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ACCESSION NBR: 8610160246 DDC. DATE: 86/10/10 NOTARIZED: YES DOCKET # FACIL: 50-410 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Moha 05000410

· AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION

MANGAN, C. V. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

ADENSAM, E. G. BWR Project Directorate 3

SUBJECT: Forwards application for schedular exemption re further analysis of & possible modification to main steam isolation

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valves. Addl info required to be provided during 861015

meeting.

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NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION/300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST, SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202/TELEPHONE (315) 474-1511

NMP2L 0900 October 10, 1986

Ms. Elinor G. Adensam, Director BWR Project Directorate No. 3 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 7920 Norfolk Avenue Washington, DC 20555

Dear Ms. Adensam:

On October 2, 1986, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation submitted an exemption request to permit fuel loading and performance of those startup tests which can be conducted within the Technical Specifications Operational Conditions 4 and 5 while some recently identified problems with the Main Steam Isolation Valves were resolved.

The October 2 submittal was a revision to a previous submittal of August 28, 1986, and was necessary because subsequent to that submittal, we discovered an additional problem with those valves; namely, that they leaked more than the allowable amount. We believe that we have solved this latest problem, but implementing the solution will require additional time. The final report on the resolution of the Main Steam Isolation Valve leakage problem is scheduled to be submitted by October 17 to the NRC Administrator for Region I in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e). This report will include a detailed description of the problem and its cause, an evaluation of its safety impact, the corrective actions being implemented, and the long-term preventive actions and monitoring that will be conducted. An interim report was submitted on October 8 which we believe contains sufficient information to process this exemption request. Any additional information the Staff requires will be provided during the meeting scheduled for October 15, and will be docketed with the final report.

The revisions for the October 2 submittal reflected the impact of the resolution of the leakage problem. Those revisions are indicated in the margin in the attached exemption request by a single line. Clarifications to that submittal, requested by the Staff, are indicated in the margin of the attached exemption request, which supersedes the October 2, 1986 version, by double lines. The revisions are minor in terms of what is requested.

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Ms. Elinor G. Adensam Page Two

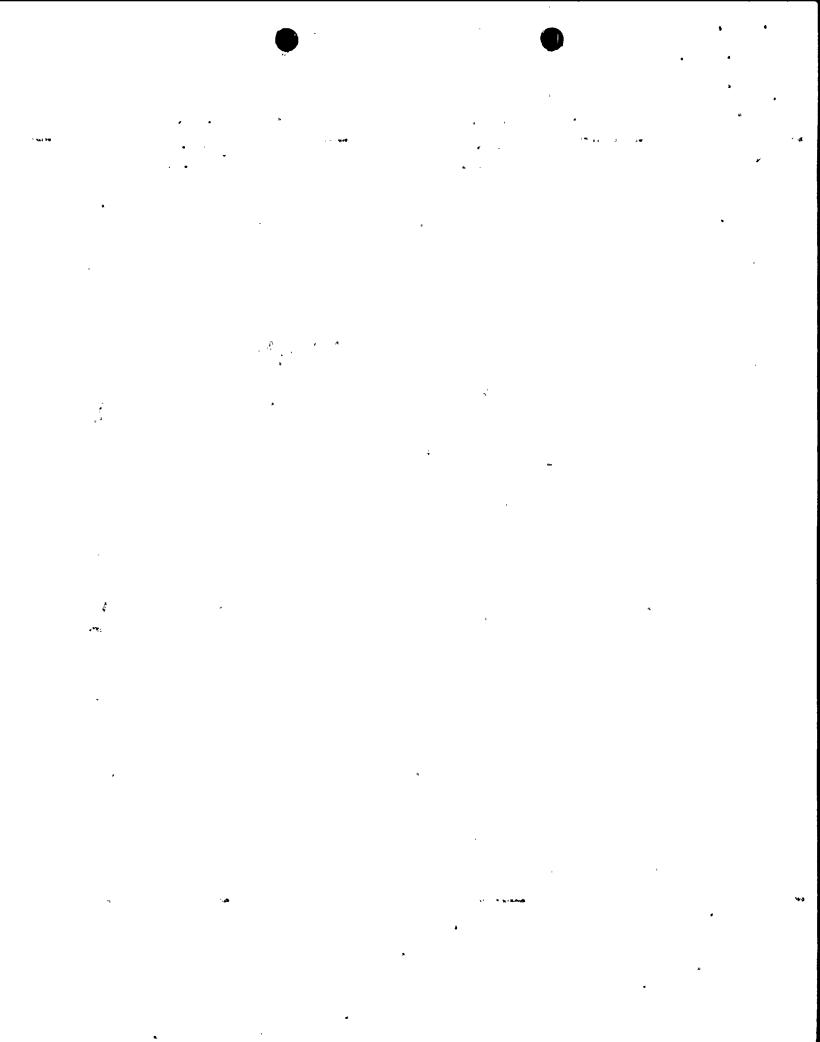
We wish to emphasize that all operations during the period of the requested exemption will be carried out in accordance with Technical Specifications, and no exceptions to the Technical Specifications are requested.

