



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 55 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 letter dated August 5, 1980 (reference 1) the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (licensee) forwarded a proposed Technical Specification change that establishes revised reactor vessel water level setpoints that are consistent with a new common instrument zero level. The proposed common reference level is 7' 11" below the minimum normal water level in the reactor vessel. This level corresponds to 12' 7" above the active fuel and will result in an indicator reading of -30". (At Nine Mile Point Unit 1 numbering is referenced to plant elevation. Plant grade is 261'0". On this basis the minimum normal water level in the reactor is 302'9".) Establishment of the common zero level for all reactor vessel water level instrumentation was required by item II.K3.27 of NUREG-0737, Three Mile Island (TMI) Action Plan (reference 2). The evaluation of the licensee's compliance with this requirement is provided below.

2.0 Evaluation

We have reviewed the proposed revised setpoints necessary to establish a common zero level for all reactor level instrumentation. The common reference level is 65 inches below the minimum normal level of 302' 9". The proposed changes to the Technical Specifications will not change previously established safety settings, i.e., the setpoints for instrument safety functions will not change. Since no change in actual level for any function is involved, and since no instrumentation is being modified, we find the proposed Technical Specification revisions acceptable.

3.0 Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) that an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

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#### 4.0 Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: June 1, 1981



References

1. Letter dated August 5, 1980 from E. B. Thomas to H. R. Denton.
2. NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements," forwarded by letter dated October 31, 1980 from D. G. Eisenhut (NRC) to All Licensees.

