

December 12, 1996

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia  
Executive Vice President, Generation  
Business Group and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nuclear Learning Center  
450 Lake Road  
Oswego, NY 13126

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT FOR NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1  
(TAC NO. M96108)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No.158 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-63 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application transmitted by letter dated July 12, 1996, as supplemented October 30, 1996.

The amendment revises TS 6.2.2.h regarding the administrative controls for the normal working hours of unit staff who perform safety-related functions, and TS 6.2.2.i regarding an organizational change. The changes authorize (1) establishment of unit staff work schedules that average 40 hours per week using shifts as long as 12 hours, and (2) elimination of the positions of General Supervisor Operations and Supervisor Operations.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next regular biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/s/

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-220

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No.158 to DPR-63
- 2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 12, 1996

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darl S. Hood".

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-220

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 158 to  
DPR-63  
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

B. Ralph Sylvia  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
Unit No. 1

cc:

Mr. Richard B. Abbott  
Vice President and General Manager -  
Nuclear  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Charles Donaldson, Esquire  
Assistant Attorney General  
New York Department of Law  
120 Broadway  
New York, NY 10271

Mr. Martin J. McCormick, Jr.  
Vice President  
Nuclear Safety Assessment  
and Support  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Paul D. Eddy  
State of New York  
Department of Public Service  
Power Division, System Operations  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

Ms. Denise J. Wolniak  
Manager Licensing  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. F. William Valentino, President  
New York State Energy, Research,  
and Development Authority  
Corporate Plaza West  
286 Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. Kim A. Dahlberg  
General Manager - Projects  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esquire  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Mr. Norman L. Rademacher  
Plant Manager, Unit 1  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Gary D. Wilson, Esquire  
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
300 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Supervisor  
Town of Scriba  
Route 8, Box 382  
Oswego, NY 13126

Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 126  
Lycoming, NY 13093

DATED: December 12, 1996

AMENDMENT NO. 158 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63-NINE MILE POINT  
UNIT 1

Docket File

PUBLIC

PDI-1 Reading

S. Varga

S. Bajwa

S. Little

D. Hood

OGC

G. Hill (2)

C. Grimes

ACRS

CCowgill, Region I

D. Desaulniers

C. Thomas



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-220

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 158  
License No. DPR-63

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) dated July 12, 1996, as supplemented October 30, 1996, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter 1;
  - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
  - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
  - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
  - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-69 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, as revised through Amendment No. 158 are hereby incorporated into this license. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance to be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



S. Singh Bajwa, Acting Director  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:  
Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: December 12, 1996

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT NO. 158 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63

DOCKET NO. 50-220

Revise Appendix A as follows:

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h. Administrative procedures shall be developed and implemented to limit the working hours of facility staff who perform safety-related functions; e.g., licensed Senior Operators, licensed Operators, health physicists, auxiliary operators and key maintenance personnel.

Adequate shift coverage shall be maintained without routine heavy use of overtime. The objective shall be to have operating personnel work an 8 to 12 hour day, nominal 40-hour week while the facility is operating. However, in the event that unforeseen problems require substantial amounts of overtime to be used, or during extended periods of shutdown for refueling, major maintenance or major plant modifications on a temporary basis, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- 1) An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours straight (excluding shift turnover time).
- 2) An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period, nor more than 24 hours in any 48-hour period, nor more than 72 hours in any 7 day period (all excluding shift turnover time).
- 3) A break of at least 8-hours should be allowed between work periods (including shift turnover time).
- 4) Except during extended shutdown periods, the use of overtime should be considered on an individual basis and not for the entire staff on a shift.

Any deviation from the above guidelines shall be authorized by the Plant Manager, or higher levels of management, in accordance with established procedures and with documentation of the basis for granting the deviation. Controls shall be included in the procedures such that individual overtime shall be reviewed monthly by the Vice President - Nuclear Generation or designee to assure that excessive hours have not been assigned. Routine deviation from the above guidelines is not authorized.

i. The Manager Operations, Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear and Assistant Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear shall hold senior reactor operator licenses.



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 158 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-220

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated July 12, 1996, as supplemented October 30, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Company (the licensee) requested an amendment to Technical Specification 6.2.2.h for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (NMP1). The proposed amendment would revise the specification for the normal working hours of unit staff who perform safety-related functions from "a normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week" to "an 8 to 12 hour day, nominal 40-hour week." The change, in effect, would enable the licensee to establish unit staff work schedules that average 40 hours per week using shifts as long as 12 hours.

The licensee also requested a change to TS 6.2.2.i. TS 6.2.2.i presently states that the General Supervisor Operations, Supervisor Operations, Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear, and Assistant Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear shall each hold senior reactor operator licenses. The proposed change would replace the references to "General Supervisor Operations" and "Supervisor Operations" with a single position, Manager Operations.

The licensee's submittal of October 30, 1996, provided additional information in support of the request to change TS 6.2.2.i, and did not affect the NRC's finding of no significant hazards consideration.

2.0 EVALUATION

2.1 Unit Staff Work Schedules

The NRC staff has previously approved the use of 12-hour shifts at other U.S. commercial nuclear power plants and has found no evidence of adverse effects on plant safety resulting from the use of such shifts. All other existing provisions of NMP1 TS 6.2.2.h (e.g., concerning consecutive hours of work, overtime, and breaks) remain unchanged. Thus, the proposed change does not alter the intent of the existing specification with respect to the number of hours that should normally be worked per week and NMP1 TS 6.2.2.h will continue to provide adequate assurance that routine heavy use of overtime will not be necessary to provide adequate shift coverage.

The NRC staff finds the proposed change to be consistent with Section 5.2.2.e of NUREG-1433, Rev. 1, "Standard Technical Specifications, General Electric Plants, BWR/4" which provides licensees the option of specifying either an 8-hour or a 12-hour shift. Although the licensee has proposed to specify a range ("8 to 12 hour day") rather than a specific shift length, the NRC staff has no safety concern with the proposed specification that affords the licensee the flexibility to establish shift lengths within the 8-hour to 12-hour range.

The proposed amendment is consistent with current licensing practices and operating experience. The revised shift working hours remain within limits demonstrated acceptable by operating experience. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed change to Nine Mile Point Unit 1 Technical Specification 6.2.2.h is acceptable.

## 2.2 Organizational Change

The licensee proposes to remove the positions of General Supervisor Operations and Supervisor Operations from the NMP1 Operations management structure. The responsibilities of the two eliminated positions will be incorporated into the position of Manager Operations or delegated to off-shift Senior Reactor Operators. The change reduces layers of management in the Operations organization and allows a direct interface between the Manager Operations and the rest of the Operations Department.

As stated in the licensee's letter of October 30, 1996, the Manager Operations will retain overall authority and responsibility for the oversight of NMP1 operations. Instructions and expectations for day-to-day plant operations will be communicated directly to the on-shift Station Shift Supervisors by the Manager Operations. This is consistent with criteria in Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800), Section 13.1.II.B.4, which require clear management control and effective lines of communication between the organizational units involved in the management, operation, and technical support for the operation of a nuclear facility. The requirement for the Manager Operations to hold a senior reactor operator's license is consistent with the criteria established by ANSI N18.1-1971, "Selection and Training of Nuclear Power Plant Personnel."

Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed amendment to be consistent with current licensing practices and the relevant review criteria. The NRC staff concludes that the proposed change to NMP1 TS 6.2.2.i is acceptable.

## 3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New York State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

#### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment changes recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributors: D. Desaulniers  
D. Hood

Date: December 12, 1996