Very truly yours,

C. V. Mangan Senior Vice President

RAC/pns 2121G Attachment

xc: W. A. Cook, NRC Resident Inspector Project File (2)



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	>		•
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation	)	Docket No.	50-410
(Nine Mile Point Unit 2)	)		•
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	<u>AFFIDAVIT</u>		
·			
C. V. Mangan, bein President of Niagara Mohawk Power part of said Corporation to sign Commission the documents attached and correct to the best of his kn	hereto; and t	hat all such docu	ments are true
	<u>a</u> m	anjan	<del></del>
Subscribed and sworn to before me York and County of <u>Anondaga</u> .	, a Notary Pub _, this <u>/0<sup>12</sup></u>	lic in and for the day of <u>Actober</u>	e State of New , 1986.
	<u>Ch</u> Notar <i>Areno</i>	rustine Qusting y Public in and for laga County, New	or v York

My Commission expires:
CHRISTINE AUSTIN
Notary Public in the State of New York
Qualified in Onondaga Co. No. 4787687
My Commission Expires March 30, 1927

# APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION RELATED TO FURTHER ANALYSIS OF AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATION TO MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVES

### I. Introduction and Summary

Nine Mile Point Unit 2 ("NMP Unit 2") is a nuclear power plant employing a General Electric Company single cycle, forced circulating boiling water reactor ("BWR") with a plant rated core thermal power level of 3323 MWt corresponding to a net electrical output of 1080 MWe. Niagara Mohawk tendered an application for an operating license for NMP Unit 2 on January 31, 1983. The Final Safety Analysis Report ("FSAR") was docketed on April 12, 1983 subsequent to the completion of the Staff acceptance review.

The main steam isolation valve design and operation are described in Section 5.4.5 of the Final Safety Analysis Report. The Main Steam Isolation Valves are 24-in, reduced port (21 in.) ball-type valves. Two isolation valves are located in each of the four main steam lines; one valve inside containment and one valve just outside containment. They are provided to isolate the main steam lines in the event of a design basis accident in order to limit any radioactive release to the environment, to limit any inventory loss from the reactor vessel, and to terminate the release of mass and energy in the event of a main steam line rupture outside containment.

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Recent testing of the main steam isolation valves has disclosed three problems:

- The mechanical actuator which closes the valve did not always function properly. Two types of problems were encountered: a) the actuator system operated slowly, so that the valve did not close within the time (5 seconds) called for in the Technical Specifications; Sections 3/4.4.7 and 3.4.6.3; and b) on occasion, the actuator did not operate sufficiently to permit the valve to move from its open position.
- A crack was discovered in a latching roller, a component of the valve actuator. This is similar to a problem that was previously reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under 10CFR50.55(e) (in NMPC letter number 7600, December 9, 1983, C. V. Mangan to R. W. Starostecki).
- A repetition of previously successful Type C leak tests resulted in excessive leakage rates for all of the valves. Leak rates ranged from 16 to greater than 42 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh), compared to the Technical Specification allowable limit (Section 3/4 6-6) of 6.0 scfh.

