

50-720



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

April 7, 1999

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, Second Floor
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: INSPECTION PLANS FOR CORE SPRAY INVESSEL PIPING AND SPARGERS
DURING REFUELING OUTAGE 15, NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION,
UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. MA4768)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

By letter dated February 9, 1999, Niagra Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC and licensee) discussed its proposed inspection plans for the core spray invessel piping and spargers during refueling outage 15 (RFO15) for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (NMP1). NMPC stated that the core spray piping and spargers will be inspected in accordance with the re-inspection guidance delineated in the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Internals Project document BWRVIP-18, titled "BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," as amended by BWRVIP's letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated January 11, 1999.

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By letter dated June 8, 1998, the NRC staff found that the guidance of the BWRVIP-18 report was acceptable for inspection and assessment of safety-related core spray internal components, except where the NRC staff's conclusions differ from the BWRVIP's, as described in the NRC staff's safety evaluation (SE). The NRC staff also found that the BWRVIP-18 report can be used to replace the guidance in IE Bulletin 80-13, titled "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," when the NRC staff's conclusions are incorporated.

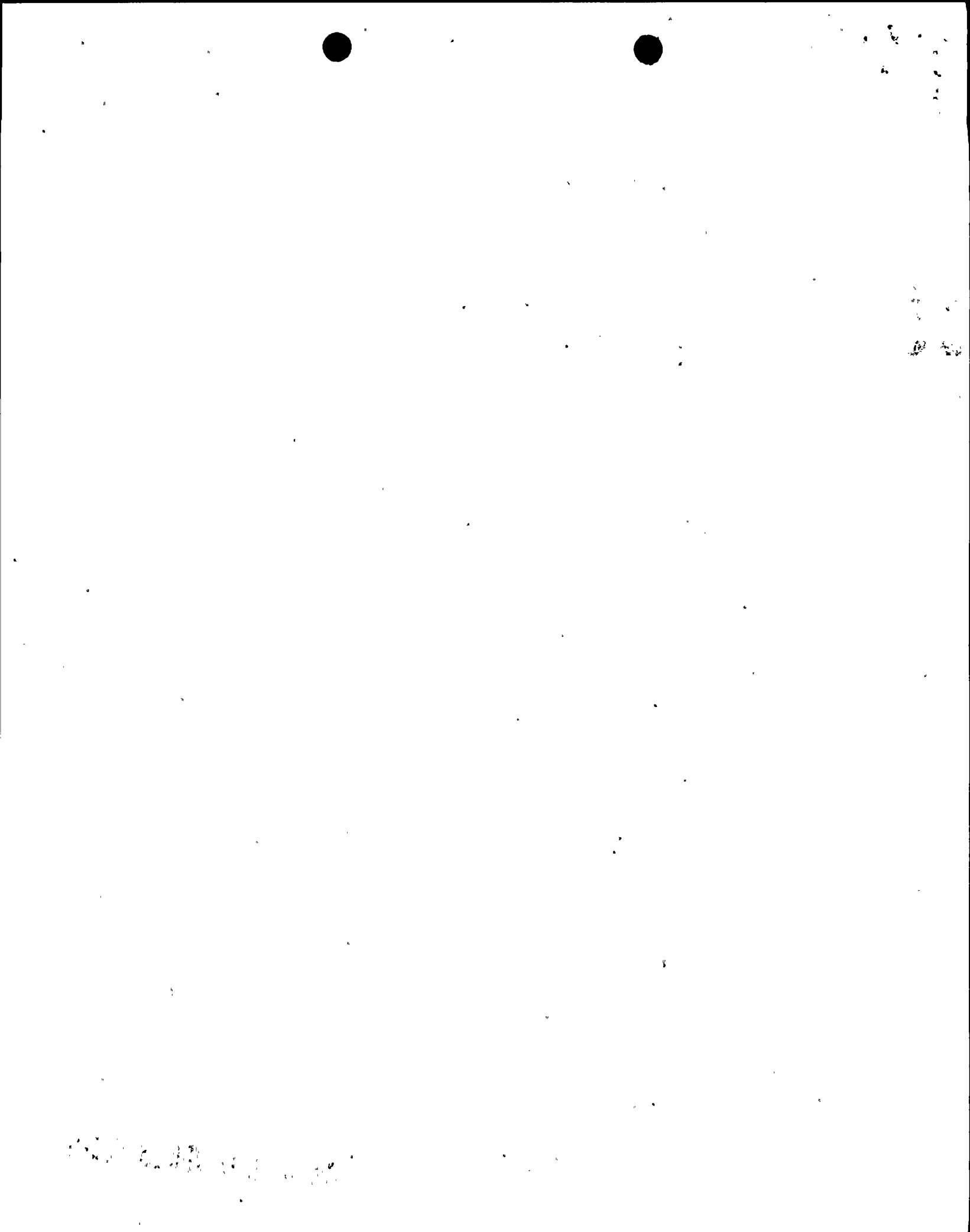
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The NRC staff is in the final phase of its review of BWRVIP's January 11, 1999, response to the NRC staff's June 8, 1998, SE. On the basis of that review, the NRC staff finds NMPC's use of the BWRVIP-18 reports, as amended, to be acceptable for use during NMP1's RFO15. However, if generic or plant-specific concerns are raised during the review of BWRVIP's January 11, 1999, submittal, NMPC will be expected to resolve any such concern that affects NMP1.

