

March 4, 2002

Mr. John T. Conway  
Site Vice President  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION  
(REPORT 50-220/02-01 AND 50-410/02-01)

Dear Mr. Conway:

On January 29, 2002, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station. The end-of-cycle review for Nine Mile Point involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from April 1 through December 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

As discussed in our previous annual assessment letter dated May 31, 2001, this inspection and assessment cycle consisted of three quarters (i.e., the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of calendar year 2001) instead of the usual four quarters. This change was implemented in order to align the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2002.

Overall, Nine Mile Point operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on two performance indicators (PIs) which crossed the threshold from GREEN to WHITE (increased regulatory response band) in the initiating events and mitigating systems cornerstones. At Unit 1, the mitigating systems PI for "Safety System Unavailability, High Pressure Injection System," exceeded the WHITE threshold, and at Unit 2, the initiating systems PI for "Unplanned Scrams," changed to WHITE.

We understand that your staff has initiated corrective action program Deficiency/Event Reports to address these WHITE PIs. We have scheduled supplemental inspection procedure 95001 to be conducted in May 2002, to address each of the PIs, in accordance with the NRC Manual Chapter 0305, Action Matrix. This inspection procedure is conducted to provide assurance that the root and contributing causes of risk-significant performance issues are understood, the extent of condition is identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2003, and is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and

personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The schedule for the last six months of the inspection plan is tentative and may be revised at the Mid-Cycle Review meeting.

Immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the NRC issued safeguards advisories recommending that nuclear power plant licensees go to the highest level of security, and all promptly did so. With continued uncertainty about the possibility of additional terrorist activities, the Nation's nuclear power plants, including Nine Mile Point, remain at a high level of security. On February 25, 2002, the NRC issued an Order to all nuclear power plant licensees, requiring them to take certain additional interim compensatory measures to address the generalized high-level threat environment. These additional compensatory requirements will provide the NRC with reasonable assurance that public health and safety and the common defense and security continue to be adequately protected in the current generalized high-level threat environment. These requirements will remain in effect pending notification from the Commission that a significant change in the threat environment occurs, or until the Commission determines that other changes are needed following a more comprehensive re-evaluation of current safeguards and security programs. To date, we have monitored Nine Mile Point actions in response to the terrorist attacks through a series of audits. With the issuance of the Order, we will evaluate Nine Mile Point's compliance with these interim requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Michele G. Evans, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 1, at 610-337-5224, with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Nine Mile Point Inspection/Activity Plan

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**Nine Mile Point**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**12/30/2001 - 03/31/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>71130</b>	<b>- SECURITY</b>	<b>2</b>			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		01/07/2002	01/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		01/07/2002	01/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112102</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		02/11/2002	02/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/11/2002	02/15/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112102</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/25/2002	03/29/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111112B</b>	<b>- MAINTENANCE RULE</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		06/10/2002	06/14/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>95001</b>	<b>- SUPPLEMENTAL INSP FOR IE AND MS WHITE PI</b>	<b>2</b>			
1	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		05/20/2002	05/24/2002	Supplemental Program
2	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		05/20/2002	05/24/2002	Supplemental Program
	<b>7/29 EXM</b>	<b>- U2 OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMS</b>	<b>4</b>			
2	U01443	NINE MILE 2 O/L INITIAL EXAM 7/22-8/2/2002		07/01/2002	07/04/2002	Not Applicable
2	U01443	NINE MILE 2 O/L INITIAL EXAM 7/22-8/2/2002		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Not Applicable
	<b>7111121</b>	<b>- SSDI</b>	<b>6</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		07/15/2002	07/19/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71114</b>	<b>- EP PROGRAM REVIEW &amp; PI VERIFICATION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/29/2002	08/02/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>9/30+EXM</b>	<b>- U1 OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMS</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	U01449	NINE MILE POINT 1 O/L INITIAL EXAM 9/30-10/14/2002		09/02/2002	09/06/2002	Not Applicable
1	U01449	NINE MILE POINT 1 O/L INITIAL EXAM 9/30-10/14/2002		09/30/2002	10/11/2002	Not Applicable
	<b>7112103</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY - CALIBRATION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		09/30/2002	10/04/2002	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Nine Mile Point  
Inspection / Activity Plan  
12/30/2001 - 03/31/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCC RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111111B</b>	<b>- L.O.REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>2</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		10/28/2002	11/01/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111107B</b>	<b>- HEAT SINK</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		11/04/2002	11/08/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections