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September 1, 1999
NMP1L 1462

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: Analytical Evaluation of Weld 32-WD-050 Indication

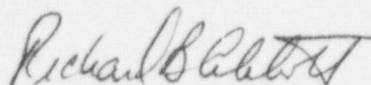
Gentlemen:

By letter dated June 1, 1999, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) reported the results of reinspecting recirculation line weld 32-WD-050 of Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1). These reinspections were performed during refueling outage number 15 (RFO15), which occurred earlier this year. NMPC's letter concluded that the indication previously found on weld 32-WD-050 was an original construction defect and not a flaw associated with intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC). The letter stated that weld 32-WD-050 would be reclassified from IGSCC Category "F" back to IGSCC Category "A". The letter further stated that ASME Code Section XI required inspections would be conducted in the next three inspection periods, which would be adequate to confirm the absence of IGSCC.

In a letter dated July 23, 1999, the NRC indicated that while the weld reinspection program scheduled for the next three inspection periods was acceptable, NMPC's decision to reclassify weld 32-WD-050 from IGSCC Category "F" to IGSCC Category "A" was premature. The letter requested that NMPC inform the NRC of our decision to retain the weld's Category "F" classification pending a satisfactory outcome of the reinspection program.

This letter is to confirm that NMPC will retain weld 32-WD-050 as IGSCC Category "F" until the completion of the reinspection program. As this is an administrative decision, it does not affect the reinspection program itself. After the completion of the program and based on its results, NMPC will consider reclassifying the weld from IGSCC Category "F" to IGSCC Category "A".

Very truly yours,



Richard B. Abbott
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xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
Mr. S. S. Bajwa, Section Chief PD-I, Section 1, NRR
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. D. S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Records Management