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SUBJECT: Submits Unit 2 uprate power ascension test program interim startup rept.Util latest interim rept was submitted in ltr dtd 990408.

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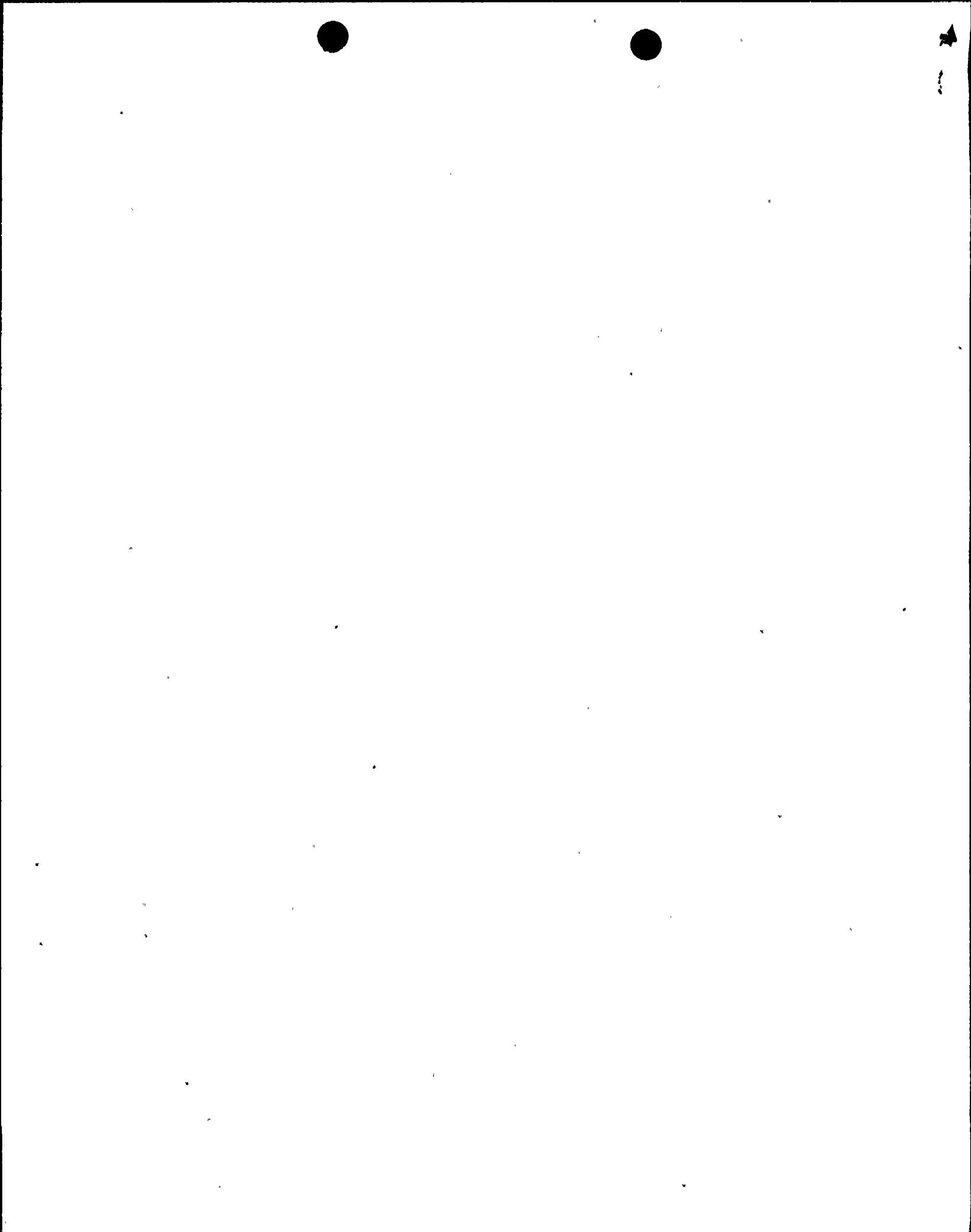
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Niagara Mohawk

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July 7, 1999
NMP2L 1877

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 latest interim report was submitted in a letter dated April 8, 1999 (NMP2L 1860).

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.

NMPC's April 8, 1999, letter had reported that a contributing factor to the inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow was the operation of the high limit setting of the reactor recirculation flow control valves function generator. During the forced outage of April 1999, the high limit setting was modified and, as a result, this function is no longer a factor in our inability to achieve maximum allowable core flow.

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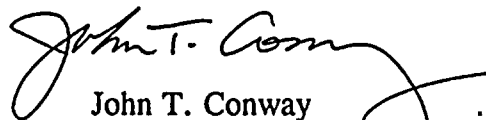


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The inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow does not adversely affect the continued safe operation of NMP2. However, submittal of supplementary reports is required per TS 6.9.1.3 due to the temporary inability to achieve 105% of rated core flow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



John T. Conway
Vice President - Nuclear Generation

JTC/WC/kap

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