The above problems may be divided into two categories: one, Items 1) and 2) above, concern the actuation of the valves (i.e., the ability of the valves to assume the closed position when called upon to do so) and; two, Item 3) above, concerns the ability of the valve to perform its isolation function

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when in the closed position. The problems are sufficiently independent that the solutions of the two categories can be separately pursued.

In light of the above, the main steam isolation valves are not operable in the context of the Technical Specifications, they will not be initially installed as described in the Final Safety Analysis Report, and the requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix A, General Design Criteria 54 and 55 are not met. However, when closed, the isolation function to assure integrity of the Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary and Primary Containment will be provided.

Niagara Mohawk therefore requests a schedular exemption pursuant to the Commission's regulations under 10CFR 50.12(a) to the requirements of 10CFR 50 Appendix A, General Design Criterion 54 (in regard to the provision of redundancy, reliability and performance capability of the isolation and containment capability of the main steam piping system penetrating primary reactor containment) and General Design Criterion 55 (in regard to the provision of one automatic isolation valve inside and one automatic isolation valve outside containment) to allow completion of the analysis required to provide resolution of the problems, the procurement of equipment found necessary to resolve the problems, completion of any required modification, and the testing to prove the acceptability of the resolution of the problems. All operations during this exemption will be carried out in accordance with Technical Specifications, and no exceptions to the Technical Specifications are requested.

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The authority requested during this exemption is to engage in core alteration\* (as defined in the Technical Specifications) and to perform those startup tests which can be conducted within the Technical Specifications Operational Conditions 4 and 5 (See Technical Specifications Table 1.2). The reactor will not attain criticality during the exemption period. Assurance that the reactor will not attain criticality in Operational Conditions 4 and 5 is given by Table 1.2 of the Technical Specifications and the accompanying Table Notations.

The following discussion sections demonstrate that the grant of an exemption would be in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.12(a). In particular, as discussed in detail below, grant of the exemption would not present an undue risk to public health and safety.

There are no Technical Specification requirements regarding the position of the valves, i.e., whether they are open or closed, during operation in Modes 4 and 5. At least one isolation valve in each line will be kept closed and deactivated at all times until the required testing described in our schedular exemption requests concerning the Offgas Systems and the Electrical Hydraulic Control System (submitted in our letters dated May 7, 1986 and July 13, 1986, respectively) is complete.

As used in this exemption request, core alteration includes the loading of the first fuel assembly.

<sup>\*</sup>As defined in the Technical Specifications, "CORE ALTERATION shall be the addition, removal, relocation, or movement of fuel, sources, incore instruments or reactivity controls within the reactor pressure vessel with the vessel head removed and fuel in the vessel. Normal movement of the SRMs, IRMs, TIPs or special movable detectors is not considered a CORE ALTERATION. Suspension of CORE ALTERATIONS shall not preclude completion of the movement of a component to a safe conservative position."

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The requested exemption also meets the other requirements of the regulations. Special circumstances exist which meet the standard under 10CFR50.12(a)(2). The requested exemption is authorized by applicable law, including the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., and National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., and is consistent with the common defense and security.

## II. The Requested Exemption Does Not Present An Undue Risk To The <u>Public Health And Safety</u>

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The requested exemption will permit the loading of fresh fuel into the reactor vessel (core alteration). Such fuel loading takes place with the reactor vessel and the drywell open; there is no containment, so no need for containment isolation. During core alteration the vessel water level will be above the vessel steam line nozzle, a main steam line plug will be in place in each nozzle, and at least one isolation valve in each main steam line will be closed and deactivated\* until core alteration is complete in order to maintain Secondary Containment Integrity as required by the Technical Specifications for the core alteration process. Such operation is permitted by the Technical Specifications.

