

50-440



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

July 23, 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: AUTHORIZATION TO USE ALTERNATIVES TO ASME CODE SECTION XI
EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUR FLANGED, BOLTED
CONNECTIONS, NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2
(TAC NO. MA2184)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

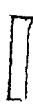
By letter dated June 29, 1998, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC or licensee) requested authorization from the NRC to use alternatives to the examination requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI (1989 edition) for the sixth refueling outage (RFO6) at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). Specifically, you proposed alternatives, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), regarding the pressure testing acceptance criteria for flanged, bolted connections located at three main steam line safety relief valves (2MSS*PSV125, 2MSS*PSV128, and 2MSS*PSV137) and one local power range monitor (LPRM 56-33).

Enclosure 1 is the NRC staff's safety evaluation for the proposed alternative examination at the connections for the three main steam line safety relief valves. Enclosure 2 is the corresponding safety evaluation for the local power range monitor connection. As noted in these safety evaluations, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed alternatives are acceptable, inasmuch as your alternative programs provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Accordingly, the alternatives are authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for use during RFO6 and plant heatup immediately following RFO6.

During telephone discussions with the NRC staff on June 26 and 28, 1998, NMPC discussed the proposed alternatives and requested urgent NRC authorizations of the alternative examination acceptance criteria pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), to support the restart of NMP2 on schedule upon completion of RFO6. At the conclusion of each of the two calls, the NRC staff provided verbal authorization for use of the proposed alternatives, subject to NMPC's expedited submittal of written requests for authorization, which you subsequently provided by your letter of June 29, 1998. The NRC staff finds your written request to be consistent with the previous telephone discussions upon which the NRC based its verbal authorizations. Accordingly, this letter reaffirms our previous authorizations to use alternatives to ASME Code Section XI examination requirements during RFO6 and the subsequent plant heatup for the four bolted, flanged connections. 1/1
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July 23, 1998

J. H. Mueller

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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:

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

Docket No. 50-410

- Enclosures: 1. Safety Evaluation for Three Main Steam Safety Valve Connections
- 2. Safety Evaluation for Local Power Range Monitor Connection

cc w/encls: See next page

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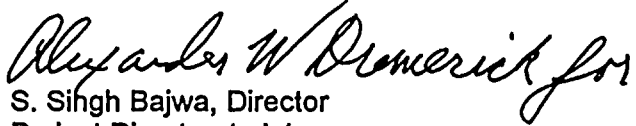


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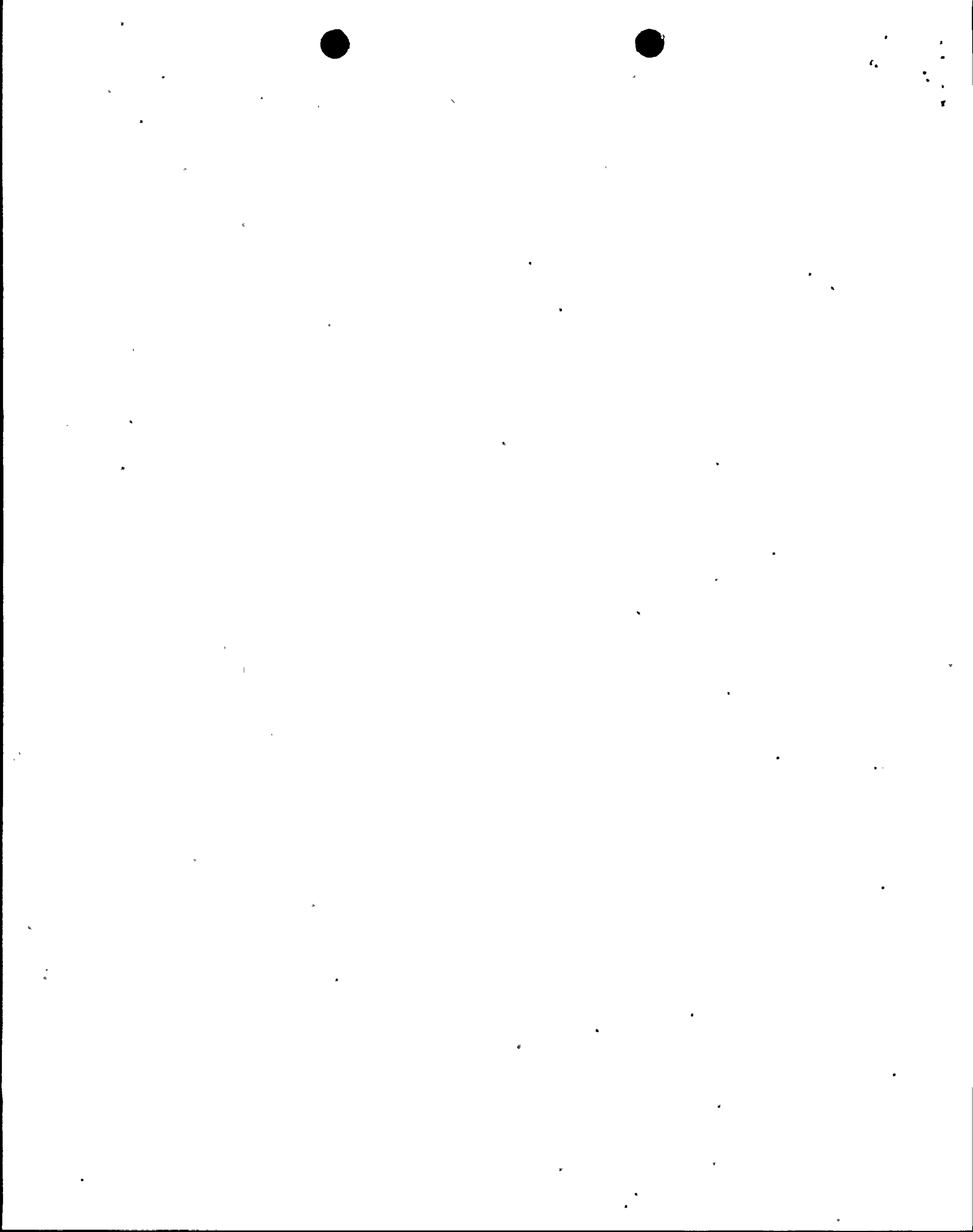


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John H. Mueller
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit No. 2

cc:

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