

October 8, 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 INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-220/99-07
AND 50-410/99-07**

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 July 18 through September 11, 1999. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff.

Overall plant staff performance was adequate and both units were operated in a safe and generally conservative manner. However, we were concerned that on July 23, the control room operators continued testing of Unit 1 turbine controls in spite of initial anomalous pressure response. As a result of the continued testing, the unit automatically shutdown. In addition, other maintenance and operations staff errors either contributed to or were precipitated by events at both units during the inspection period. The maintenance staff errors involved poor or incomplete work planning and execution and some of the operator performance errors involved poor procedural adherence. You acknowledged these issues at the exit meeting and I encourage you to continue your efforts to address these performance shortcomings.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a Severity Level IV violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCV is described in the subject inspection report and involved the failure to properly calibrate a Unit 1 feedwater flow control valve following a modification performed during the last refueling outage. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, 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 copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I; the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Nine Mile Point facility.

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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:

Michele G. Evans, 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. 50-220/99-07 and 50-410/99-07

Docket Nos. 50-220
50-410

cc w/encl:

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