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Roxane Maywalt
Associate Counsel

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

August 19, 2003

The Honorable Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street Northeast
Washington, D.C. 20426

EY03-14-000

RE: Notice of Emergency Deviation

Dear Secretary Salas:

Enclosed for filing are an original and fourteen copies of the Notice of Emergency Deviation by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, a National Grid Company.

Kindly date stamp and return one copy of the enclosed filing to us in the enclosed, pre-addressed and postage-paid envelope.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact the undersigned at 315.428.5187. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Roxane E. Maywalt
Roxane E. Maywalt, Esq.

Attorney for
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation,
A National Grid Company

Enclosures

ORIGINAL

Niagara Mohawk

A National Grid Company



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General Counsel
315-428-6013 fax: 315-428-5740

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Via Overnight Delivery

Secretary Magalie R. Salas
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 200426

EY03-14-000

Re: Notice of Emergency Deviation

Dear Secretary Salas:

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 37.4(a)(2), I am writing on behalf of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation ("Niagara Mohawk") to inform you of actions taken by the Company that might be construed as an emergency deviation from the Commission's Order No. 889 standards of conduct requiring a notification to the Commission.

As you are aware, Niagara Mohawk and several other utilities in the Northeast experienced a significant cascading blackout last week. Because of the absence of certain key transmission operations personnel due to vacations, one manager-level employee, who was formerly involved in transmission operations but who currently is active in procurement of energy supply for purposes of providing last resort power supply under state-authorized retail tariffs, participated in the system restoration efforts in the Niagara Mohawk control room. While this retail procurement function is not a wholesale merchant function¹ and Niagara Mohawk has divested all of its generation assets, we are reporting this as a potential deviation under § 37.4(a)(2) in an abundance of caution.

The employee in question participated in the restoration process for approximately fourteen hours, spanning August 14 and 15. As the Company continues its investigation concerning the events surrounding the blackout, the employee will be consulted concerning his recollection of those events, but we do not anticipate that such investigatory process will result in the employee being involved in further transmission control and/or monitoring activities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald T. Gerwatowski
General Counsel

c: New York Public Service Commission

¹ See Order No. 889-A, 78 FERC ¶ 61,221, FERC Stats. and Regs. ¶ 31,049 at 30,522 (1997). 300 Erie Boulevard West Syracuse, NY 13202-4250