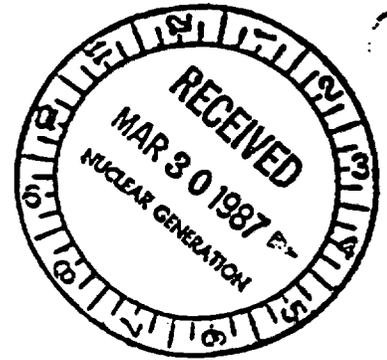


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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 25, 1987



Docket No. 50-220

Mr. C. V. Mangan  
Senior Vice President  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
301 Plainfield Road  
Syracuse, New York 13212

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 30 1987**

S. W. WILCZEK, JR.  
Manager, Nuclear Technology

Dear Mr. Mangan:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO UTILIZE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
10 CFR 50.55a(g) (TAC 61181)**

**Re: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1.**

By letter dated December 11, 1986, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation submitted a request for approval to utilize an alternative to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g) as provided for by Section 50.55a(a)(3) in the case of hardship or unusual difficulties. Specifically, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation requested relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, paragraph IWA 5250(a)(2) which states that the source of leakages detected during the conduct of a system pressure test shall be located and evaluated by the Owner for corrective measures as follows: repairs or replacements of components shall be performed in accordance with IWA-4000 or IWA-7000, respectively. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation requested approval to utilize the alternative set forth in its request dated December 11, 1986, in lieu of compliance with the requirements of ASME Code Section XI, paragraph IWA 5250(a)(2) with respect to the testing and repair of the Control Rod Drive Stub Tubes.

The staff has reviewed the above submittal and concludes (1) that the proposed alternative program may be used in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3) since it has been demonstrated that compliance by the licensee with 10 CFR 50.55a(g) and ASME Code, Section XI, paragraph IWA 5250(a)(2), would result in hardship or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety, (2) that the proposed alternatives provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, and (3) that granting relief where the code requirements are impractical is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest considering the burden that could result if they were imposed on the facility. Accordingly, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(f) as provided for by Section 50.55a(a)(3), Niagara

MAR 30 1987

G. V. MANGAN

20 (27a)

Mr. C. V. Mangan

- 2 -

March 25, 1987

Mohawk Power Corporation is authorized to utilize the alternative set forth in its request dated December 11, 1986 in lieu of compliance with the requirements of ASME Code Section XI, paragraph IWA 5250(a)(2) with respect to Control Rod Drive Stub Tube testing and repair at Nine Mile Point Unit 1. A copy of our Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

*Rajender Auluck*

Rajender Auluck, Acting Director  
BWR Project Directorate #1  
Division of BWR Licensing

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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Mr. C. V. Mangan  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station,  
Unit No. 1

CC:  
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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
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