

November 22, 1995

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia  
Executive Vice President - Generation Business Group  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC)  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P. O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND NRC COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT  
NOS. 50-220/95-23 AND 50-410/95-23**

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

This letter transmits the results of the resident safety inspection conducted by Messrs. B. Norris, R. Skokowski, and others, from September 3, through October 14, 1995, at Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2, Scriba, New York. The inspectors based their findings on observations of activities in progress, interviews with personnel, and selective examinations of procedures and representative records. At the conclusion of the period, the resident inspectors discussed their findings with members of your staff, at the exit meeting conducted on November 9, 1995.

Overall, during this inspection period, your staff operated both units safely. We noted several instances of good command and control by the shift supervision. Also, the Unit 2 operations crew exhibited a cautious and methodical approach to safe operations during the response and recovery to the partial loss of offsite power event and the loss of both reactor recirculation pumps during a reactor startup. However, the loss of the pumps could have been averted if the appropriate guidance was contained in the system operating procedure. Notwithstanding, both units demonstrated a strong safety focus during repairs to the Unit 1 containment spray raw water pumps and the Unit 2 electrical fault on one of the reserve transformers.

However, the inspectors did identify a primary containment isolation valve in Unit 1 which was required to be locked closed, but was unlocked. As described in the enclosed Notice of Violation, this constituted a violation of the Unit 1 Technical Specification, Section 6.8.1, which requires personnel to adhere to procedures. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions in the Notice.

We noted that several events discussed in the enclosed inspection report were due, in part, to procedure weaknesses or inadequacies. In addition to the Unit 1 violation referenced above, Unit 2 experienced a loss of both reactor recirculation pumps during a reactor startup due to an inadequate test procedure. Further, a Unit 2 suppression pool spray valve was not reopened after a test because of a failure to incorporate the requirements for independent verification of safety related valves into the test procedure. As a result of these findings, we are concerned about the effectiveness of your procedure periodic review program and how well personnel provide input for

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procedure problems. In responding to the violation, also please address your perspective of our concern and any specific corrective actions.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law Number 96.511.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Richard J. Conte, Chief  
Projects Branch 5  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-220, 50-410  
License Nos. DPR-63, NPF-69

Enclosures: Notice of Violation  
NRC Combined Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/95-23 and 50-410/95-23

cc w/enclosures:

R. Abbott, Vice President-Nuclear Generation  
C. Terry, Vice President-Nuclear Engineering  
M. McCormick, Vice President - Safety Assessment and Support  
N. Rademacher, Unit 1 Plant Manager  
J. Conway, Unit 2 Plant Manager (acting)  
D. Wolniak, Manager, Licensing  
J. Warden, New York Consumer Protection Branch  
G. Wilson, Senior Attorney  
M. Wetterhahn, Winston and Strawn  
Director, Energy & Water Division, Department of Public Service,  
State of New York  
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York  
Department of Law  
J. Vinquist, MATS, Inc.  
J. Spath, President, New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority

B. Ralph Sylvia

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