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 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 MUELLEK, J.H. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 CALLAN, J. Ofc of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Informs that util actions to address issue will include continued participation on task force & rev of reportability program, based on resolution of industry-wide initiatives discussed re Severity Level IV reporting violation.

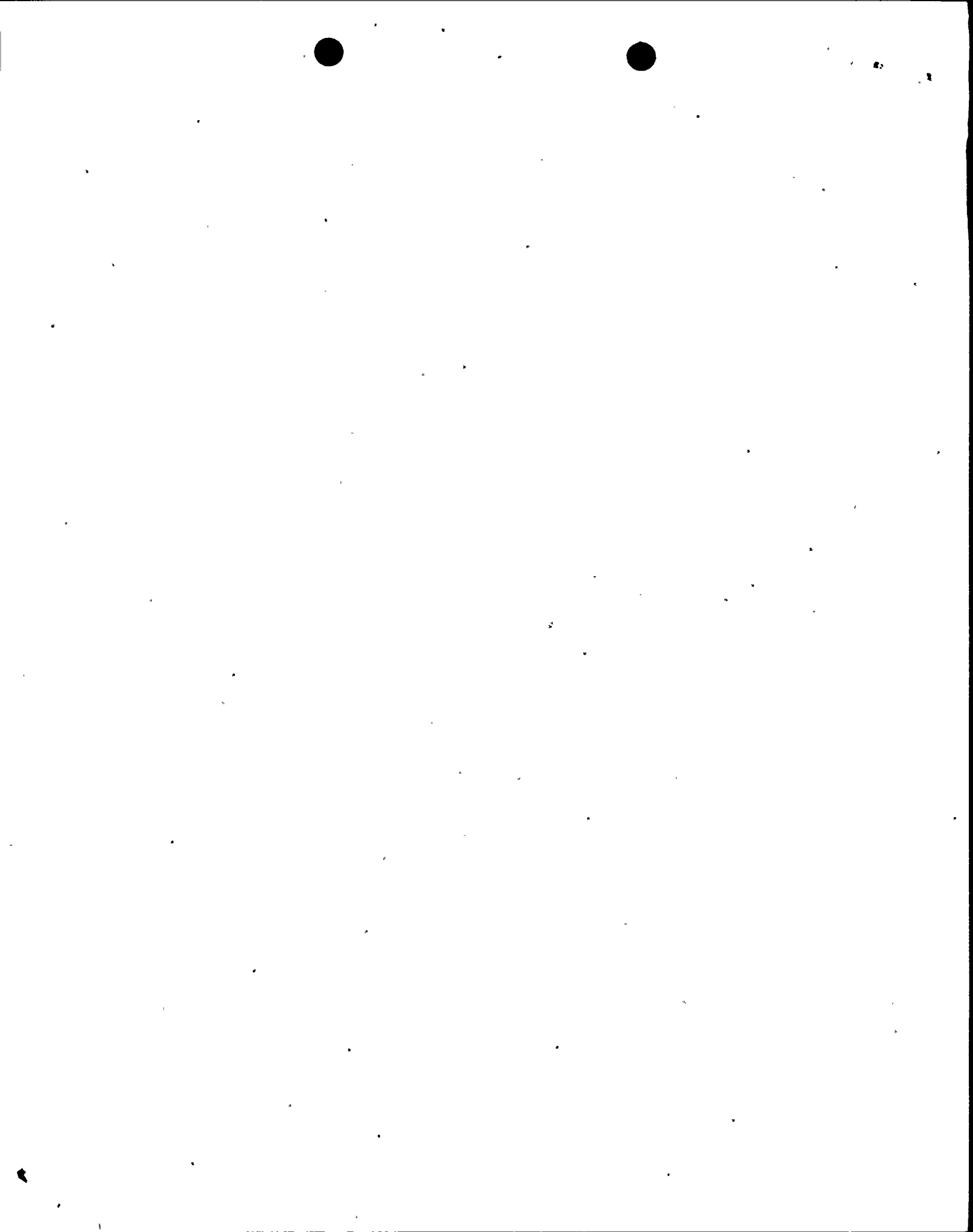
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Niagara Mohawk

PDR Advance Copy PDR

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April 27, 1998
NMP1L 1307

Mr. Joseph Callan
Executive Director for Operations
Attn: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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

Subject: Letter of March 26, 1998 to John H. Mueller

Dear Mr. Callan:

On March 26, 1998, you responded to our letter of October 27, 1997, a transcribed public meeting held between Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) and the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the NRC Headquarters offices on January 28, 1998, and our letter of February 19, 1998. These letters and the transcript discuss the Severity Level IV reporting violation with respect to the pressure relief panels cited in Notice of Violation ILB dated June 18, 1996.

As we stated in previous meetings and correspondences, NMPC would not normally choose to debate the merit of a Level IV violation to the extent we have in this case. However, we continue to believe the industry ramifications of accepting the violation are significant. We concur that it is important for the NRC to receive necessary information in a timely manner, in order to support decisions on actions pertaining to public health and safety. As such we promote conservative decision making with regard to reportability. However, it is also important to minimize unnecessary distractions of senior control room personnel. Accordingly, we are unable to agree with the violation at this time.

As described in your letter, NMPC is also confident that the Staff's and Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) initiatives concerning design basis and reportability will provide the proper forum for clarifying and resolving this industry-wide issue. NMPC commits, as a member of the NEI task force for design basis program guidelines, to work diligently with the staff to resolve this issue. Therefore, NMPC actions to address this issue will include continued participation on the task force and revision of the reportability program, based on the resolution of the industry-wide initiatives discussed above. In addition, NMPC is reinforcing

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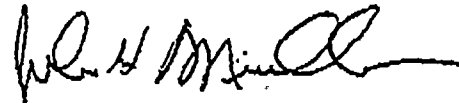


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the importance of design basis considerations by providing training to personnel most closely associated with the disposition of design basis issues within the NMPC corrective action program. This training will be completed by September 30, 1998.

This issue has major significance to our company and the industry as a whole. We appreciate the Staff's time and efforts in discussing this matter and look forward to the completion of the initiatives.

Very truly yours,



John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer

JHM/DJW/lmc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Records Management



Public Meetings of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Daily Notice of Newly Scheduled Meetings to be Held Within 10 Days
 05/20/1998

Page: 1
 Run Date: 05/20/1998
 Run Time: 3:20 pm

Meeting Number	Date	Time	Location	Facility/ Docket	Purpose/ Comments	Attendees	NRC Contact/ Phone
1998-0538	05/27/1998-	8:00 am-	Doubletree Guest Suites		Workshop on examination writing techniques for licensing of reactor operators & senior reactor operators in accordance with NUREG-1021. Verify meeting status.	RIII Region III Utilities	Melvyn Leach (630) 829-9705
*****	05/28/1998	5:00 pm	2111 Butterfield Road Downers Grove, IL				