<sup>\*</sup>A Standing Order, issued by the Station Superintendent, will require that one valve in each line be closed until core alterations are complete. To ensure closure, the circuit breaker controlling the hydraulic pump for the closed valve will be opened and marked up (tagged out).

A. į. During the period of the exemption, once core alteration is complete, there is no Technical Specification requirement for Secondary Containment Integrity. Once the core alteration and the preoperational tests of the Offgas System and the Electrical Hydraulic Control System are complete, there is no requirement for maintaining at least one isolation valve in each steam line in a closed and deactivated position. Once core alteration is complete, the vessel water level may be lowered to below the steam line nozzle and the steam line plugs may be removed. The actual timing for removal of the plugs will be determined by operational and other considerations.

It is expected that there will be work activities associated with these valves during the period of the exemption. No occupational radiation exposure is expected, as the reactor will not achieve criticality. There will be no steam produced, as the temperature in the vessel will not be greater than 200°F. Upon completion of the tests on the Offgas System and the Electrical Hydraulic Control System, mentioned above, and the completion of core alteration, there will no longer be any requirement for the valves to perform an isolation function during the period of the exemption. Under those conditions, in situ testing of the valves and actuators to ensure that the main steam isolation valves will be operable will be carried out without regard to the valves isolation function.

Operation, as described above, presents no undue risk to the health and safety of the public, particularly as there will be virtually no fission product inventory in the fuel at the conclusion of the exemption period.

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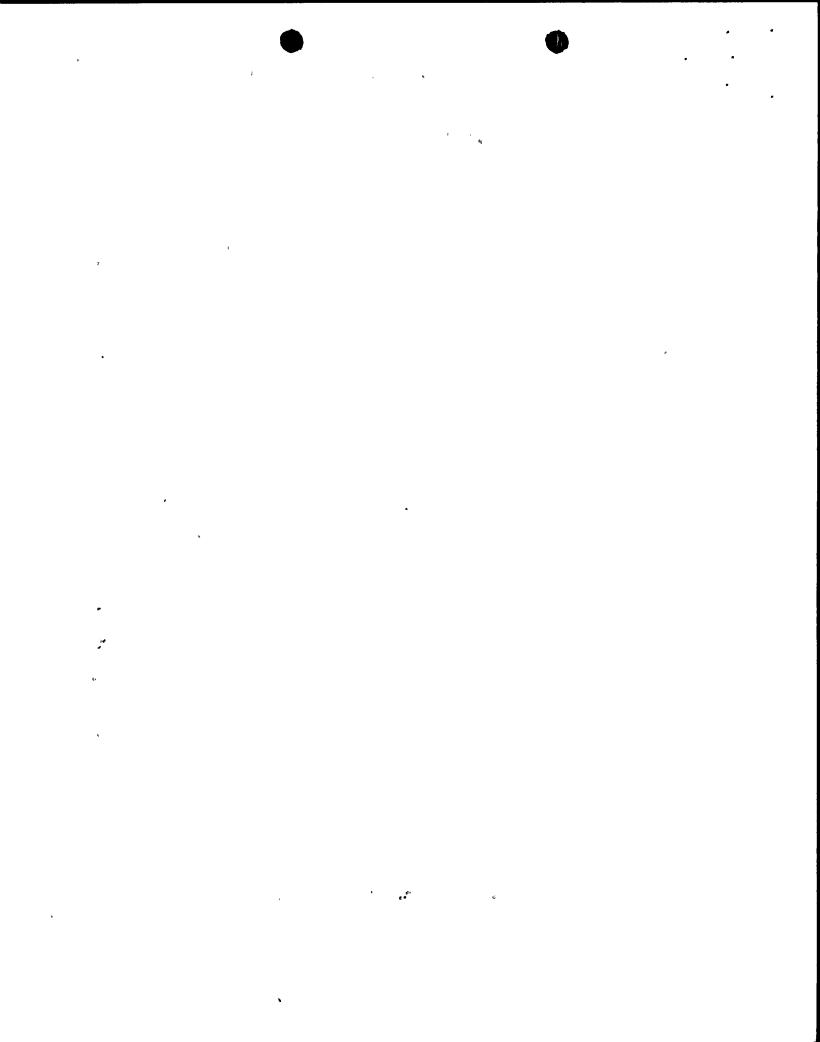
## III. Special Circumstances Exist Which Warrant Issuance Of The Requested Exemption

