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March 13, 2001
NMP1L 1581

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

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

Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPF-69

Subject: *Implementation of Revised 10 CFR 50.59*

Gentlemen:

The effective date for the revised 10 CFR 50.59 was established in a December 13, 2000, Federal Register Notice (65 FR 77773), as March 13, 2001. In Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, dated January 23, 2001, the NRC has stated that to permit an orderly transition to the revised rule, licensees may implement the rule later than this date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggested that a licensee may want to communicate its implementation plan to the NRC.

It is Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's (NMPC's) intention to gradually phase in 10 CFR 50.59 implementation over three months beginning on or about April 1, 2001, beginning with Nine Mile Point Unit 2, with completion on or about June 30, 2001. During this time, as training is completed, the new process will be implemented and our existing 10 CFR 50.59 process will be phased out.

The basis for the June 30, 2001 completion date is that Nine Mile Point Unit 1 will be in a refueling outage shortly after the March 13, 2001, effective date, and there is insufficient time to train all desired personnel in the revised process. In addition, NMPC does not wish to complete the transition to a new 10 CFR 50.59 process during a refueling outage since outage activities already place demands on plant staff and would not be in the best interests of safety.

Very truly yours,

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RBA/DEV/mlg

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xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
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