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April 23, 1999



Mr. John H. Mueller Chief Nuclear Officer Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Operations Building, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 63 Lycoming, NY 13093

### SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/99-03 AND 50-410/99-03

Dear Mr. Mueller:

This report transmits the findings of safety inspections conducted by NRC inspectors at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, from February 14, through March 27, 1999. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff.

During the six-week inspection period covered by this report, operation of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station reflected an appropriate safety focus.

This inspection period was marked by your identification of several deficiencies associated with previous in-service inspection results and other engineering design issues. Your continued efforts to identify and resolve engineering issues were apparent.

Work control continued to be a challenge. In particular, two instances were noted that indicated continued weaknesses in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of work. In the first instance two Unit 1 Emergency Diesel Generators were made simultaneously inoperable due to a planning error and in the second instance a minor unexpected power transient resulted from the calibration of a feedwater temperature element. The NRC recognizes that you have placed a high priority on improving work planning and that you are implementing several initiatives to improve the processes. However, continued management attention on the control and conduct of work activities is warranted.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that seven violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region I, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.



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John H. Mueller

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In accordance with 10CFR2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

G. Scott Barber, Acting Chief Projects Branch 1 Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410 License Nos. DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/99-03 and 50-410/99-03

cc w/encl:

- G. Wilson, Senior Attorney
- M. Wetterhahn, Winston and Strawn
- J. Rettberg, New York State Electric and Gas Corporation
- P. Eddy, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York
- C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law
- J. Vinquist, MATS, Inc.
- F. Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority



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John H. Mueller

Distribution w/encl: H. Miller, RA/J. Wiggins, DRA (1) Region I Docket Room (with concurrences) Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC) PUBLIC NRC Resident Inspector S. Barber, DRP W. Cook, DRP R. Junod, DRP

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