

November 29, 1994

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
P. O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT FOR NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2
(TAC NO. M90280)

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 59 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-69 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application transmitted by letter dated August 26, 1994.

The amendment revises the Action statements for TS 3.6.1.3, "Primary Containment Air Locks," to allow continued plant operation if the containment air lock interlock mechanism becomes inoperable, provided an operable door of the air lock is locked shut and is verified locked shut at least once per 31 days.

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,

Original signed by

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

Docket No. 50-410

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 59 to NPF-69
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: See attached sheet

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 29, 1994

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Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald S. Brinkman".

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

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2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

B. Ralph Sylvia
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Unit 2

cc:

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DATED: November 29, 1994

AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69-NINE MILE POINT
UNIT 2

Docket File

PUBLIC

PDI-1 Reading

S. Varga, 14/E/4

J. Zwolinski, 14/H/3

M. J. Case

C. Vogan

D. Brinkman

OGC

D. Hagan, T-4 A43

G. Hill (2), T-5 C3

C. Grimes, 11/E/22

ACRS (4)

OPA

OC/LFDCB

PD plant-specific file

C. Cowgill, Region I

R. Barrett

cc: Plant Service list



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

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
DOCKET NO. 50-410
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 59
License No. NPF-69

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) dated August 26, 1994, 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:

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(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. 59 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



Michael J. Case, 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: November 29, 1994

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT
AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69
DOCKET NO. 50-410

Revise Appendix A as follows:

Remove Page

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Insert Page

3/4 6-8

CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS

PRIMARY CONTAINMENT

PRIMARY CONTAINMENT AIR LOCKS

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.6.1.3 Each primary containment air lock shall be OPERABLE with:

- a. Both doors closed except when the air lock is being used for normal transit entry and exit through the containment, then at least one air lock door shall be closed, and
- b. An overall air lock leakage rate of less than or equal to 0.05 La at Pa, 39.75 psig.

APPLICABILITY: OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS 1, 2*, and 3.

ACTION:

- a. With one primary containment air lock door inoperable:
 1. Maintain at least the OPERABLE air lock door closed and either restore the inoperable air lock door to OPERABLE status within 24 hours or lock the OPERABLE air lock door closed.
 2. Operation may then continue until performance of the next required overall air lock leakage test provided that the OPERABLE air lock door is verified to be locked closed at least once per 31 days.
 3. Otherwise, be in at least HOT SHUTDOWN within the next 12 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 24 hours.
 4. The provisions of Specification 3.0.4 are not applicable.
- b. With the primary containment air lock interlock mechanism inoperable, verify an OPERABLE door is closed within 1 hour, lock an OPERABLE door closed within 24 hours and verify that an OPERABLE door is locked closed once per 31 days; otherwise be in at least HOT SHUTDOWN within the next 12 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 24 hours.
- c. With the primary containment air lock inoperable, except as a result of an inoperable air lock door or inoperable interlock mechanism, maintain at least one air lock door closed; restore the inoperable air lock to OPERABLE status within 24 hours or be in at least HOT SHUTDOWN within the next 12 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 24 hours.

* See Special Test Exception 3.10.1.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2
DOCKET NO. 50-410

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 26, 1994, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC or the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise the Action statements for TS 3.6.1.3, "Primary Containment Air Locks," to allow continued plant operation if the containment air lock interlock mechanism becomes inoperable, provided an operable door of the air lock is locked shut and is verified locked shut at least once per 31 days.

2.0 EVALUATION

The primary containment air locks are provided with two doors each. One OPERABLE and closed door in each air lock provides containment integrity. The two doors of each air lock are mechanically interlocked so that if one door is open, the other door cannot be opened.

TS 3.6.1.3 currently permits plant operation to continue if one door of an air lock is inoperable provided the other door is OPERABLE and is locked closed. This has been determined acceptable since the closed door provides containment integrity. However, if the air lock is otherwise inoperable (including an inoperable interlock mechanism), TS 3.6.1.3 currently requires the air lock to be restored to an OPERABLE status within 24 hours or the plant must be in COLD SHUTDOWN within the next 36 hours. This requirement could cause an unnecessary plant shutdown if only the interlock mechanism was inoperable but containment integrity was being maintained by an air lock door that is closed. Therefore, the licensee has proposed the subject amendment which would permit plant operation to continue provided an OPERABLE door is locked closed within 24 hours and verified locked closed at least once per 31 days.

We have reviewed the proposed amendment and have determined that it is acceptable since it provides assurance that containment integrity will be maintained if the air lock interlock mechanism is inoperable and is consistent with similar provisions for an inoperable air lock door and with the NRC's Improved Standard Technical Specifications (NUREG-1433).

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

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (59 FR 49431). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the 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 Contributor: Donald S. Brinkman

Date: November 29, 1994