow us to gain a better understanding of the root causes and your plan for corrective actions concerning the submittal of poorly constructed initial licensed operator examinations and the apparent low testing standards exhibited by your training organization. The details of these important issues have been identified in NRC inspection reports 50-220/97-04 and 50-410/97-08(OL) and 50-220/98-03(OL).

The meeting was of mutual benefit. Your root cause review appears to be comprehensive and your corrective actions appear to be sound. Thank you for your cooperation on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (610) 337-5183 or Mr. Carl Sisco at (610) 337-5076.

Sincerely,

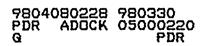
Richard J. Conte, Chief Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-220 License Nos. DPR-63

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-220/98-07

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## Mr. John H. Mueller

cc w/encl:

- 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

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- J. Vinquist, 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
- R. Tessier, Manager Training



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Mr. John H. Mueller



**Distribution\_w/encl:** H. Miller, RA/W. Axelson, DRA (1) **Region I Docket Room (with concurrences) Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)** PUBLIC **NRC Resident Inspector** J. Wiggins, DRS L. Nicholson, DRS R. Conte, DRS , C. Sisco, DRS L. Doerflein, DRP R. Junod, DRP B. McCabe, RI EDO Coordinator B. Norris - Nine Mile Point S. Bajwa, NRR D. Hood, NRR M. Campion, RI **Inspection Program Branch (IPAS)** R. Correia, NRR F. Talbot, NRR DOCDESK

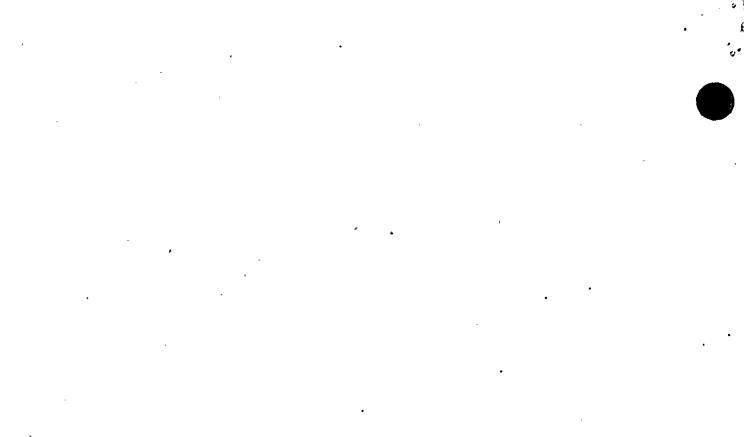
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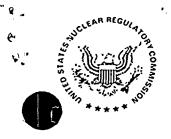
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REGION I 475 ALLENDALE ROAD KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

## March 30, 1998

Mr. John H. Mueller Chief Nuclear Officer Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Operations Building, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 63 Lycoming, NY 13126

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Richard J. Conte. Chief

Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch Division of Reactor Safety

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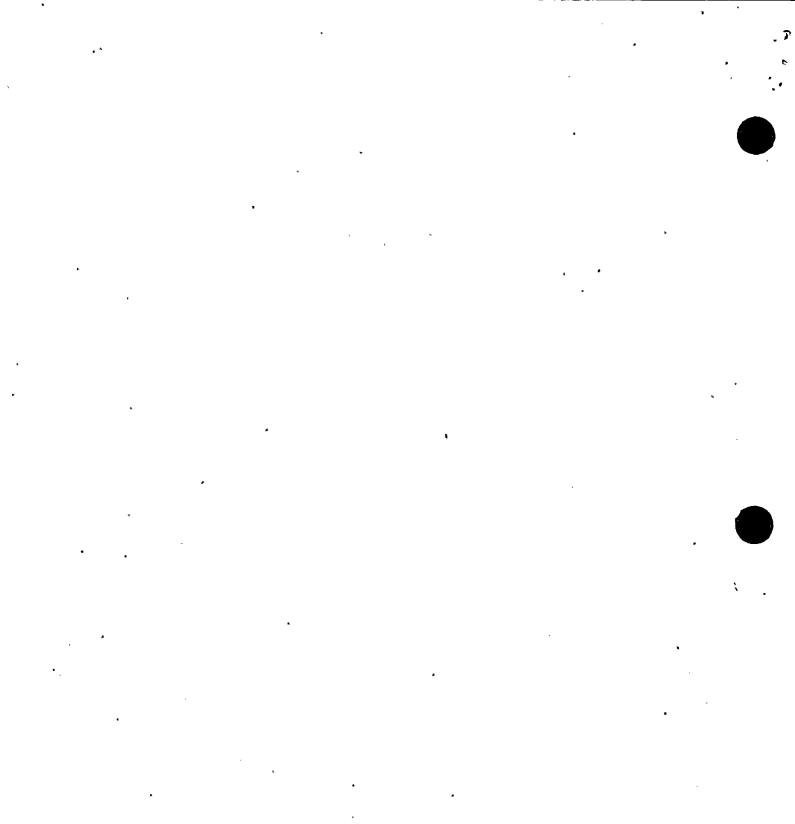
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