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Docket No. 50-410

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Docket No. 50-410

Mr. C. V. Mangan, Senior Vice President
Niagara Mohawk Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear Mr. Mangan:

Subject: Notice of Environmental Assessment

Enclosed for your information are copies of two Notices of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, which are being forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication. These notices relate to your requests for exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2.

Sincerely,

Elinor G. Adensam
BWR Project Directorate No. 3
Division of BWR Licensing

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: See next page

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Mr. C. V. Mangan
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATIONNINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2DOCKET NO. 50-410NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTAND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50 to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the applicant) for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2), located at the applicant's site in Scriba, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTA. Containment Air Lock Testing

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would eliminate the full pressure test required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 each time the air lock is opened during periods when containment integrity is not required. Instead a seal leakage test would be conducted at a pressure and intervals specified in the Technical Specifications. The exemption is discussed in the applicant's request dated March 3, and June 24, 1986.

The Need for the Action: The exemption is required to provide the applicant with greater plant availability over the lifetime of the plant.

Environmental Impact of the Action: The exemption would allow the substitution of an air lock seal test for an air lock pressure test while the reactor is in a shutdown or refueling mode. With respect to this exemption from Appendix J, the increment of environmental impact is related solely to the potential increased probability and the magnitude of containment leakage during an accident which would lead to potentially greater offsite radiological consequences. However,

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the potential increase from this exemption is small and would result from the potential leakage path through the door mechanism which will not be measured by this modified test. The 6-month test requirement of paragraph III.D.2(b)(i) of Appendix J, the 3-day test requirement of paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J and the test requirements when maintenance is performed on the air lock, will measure the leakage through the door mechanism and provide assurance that the air lock will not leak excessively.

Likewise the relief does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility and unwarranted delays in power ascension.

B. Leak Rate Testing of Main Steam Isolation Valves (MSIV's)

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would exclude the measured leakage from the MSIV's from the summation of the local leak rate test results. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the applicant's request dated March 3, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: Paragraph III.C.3 of Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50 states, "The combined leakage rate for all penetrations and valves subject to Type B and C tests shall be less than 0.6 La."

The Nine Mile Point, Unit 2 (NMP-2) Technical Specifications are being written to exclude the measured leakage from MSIVs from the combined leakage rate limit of 0.60 La. The NMP-2 Technical Specifications are being written based on the NRC staff's evaluation in Supplement 2 to the NMP-2 SER.

Environmental Impact of the Action: The exemption would exclude the measured leakage through the MSIVs from the combined local leak rate test results (limit 0.60 La). In the radiological analysis for the design basis loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), doses were calculated on the basis of MSIV leakage being considered as a separate leakage path bypassing secondary containment. This leakage was conservatively assumed to be released directly to the environment without dilution in the reactor building or filtration by the standby gas treatment system. The MSIVs will be periodically tested to verify that the leakage assumed in the radiological analysis is not exceeded.

The proposed NMP-2 Technical Specification requirements will provide reasonable assurance against undue MSIV leakage and that no material increase in the probability or extent of MSIV leakage is to be expected. Therefore, there is no significant increase in the probability of higher post-accident offsite or onsite doses related to the proposed exemption and no significant increase in environmental impact beyond that experienced with no exemption.

In addition, the radiological analysis for the design basis LOCA has already considered leakage from the MSIVs up to the limit specified in the Technical Specification. Thus, the radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed relief otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the relief does not affect non-radiological plant effluents

and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impact of plant operations and would provide no greater assurance that offsite or onsite doses, in the event of an accident that resulted in fission product release, would be any less.

Alternative Use of Resources: These actions in the granting of exemptions A and B above do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2" dated May 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's requests that support the requested exemptions A and B above. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the foregoing environmental assessments, we conclude that the proposed actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemptions.

For further details with respect to the action, see the applicant's requests for the exemption dated March 3, 1986, and June 24, 1986, which are available for

public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the local public document room, Penfield Library, State University College, Oswego, New York 13126.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 19th day of August, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Elinor G. Adensam

Elinor G. Adensam, Director
BWR Project Directorate No. 3
Division of BWR Licensing

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATIONNINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2DOCKET NO. 50-410NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTAND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50 to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the applicant) for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2), located at the applicant's site in Scriba, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would allow the exclusion of the Traversing Incore Probe (TIP) shear valves from Type C testing required by Paragraph III.D.3 of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J.

The applicant's request for this exemption and the basis therefor, are contained in their letter dated April 29, 1986.

The Need for the Action: 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.3 requires valves which are classified as Type C valves to be leak tested by local pressurization during each reactor shutdown for refueling but in no case at intervals greater than two years.

Actuation of a TIP shear valve to perform Type C testing would result in the destruction of the shear valve. The TIP shear valve would then need to be replaced by another untested valve.

Environmental Impact of the Action: In lieu of Type C testing, the following actions will be implemented as an alternative in order to ensure that the shear valves will perform their intended function. First, the continuity of the explosive charge will be verified at least once each 31 days. Second, the explosive

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squib from at least one explosive valve will be removed at least once each 18 months (such that each explosive squib in each explosive valve is removed at least once per 36 months) and tested by initiating the explosive squib. Third, the replacement charge for the exploded squib will be from the same manufactured batch as the one fired or from another batch which has been certified as having at least one of that batch successfully fired. Finally, all charges will be replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendation. These four commitments are included in the proposed Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Technical Specification Section 4.6.3.5.

As discussed above, Type C testing of the TIP shear valves would result in destruction of the valves requiring them to be replaced by untested valves. The alternate test program would provide greater assurance of meeting the leakage requirements for these valves than operating with an unqualified valve. Therefore, there is no significant increase in the probability of higher post-accident offsite or onsite doses related to the proposed exemption and no significant increase in environmental impact beyond that experienced with no exemption. The proposed relief does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure.

Likewise, the relief does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impact of plant operations and would provide no greater assurance that offsite or onsite doses, in the event of an accident that resulted in fission produce release, would be any less.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action in the granting of the above exemption does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2" dated May 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request that support the requested exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the requested exemption.

For further details with respect to the action, see the applicant's request for the exemption dated April 29, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the local public document room, Penfield Library, State University College, Oswego, New York 13126.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 19th day of August, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Elinor G. Adensam

Elinor G. Adensam, Director
BWR Project Directorate No. 3
Division of BWR Licensing