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SUBJECT: Forwards final rept of "Metallurgical Evaluation of Failed Shroud Tie Rod Lower Spring Contact Wedge Latches." Exams were to confirm that latch failure was caused by high stress that resulted in intergranular stress corrosion cracking.

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June 13, 1997
NMP1L 1229

RICHARD B. ABBOTT
Vice President and
General Manager - Nuclear

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

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
DPR-63

Subject: *Metallurgical Evaluation of Failed Core Shroud Tie Rod Lower Spring
Contact Wedge Latches*

Gentlemen:

By letter dated May 20, 1997, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) indicated that the final report of the metallurgical examinations related to the failed latch would be submitted to the staff by June 15, 1997. The purpose of the metallurgical examinations was to confirm that the latch failure was caused by high stress that resulted in intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) as was presented in Enclosure 2 of our letter dated April 8, 1997. General Electric (GE) has completed final metallurgical evaluations at GE's Vallecitos Nuclear Center Laboratories to validate the root cause of the latch failures. The enclosed report entitled, "Metallurgical Evaluation of Failed Shroud Tie Rod Lower Spring Contact Wedge Latches," provides the final results. The final results of the metallurgical evaluations validate that the cause of the latch failure was high sustained loads applied to the underside of the latch nose (due to unacceptable movement of the shroud repair assemblies during plant operation) resulting in an IGSCC fracture of the latch.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Abbott
Vice President and General Manager - Nuclear

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PDR

RBA/TRE/lmc
Enclosure



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xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
Mr. A. W. Dromerick, Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
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Records Management



GE Nuclear Energy

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June 1997

***Metallurgical Evaluation of Failed Shroud Tie Rod
Lower Spring Contact Wedge Latches***

Nine Mile Point Unit 1, RFO14

Prepared for:

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Prepared by:

GE Nuclear Energy

Plant Materials Technology

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