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October 18, 2001
NMP1L 1618

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: Special Report, Channel 11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System
Inoperable Due to Low Sample Flow Alarm When Aligned to the Torus***

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Action Statement 4.a of Nine Mile Point Unit 1 Technical Specification Table 3.6.11-2, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation Action Statements," Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation is submitting the following Special Report concerning the inoperability of Channel #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System.

Description of Event

On October 4, 2001, at approximately 1110 hours, a low sample flow alarm on the Channel #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System was received in the control room. The sample and bypass pumps were verified to be running satisfactorily. At the time of the alarm the Channel #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System was aligned to sample from the torus. Operators declared the Channel #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System inoperable and verified that the redundant Channel #12 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System was operable.

Cause of Event


The cause of the Channel #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System low sample flow alarm was a degraded solenoid Valve SOV-201.2-1180 in the torus sampling line. The valve and solenoid housing were not perpendicular to each other as expected. The misalignment appears to have caused the plunger to rub on the coil which led to erratic valve performance.

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Corrective Actions

The solenoid valve was replaced and the system is expected to be returned to service on October 18, 2001. Similar solenoid valves in both the Channel #11 and Channel #12 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring Systems will be visually inspected for proper alignment by November 30, 2001.

Very truly yours,


John T. Conway
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JTC/KLE/cld

cc: Mr. H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Records Management