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Tel. 301/415-8200 (Wednesday, August 14, 1991)

NOTE TO EDITORS: The following announcement was issued Tuesday, August 13, by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region I Office at King of Prussia, PA. It concerns a site area emergency declared by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation at its Nine Mile Point Unit 2 nuclear power plant near Oswego, NY:

**NRC STAFF SENDS INSPECTION TEAM TO NUCLEAR PLANT NEAR OSWEGO, NY,
TO EXAMINE EMERGENCY SHUT-DOWN; RESTART TO AWAIT NRC APPROVAL**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has obtained an agreement from the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) to not restart its Nine Mile Point Unit 2 nuclear power plant near Oswego, NY, until agreed to by the NRC Regional Administrator. The nuclear plant was shut down under emergency conditions about 6 a.m. today, and the NRC staff has sent a seven-member augmented inspection team (AIT) to the site to look into what happened.

About 6 a.m., the Unit 2 reactor control room at Nine Mile Point lost electric power to some of its visual displays and sound annunciators of the status of several important plant systems. Within minutes the plant automatically shut down because of the electric problem.

Under an agreement reached by telephone later today, NMPC agreed to provide a briefing to NRC Region I Regional Administrator Thomas T. Martin of the company 8 final evaluation of the findings of its own investigation into the root causes of the event. The company also agreed to assess possible relationships to previous events at the plant and corrective actions taken on earlier events. The company also will provide the AIT with its plans to investigate the event and its evaluation of plant equipment. It agreed to maintain all records and to preserve any evidence that would help to inspect and reconstruct the event.

The NRC staff has frequently used an Augmented Inspection Team to study events that appear to be technically complex, and the team's makeup reflects the requisite technical expertise to study the major aspects of the event. The team is led by a section chief who is an expert in boiling water reactor plant operations, and the other six members include an expert on control room operations, two on electric systems, one on emergency preparedness and response, an inspector to develop a

detailed chronology of the event, and one to examine man-machine interface aspects of the event.

The AIT's written report, which normally takes three to four weeks to complete, will be made public.

The State of New York has been informed of these NRC staff actions. A representative of the State will observe the AIT.

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