Special circumstances exist under the categories contained in 10CFR50.12(a)(2) any of which would warrant issuance of the requested exemption. Undue hardship and costs would otherwise result that significantly in excess of those incurred by other licensees. Further, the exemption is temporary and Niagara Mohawk has made good faith efforts to comply with licensing requirements. These special circumstances are discussed in accordance with the classification contained in the rule.

#### A. <u>Undue Hardship</u>

(iii) Compliance would result in undue hardship or other costs that are significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted, or that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated . . .

Completion of the additional analyses required to demonstrate operability of the main steam isolation valves as well as any necessary hardware changes and testing, prior to fuel loading of the facility would result in undue hardship and costs. Considering all factors, a delay in operation would result in a monthly delay cost of \$60,000,000. The \$60 million/month has two components. Fifteen million dollars is estimated as additional overhead construction costs, that is, the overhead involved in maintaining the construction status at the site. The remaining forty-five million dollars constitutes financing costs. This \$60 million cost does not include the cost of replacement power.



The fuel loading and testing for which the exemption is requested are scheduled to take about 30 days. At the \$2,000,000 per day cost of delayed operation, failure to grant the exemption would add \$60,000,000 to the cost of the plant.

Inasmuch as these problems were identified only shortly before fuel loading for this facility, they result in costs significantly in excess of those incurred by other applicants.

Thus, special circumstances exist which warrant granting of the exemption.

## B. Applicant's Good Faith Efforts

(v) The exemption would provide only temporary relief from the applicable regulation and the licensee or applicant has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation ...

As noted above, the exemption is being requested to provide temporary relief until the completion of the testing described above. As further discussed, Applicant has made good faith efforts to comply with all regulatory requirements as set forth in applicable Staff guidance.

The main steam isolation valves were procured and installed with the intent of fully meeting the requirements of the Final Safety Analysis Report and the Technical Specifications with regard to closing time and leakage. As noted in Section 5.4.5.3 of the Final Safety Analysis Report, the ability of the ball-type valve to close in 3 to 5 seconds was demonstrated by a combination of dynamic tests and analysis. However, recent Site testing

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experience indicates that the actuator mechanism does not function to consistently close the valve within the required five seconds. Similarly, the valves had previously been tested and met leakage requirements. A number of options are currently being evaluated to assure that the valves close within 5 seconds. The valves are currently being repaired in order to meet leakage requirements.

The causes of the above problems are attributed to the following:

- Failure to close within the five seconds is due to a time related increase in the force required to trip the latch mechanism. The specific cause of the time dependent phenomenon is being investigated.
- 2. The current investigation indicates that failure of the roller appears to have initiated from pre-existing defects which were induced during the manufacturing process. Through-thickness cracking occurred only after a load was applied to the roller in such a manner, dependent on roller orientation and pre-existing defect size, that the critical stress intensity at the given defect was exceeded.
- 3. The increased leakage is caused by scoring of the valve seat. This scoring is caused by delaminated particles of the tungsten carbide coating. This delamination of the tungsten carbide coating is caused by a high bearing stress combined with friction which can occur during the opening and closing of the valve.

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A modification, which is being pursued to resolve the MSIV closure problem, includes modification of the hydraulic system which is presently used to open the MSIV and allows it to be latched. The hydraulic system will be modified to additionally maintain the MSIV in an open position. By accomplishing this, the present mechanical latching mechanism will not be required.

The hydraulic system solenoid valves will be normally closed and changed to continuously energized. In the event of power failure, the solenoid valve will fail open, thereby causing the MSIVs to close. Additionally, hydraulic failure will cause the spring to close the MSIV thereby maintaining the fail safe feature of the valve.

