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**SUBJECT:** Provides info re NMP2 "Power Uprate Power Ascension Test  
 Program Interim Startup Rept," per TS Sections 6.9.1.1,  
 6.9.1.2 & 6.9.1.3. Supplementary repts will continue to be  
 submitted every 3 months until remaining testing is done.

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January 7, 1999  
NMP2L 1846

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 Startup 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 most recent interim report was submitted in a letter dated October 9, 1998 (NMP2L 1827).

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% of rated core flow is jet pump fouling. NMPC is still evaluating the viability of cleaning the NMP2 jet pumps to verify the contribution to the inability to reach 105% of rated core flow. Jet pump throat fouling inspections will be performed during refueling outage number 7 (RFO7), which is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2000. These inspections will help determine the feasibility of cleaning NMP2 jet pumps. Jet pump performance will continue to be monitored through operation cycle 8 during which time a decision on jet pump cleaning during RFO8 will be made. RFO8 is tentatively scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2002.

Last year, following RFO6, an additional reduction in the ability to achieve 105% of rated core flow was identified. Contributing to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow is the operation of the high limit setting of the reactor recirculation flow control valves function generator. The high limit setting will be recalibrated prior to startup from RFO7.

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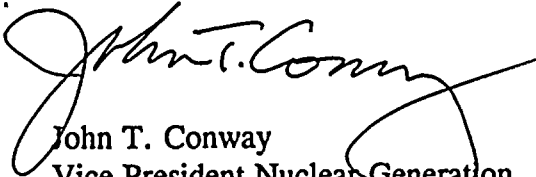
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The inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow does not adversely affect the continued safe operation of NMP2. However, submittal of supplementary reports is required per Technical Specification 6.9.1.3 due to the temporary inability to achieve 105%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



John T. Conway  
Vice President Nuclear Generation

JTC/IAA/sc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator  
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR  
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