



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

November 10, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: Sholly Coordinator

FROM: Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION IN BIWEEKLY FR NOTICE -
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO
SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION,
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING (TAC NO. M84855)

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Docket No. 50-220, Nine Mile Point

Nuclear Station Unit No. 1, Oswego County, New York

Date of amendment request: October 28, 1992

Description of amendment request: The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification (TS) 6.2.2.f. and TS Table 6.2-1 to be consistent with current NRC requirements regarding supervision and performance of core alterations. The current Nine Mile Point Unit 1 technical specifications require that core alterations be supervised by a licensed Senior Reactor Operator and that a licensed Reactor Operator manipulate the controls of all fuel handling equipment except movement of new fuel from receipt through dry storage. The proposed amendment would require that all core alterations be performed by qualified personnel and be supervised by a Senior Reactor Operator or by a Senior Reactor Operator Limited to Fuel Handling.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

The operation of Nine Mile Point Unit 1, in accordance with the proposed amendment, will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

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UFSAR [Updated Final Safety Analysis Report] Section XV.C.3.0. "Refueling Accident", and Section XV.C.6.0, "New Fuel Bundle Loading Error Analysis", provide the probability, identification of causes, and consequences for accidents which can be caused by improper operation of fuel handling equipment. The proposed change does not affect the potential causes and sequence of events postulated in the UFSAR. Therefore, even though the fuel handling equipment will be operated by non-licensed operators, the probability of occurrence of any one of these two accidents is not increased since only skilled technicians, trained on operation of Nine Mile Point Unit 1 equipment, will be allowed to operate the fuel handling equipment. The skills necessary for the safe handling of fuel are not unique to licensed Senior Reactor Operators. Administrative controls will be in place to ensure that equipment operators involved in the movement of fuel have the requisite skills and training for handling of fuel. The presence of a licensed Senior Reactor Operator Limited to Fuel Handling and monitoring by a member of the reactor analyst group will minimize the potential for misplaced bundles and the dropping of fuel bundles.

Licensed Senior Reactor Operators Limited to Fuel Handling are licensed in accordance with 10 CFR [Part] 55 and possess the training and skills necessary to oversee fuel handling and core operations. In summary, this change will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The operation of Nine Mile Point Unit 1, in accordance with the proposed amendment, will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed change does not affect the design bases, capabilities, or reliability of any of the fuel handling components. The safety features which are already incorporated in the design of the equipment combined with training and supervision by qualified and licensed personnel will assure correct equipment operation and fuel movements. In summary, the proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

The operation of Nine Point Unit 1, in accordance with the proposed amendment, will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed change will not cause any change in the Technical Specification Section 3.5 operational limits nor will it cause any performance criteria to be changed or exceeded. Senior Reactor Operators Limited to Fuel Handling will have the same qualifications, skills, and training relative to fuel handling as fully licensed Senior Reactor Operators. Personnel designated to operate the fuel handling equipment will be skilled and qualified technicians with prior training on NMP1 equipment and procedures. The proposed change is consistent with operational procedures approved, at BWRs [boiling

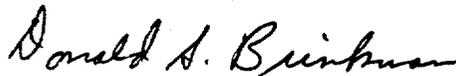
water reactors] similar in design and equipment to Nine Mile Point Unit 1. Therefore, the proposed change does not result in a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

Local Public Document Room location: Reference and Documents Department, Penfield Library, State University of New York, Oswego, New York 13126.

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

NRC Project Director: Robert A. Capra



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Original signed by:

Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

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DBrinkman
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