



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 52 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-63

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-220

1.0 - Introduction

By letter dated January 11, 1979 Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) proposed changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-63 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The revision to the Technical Specification addressed in this Safety Evaluation regards a change to the test duration for the containment integrated leak rate test. The other change requested in the January 11, 1979 submittal is still under review and will be addressed by a separate Safety Evaluation and license amendment.

2.0 Evaluation

The licensee has proposed to change paragraph 4.3.3 a(5) to require a minimum test duration of 8 hours rather than 24 hours for the containment integrated leakage rate test. The licensee's bases for the change is that improved instrumentation and test methods now make it possible to obtain a statistically acceptable set of data points during a shorter test period.

The licensee's new test method utilizes the Bechtel Corporation procedure contained in the Topical Report BN-TOP-1 Revision 1 dated November 1, 1972 and titled "Testing Criteria for Integrated Leakage Rate Testing of Primary Containment Structures for Nuclear Power Plants." The Bechtel test procedure is a computerized technique which obtains sufficient data points in eight hours to meet the required statistical analysis accuracy.

Staff approval of Bechtel Topical Report BN-TOP-1, Rev. 1 is contained on page II-32 of NUREG-0390, Vol. 6, No. 2 dated January 20, 1983. The Topical Report was approved without comment.

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### 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 §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.

### 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 an accident previously evaluated, does not create the possibility of an accident of a type different from any evaluated previously, and does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety, 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 this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: May 4, 1983

Principal Contributor: Robert A. Hermann



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