A sketch is provided, Attachment 1, to depict the modified hydraulic system. It should be noted that the hydraulic actuator mechanism, rather than the mechanical latch, was used during the testing which was performed to characterize and resolve the leakage problem.

The bearing stress on the tungsten carbide coating has been reduced by modifying the system of springs which forces the seat against the ball to form the sealing surface. The revised spring loading reduces the bearing stress between the tungsten carbide coating and the stellite seal ring, while maintaining virtually the same total seating force when the valve is closed.

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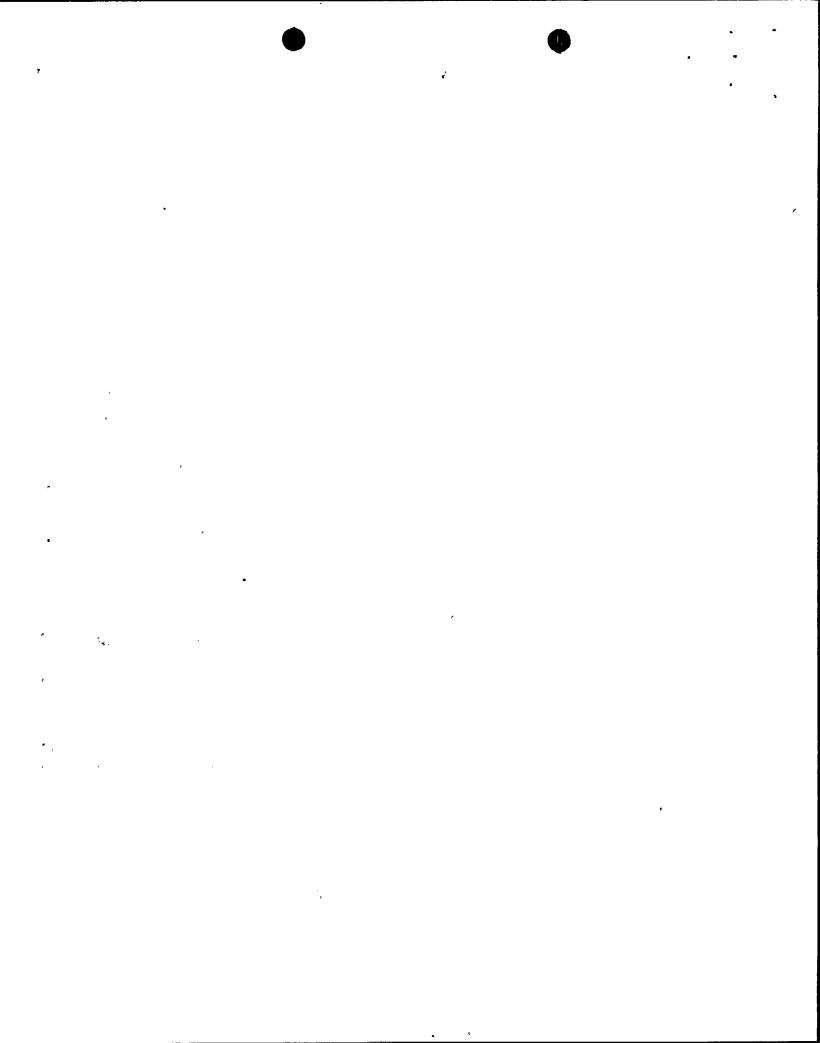
The balls which had been damaged are being repaired by removing the tungsten carbide coating, and reapplying a new coating of tungsten carbide. Four valves (one in each steam line) will be refurbished with recoated balls and modified spring packs. After satisfactorily passing a leak test, these four valves will remain closed until fuel loading is completed. The other four valves (one in each steam line) will be similarly refurbished and tested during the period covered by this exemption request. Following core alterations, if isolation is required to complete the Offgas System or the Electrical Hydraulic Control System tests, it will be provided by either an inboard or outboard valve, after it has been closed, deactivated and leak tested.

