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SUBJECT: Submits Nine Mile Point Unit 2 power uprate power ascension test program interim rept,per TS Sections 6.9.1.1.,6.9.1.2 & 6.9.1.3.

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October 7, 1999
NMP2L 1904

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 July 7, 1999 (NMP2L 1877).

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.

As reported previously, 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 March 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.

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 present 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 the NMP2 TS 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 startup test program.

Very truly yours,

John T. Conway
Vice President - Nuclear Generation

JTC/IAA/jb

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Section Chief PD-I, Section I, NRR
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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