

Niagara Mohawk

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April 8, 1999
NMP2L 1860

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:

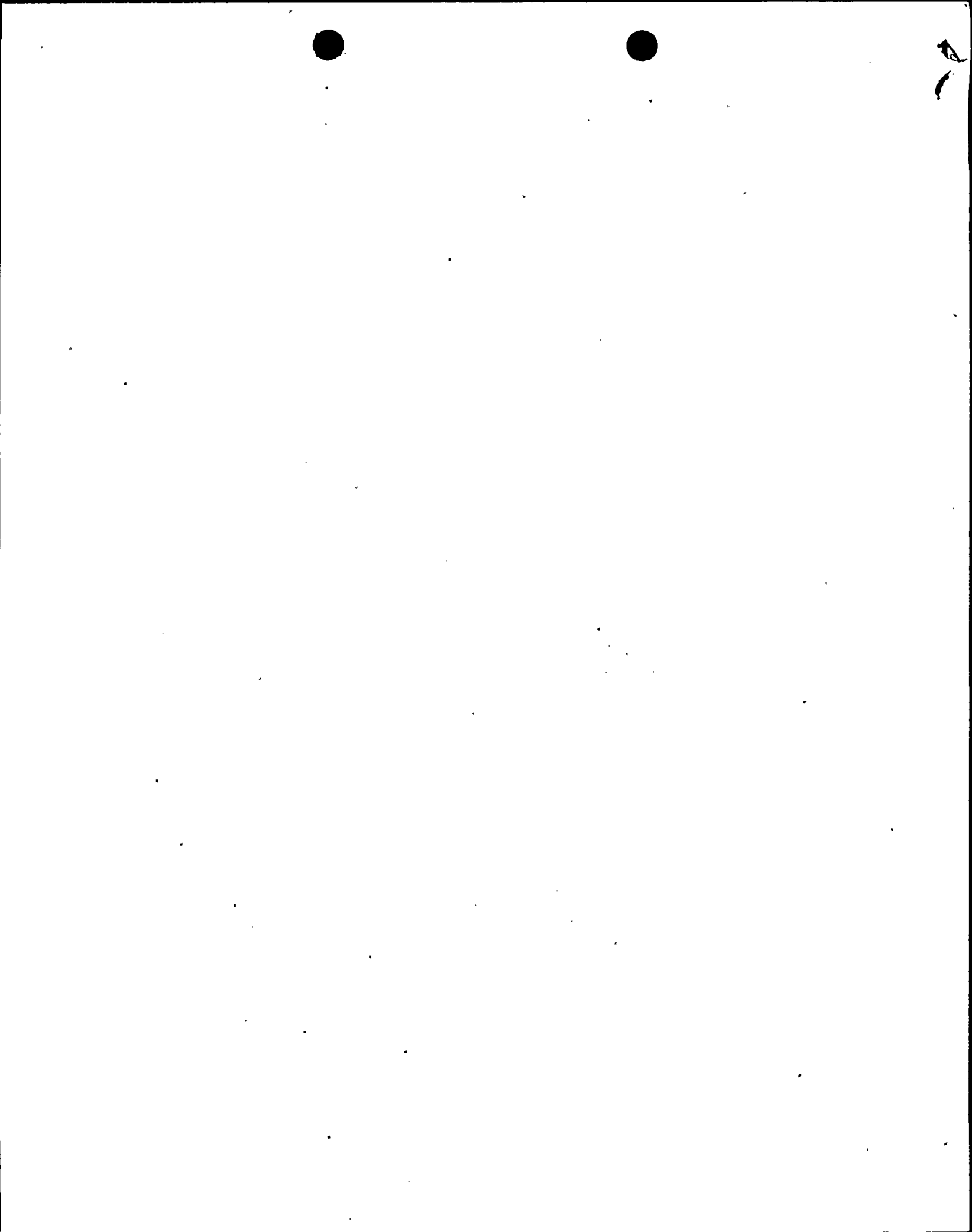
Pursuant to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specifications (TS) Sections 6.9.1.1, 6.9.1.2, and 6.9.1.3, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is providing this letter in regard to the NMP2 "Power Uprate Power Ascension Test Program Interim Startup Report." NMPC's first interim report was submitted in a letter dated November 28, 1995 (NMP2L 1597). NMPC's most recent interim report was submitted in a letter dated January 7, 1999 (NMP2L 1846). This report was due to be submitted on April 7, 1999, and as such, is overdue.

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. 1/b

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. Jxv

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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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 TS 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 TS 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/IAA/sc

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Records Management