It is expected that the hydraulic actuator mechanism will also be used in the <u>in situ</u> testing of the valves. Most important, however, is that the actuation system which solves the actuation problem, and the sealing system which solves the isolation problem, will be tested together.

The schedule milestones to accomplish the above includes:

	<u>Activity</u>	Target Completion Dates
1.	Complete Installation and Testing of four valves	October 25, 1986
2.	Complete Installation of Remaining Four Valves	November 3, 1986
3.	Completion of Actuator Modification and Testing	November 27, 1986

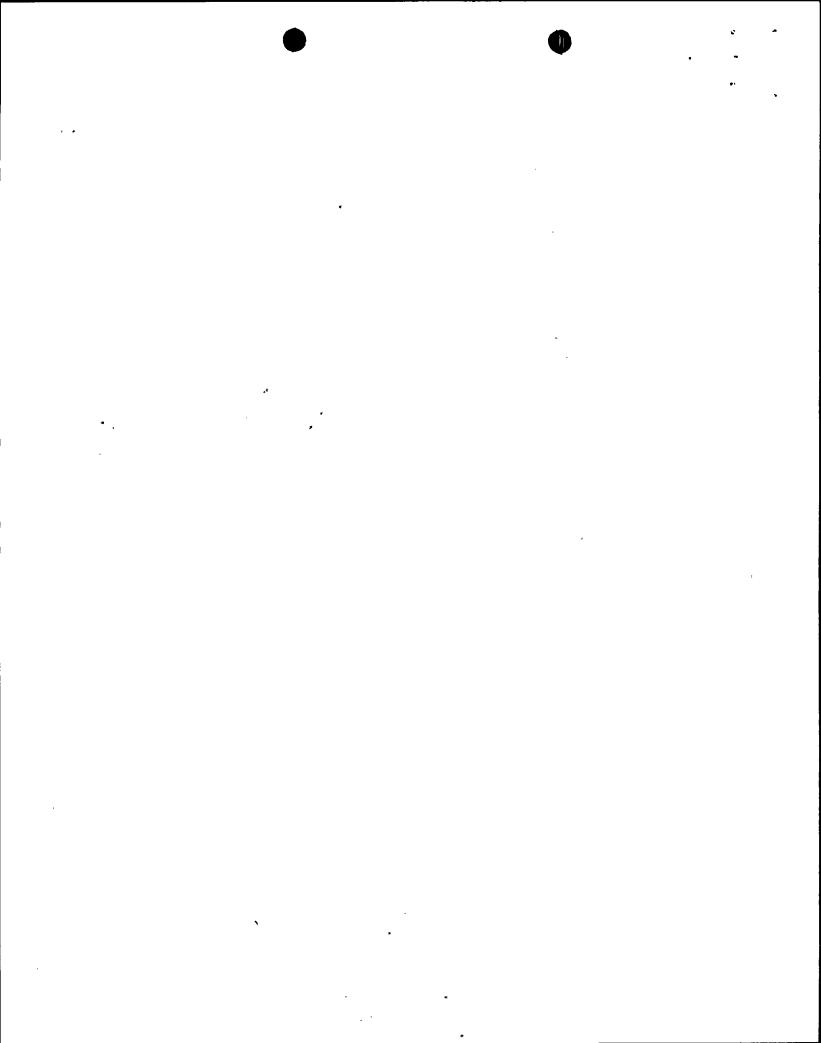
As demonstrated above, the use of the refurbished valves presents no undue risk to the public health and safety during the exemption period. Thus, under this criterion, good cause has been shown for granting the requested exemption.



