



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. 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 9, 1984 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 No. 1. The revisions to the Technical Specifications addressed in this Safety Evaluation regard a change to the Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) limits.

2.0 Evaluation

As a part of the reload for the spring 1984, the licensee performed analyses to determine the bounding limits established to support a reload. For the fuel arrangement to be utilized for the upcoming cycle, the licensee determined that the operating limits of the Critical Power Ratio (CPR) must be changed to assure the safety limit MCPR is not exceeded. Based on the results of its analyses, the licensee has proposed to increase the operating limit MCPR to 1.40 for beginning-of-cycle (BOC) to end-of-cycle (EOC) minus 2 gigawatt days per short ton (GWD/ST) and to 1.45 for EOC minus 2 GWD/ST to EOC minus 1 GWD/ST. The MCPR limit from EOC minus 1 GWD/ST to EOC would remain unchanged at 1.50.

The changes in the operating limit MCPR values are being requested in order to bound values that may be required in future cycles. Since the values are being increased the margin between the operating limit and the safety limit is being increased. This is a conservative change and is, therefore, acceptable.

3.0 Environmental Considerations

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.

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4.0 Conclusion

We have 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, and (2) 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.

Principal Reviewer: W. Brooks

Dated: May 1, 1984