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J. Mueller

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If you have questions regarding this letter, contact me by phone at (301) 415-3049 or by electronic mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

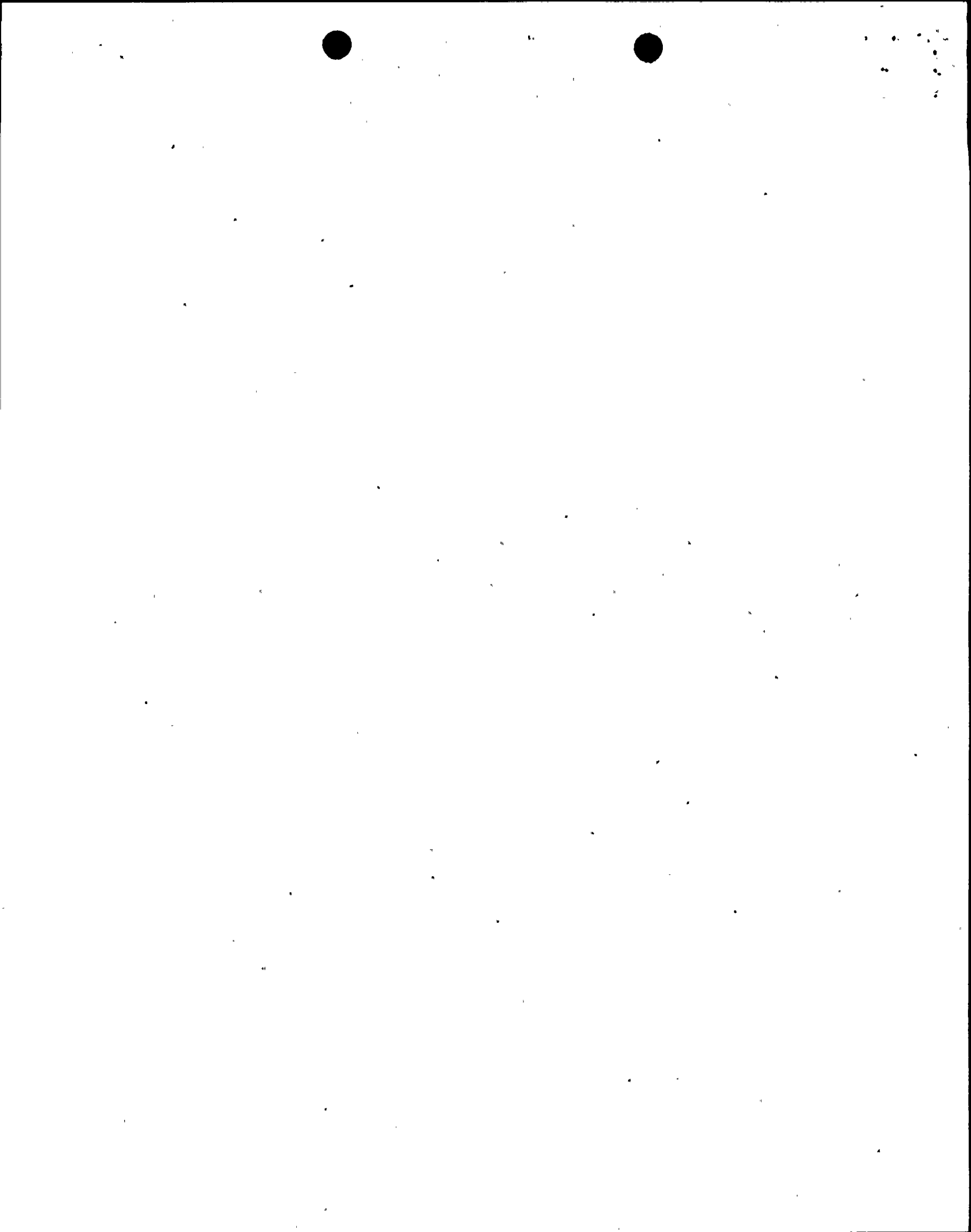
Sincerely,



Darl S. Hood, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-220

cc: See next page



April 7, 1999

J. Mueller

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Original signed by:

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Division of Licensing Project Management
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J. Mueller

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MA4768)

- Docket File
- PUBLIC
- PDI-1 Reading
- J. Zwolinski/S. Black
- S. Bajwa
- S. Little
- D. Hood
- OGC
- ACRS
- A. Blough, Region I
- C. Carpenter Jr.
- K. Wichman

cc: Plant Service list

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Unit No. 1

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