## IV. The Other Requirements For Issuance `Of An Exemption Are Met.

The requested exemption is authorized by applicable law, including the Atomic Energy Act and National Environmental Policy Act. With regard to the "common defense and security" standard, the grant of the requested exemption is consistent with the common defense and security of the United States. The Commission's Statements of Consideration in support of the exemption rule note with approval the explanation of this standard as set forth in <a href="Long Island Lighting Company">Long Island Lighting Company</a> (Shoreham Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1), LBP-84-45, 20 NRC 1343, 1400 (1984). Thus, the term "common defense and security" refers principally to the safeguarding of special nuclear material, the absence of foreign control over the applicant, the protection of Restricted Data, and the availability of special nuclear material for defense needs. The granting of the requested exemption will not affect any of these concerns and is, therefore, consistent with the common defense and security.

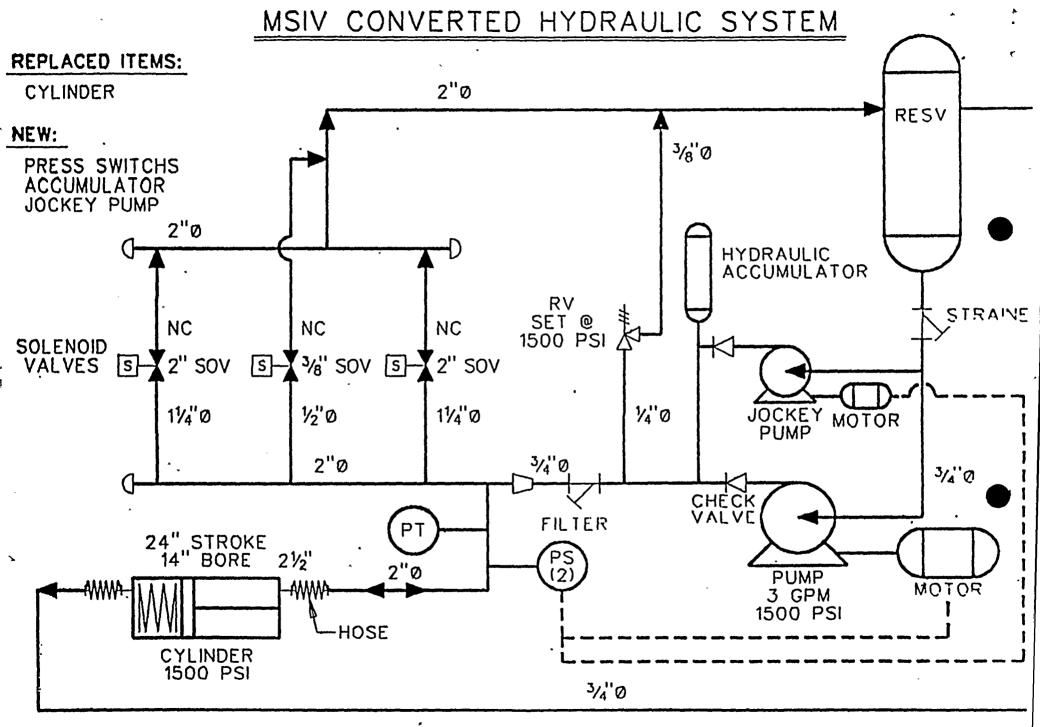
The proposed exemption has been analyzed and determined not to involve additional construction or operational activities which may significantly affect the environment. It will not result in a significant increase in any adverse environmental impact previously evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement-Operating License Stage, a significant change in effluents or power levels or a matter not previously reviewed by the NRC which may have a significant adverse environmental impact.



#### V. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons (the lack of undue risk to the public, the special circumstances of potential undue hardship and the applicant's good faith efforts, and the lack of a significant adverse environmental impact), Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation has demonstrated that it meets the requirements contained in 10CFR50.12(a) for the issuance of an exemption to General Design Criteria 54 and 55. Therefore, the requested exemption to permit operation of Nine Mile Point Unit 2 during the time that the necessary effort to verify operability of the main steam isolation valves and ensure that they meet their intended function is being performed, and to allow any changes to the facility required as a result of this effort to be completed prior to achieving criticality and proceeding beyond the operational conditions 4 and 5 should be granted.

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ATTACHMENT 1

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