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SUBJECT: Submits Nine Mile Point, Unit 2 power uprate power ascension test program interim startup rept. Final startup rept will be submitted within 90 days following completion of remaining power uprate tests.

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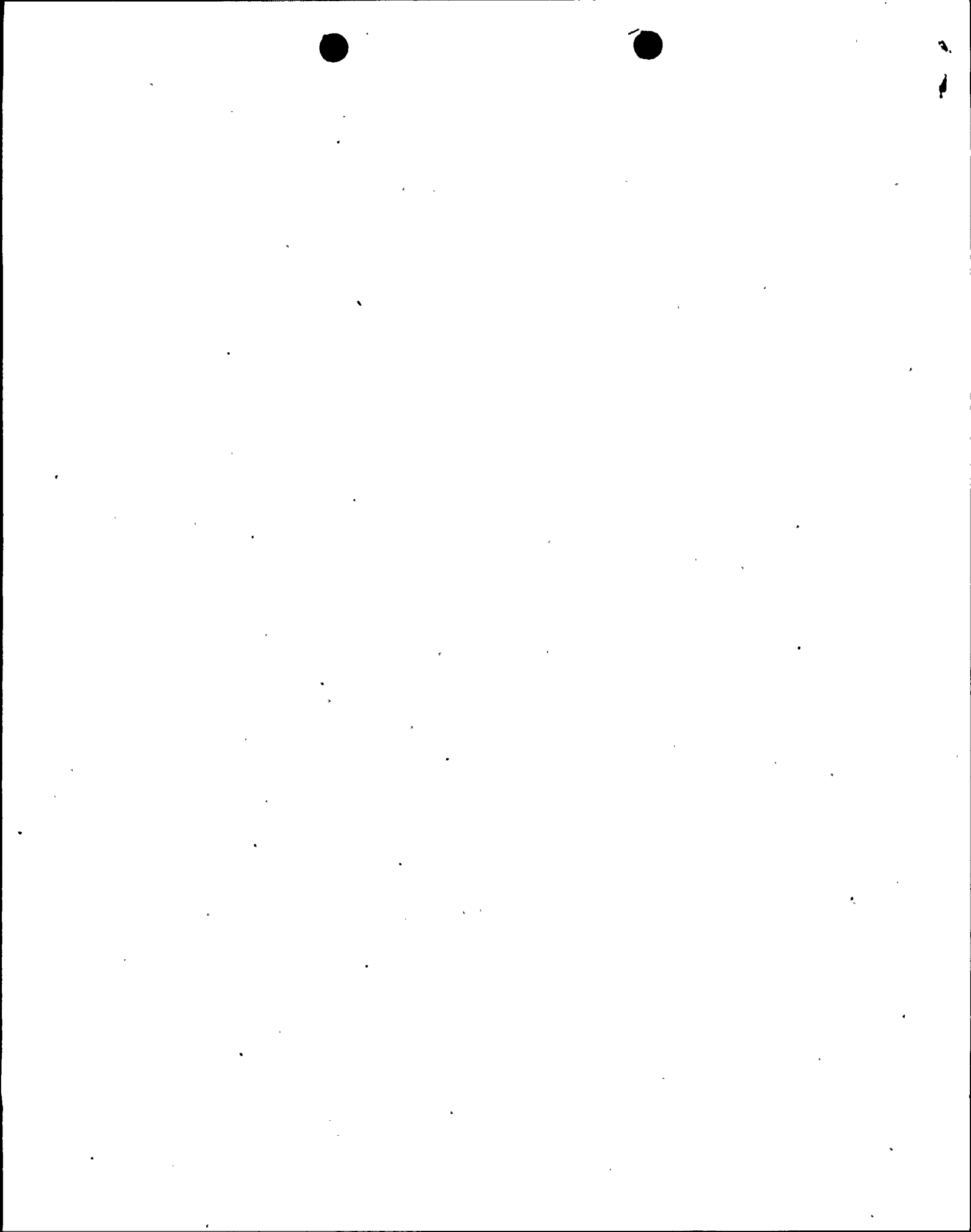
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Niagara Mohawk

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October 9, 1998
NMP2L 1827

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

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPF-69

Subject: *Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program - Interim Report*

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specifications Sections 6.9.1.1, 6.9.1.2, and 6.9.1.3, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is providing this letter in regard to the NMP2 "Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program Interim Startup Report." NMPC's first interim report was submitted in a letter dated November 28, 1995 (NMP2L 1597). NMPC's last interim report was submitted in a letter dated July 13, 1998 (NMP2L 1805).

In NMPC's previous interim report submittals, NMPC stated that the power uprate power ascension test program could not be completed due to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow at 100% of uprated power level.

NMPC believes that the major contributor to this inability to achieve 105% rated core flow is jet pump fouling. NMPC is still evaluating the viability of cleaning the NMP2 jet pumps to verify the cause of the inability to reach 105% of rated core flow. However, due to the planning required to arrange jet pump cleaning, NMP2 will not be able to take corrective measures until Refueling Outage 7 (RFO7) at the earliest. RFO7 is tentatively scheduled to begin April 2000.

Since NMPC's July 13, 1998 interim report, an additional reduction in the ability to achieve 105% of rated core flow was identified during startup from RFO6. The cause was determined to be the operation of the high limit setting of the reactor recirculation flow control valves function generator. As a result, the high limit setting will be recalibrated prior to startup from RFO7, if not performed during an earlier forced outage.

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The inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow does not adversely affect the continued safe operation of NMP2. However, submittal of supplementary reports is required per Technical Specification 6.9.1.3 due to the temporary inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow in order to complete the remaining tests.

NMPC will continue to submit the supplementary reports required by NMP2 Technical Specification 6.9.1.3 every three months until the remaining testing described in our revised interim report has been completed. A final startup report will be submitted within 90 days following completion of the remaining power uprate tests.

Very truly yours,



Richard B. Abbott
Vice President Nuclear Engineering

RBA/KLL/sc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
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

