





NIAGARA MOHAWK

GENERATION
BUSINESS GROUP

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION/LAKE ROAD, P.O. BOX 63, LYCOMING, NEW YORK 13093/TELEPHONE (315) 343-2110

July 22, 1998
NMP1L 1344

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

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

Subject: Special Report

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) Technical Specification Table 3.6.11-1, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation," Action Statement 4.a., Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation is submitting the following Special Report concerning the inoperability of the #12 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System (HMS).

Description of Event

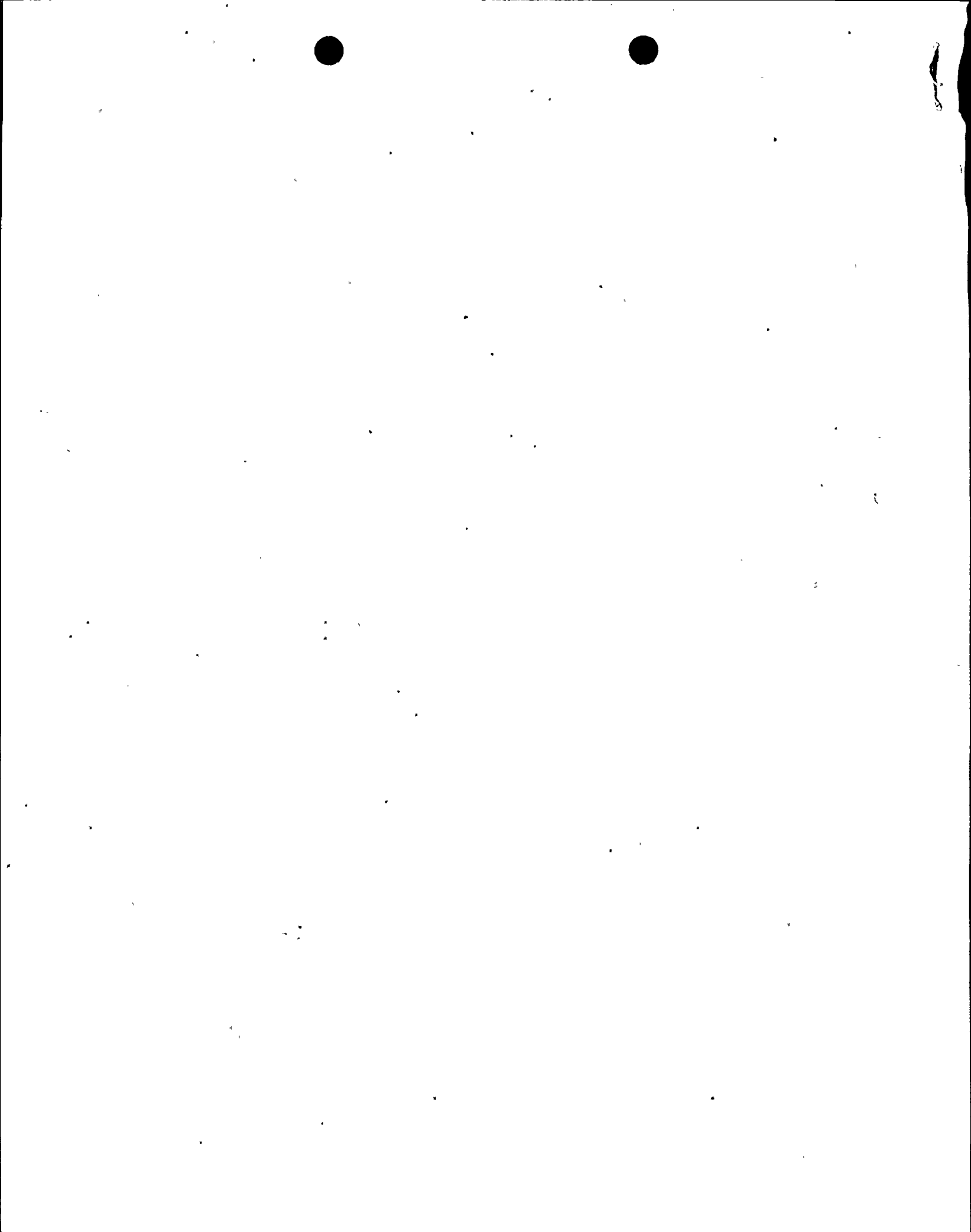
On July 8, 1998, at about 1111 hours, with the reactor mode switch in the "RUN" position during normal operations, the #12 HMS was removed from service for scheduled calibration. While performing the calibration, technicians were unable to operate the sample pump properly. Technicians performed a helium check and determined that an internal diaphragm had failed.

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Cause of Event

The cause of the #12 HMS being inoperable is the unexpected component failure of the pump diaphragm, most probably due to aging. Following previous failures of HMS pump diaphragms, diaphragms of a different material (Nordel-Nomex) were installed. This replacement was based on Teledyne-Brown Part 21 recommended corrective actions. It was expected that the life of the new diaphragms would be at least two years. The failed diaphragm had been replaced 1.25 years ago. The exact cause for the premature failure is unknown but will be investigated under our corrective action program.

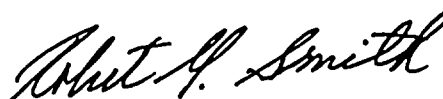
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Corrective Actions

The #12 HMS System is expected to be returned to an operable condition by July 31, 1998, following replacement of the pump diaphragm and system calibration. A Deviation Event Report has been generated on this failure, and per the corrective action program the cause will be determined, including consideration of the previous diaphragm failures, described in Special Reports submitted on August 9, 1995 (NMP1L 0965) and January 18, 1996 (NMP1L 1023). Appropriate preventive and corrective actions will then be implemented.

Very truly yours,



Robert G. Smith
Plant Manager - NMP1

RGS/GJG/sc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
Records Management

