

# CATEGORY 1

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 PALEOLOGOS, N.      Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.  
 RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
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SUBJECT: Special rept: on 990427, operators declared loose-part  
 detection sys inoperable, when CR annunciator alarm indicated  
 sys trouble. Caused by cable fault on channel 10, due to  
 fraying of fiberglass insulation. Replaced defective cable.

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# Niagara Mohawk

June 4, 1999  
NMP2L 1871

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

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

**Subject:** *Special Report*

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specification 3.3.7.8.a, we are submitting the following Special Report concerning the inoperability of the Loose-Part Detection System.

**Event Description**

On April 27, 1999, at 0525 hours, NMP2 operators declared the Loose-Part Detection System inoperable when a control room annunciator alarm indicated Loose-Part Detection System trouble. Instrument and controls technicians determined that Channel 10 of the Loose-Part Detection System was degraded. The remaining channels of the Loose-Part Detection System continued to operate properly, and remain in service.

**Cause of Event**

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) concluded that a cable fault occurred on Channel 10 of the Loose-Part Detection System due to fraying of the fiberglass insulation of the signal cable. The cause of the cable fraying was believed to be the physical interaction of the cable with piping and fixed components in the NMP2 drywell resulting from normal thermal expansion and contraction.

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Corrective Actions

NMPC will replace the defective cable during either an NMP2 forced outage requiring a drywell entry, or the next scheduled NMP2 refueling outage (refueling outage 7).

NMPC performs inspections of Loose-Part Detection System cables prior to each refueling outage in order to identify degraded cables for replacement, and the inspections have proved effective in identifying degraded cables prior to failure. Since this event is the only documented Loose-Part Detection System cable failure since that system was modified and made operable, NMPC considers this an isolated failure. NMPC will continue the pre-refueling outage inspections of the Loose-Part Detection System signal cables, and will continue to replace those cables identified to be degraded by these inspections.

Very truly yours,



Nicholas Paleologos  
Plant Manager - NMP2

NCP/KLL/mlh

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I  
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector  
Records Management



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