

50-410



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001
June 25, 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: FLAW INDICATION IN FEEDWATER INLET NOZZLE N4D SAFE END-TO-NOZZLE
WELD BUTTER, NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO.
MA2066)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

By letter dated June 17, 1998, as supplemented June 23, 1998, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted an evaluation of an indication in the feedwater nozzle-to-safe end weld butter (Weld 2RPV-KB20) observed by ultrasonic testing (UT) during the current 1998 refueling outage (RFO-6) for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). The indication, which contacts the inside surface of the nozzle, is circumferentially oriented in the Alloy 182 weld butter, with a length of 5.3 inches and depth of 0.29 inch. Although field experience and NMPC's rereview of the earlier 1990 and 1995 UT results suggest that the indication is probably fabrication related and has not grown during service, NMPC provided a fracture mechanics evaluation that was performed assuming the crack to be an actively growing intergranular stress corrosion crack. The evaluation includes a crack growth prediction and allowable flaw calculation, using both austenitic and ferritic piping methodologies, to demonstrate the structural integrity of the nozzle-to-safe end weld location for at least the next operating cycle (16,000 hours). Pursuant to Generic Letter (GL) 88-01, "NRC Position on Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking (IGSCC) in BWR Austenitic Stainless Steel Piping," NMPC requested that the NRC approve the evaluation before resumption of NMP2 operation (currently scheduled for June 26, 1998).

The NRC staff has completed its review of NMPC's submittals. Based on the information submitted and the NRC staff's independent verification of NMPC's calculations, the NRC staff concludes that the nozzle weld with the flaw is acceptable for continued operation without repairs for the next operating cycle of 16000 hours.

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J. H. Mueller

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The NRC staff's Safety Evaluation is contained in the enclosure. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Darl Hood by phone at (301)-415-3049 or by electronic mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Singh S. Bajwa, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-410

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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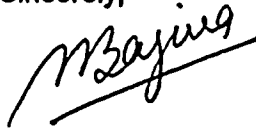
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J. H. Mueller

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bajwa", written over a horizontal line.

Singh S. Bajwa, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-410

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cc w/encl: See next page



John H. Mueller
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

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