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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 rept 50-220/98-11 on 980404-0609 & NOV.
Violation re failure to properly implement operating
procedure for restoration of containment spray sys & failure
to properly maintain primary containment integrity.

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June 26, 1998

EA 98-324

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 SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-220/98-11
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

Dear Mr. Mueller:

This report transmits the findings of a special inspection conducted by NRC inspectors at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1, from April 4 through June 9, 1998. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you, and members of your staff.

This special inspection was conducted as a result of NMPC's failure to properly restore the Unit 1 containment spray system to its standby configuration following routine operation of the system to lower torus water level. This event resulted in the degraded operability of the containment spray system and degraded containment integrity for a period of approximately 3.5 days. The NRC considered the length of time that these conditions existed before identification by your staff to have indicated a weakness in operator control panel awareness and an insensitivity to maintaining containment integrity.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the enclosed inspection report. Specifically, the violations involved: (1) the failure to properly implement the operating procedure for the restoration of the containment spray system, and (2) the failure to properly maintain primary containment integrity.

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.

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John H. Mueller

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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 No. 50-220
License No. DPR-63

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report No. 50-220/98-11

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



John H. Mueller

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