



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 96 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-220

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 21, 1988, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-63 for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1. The amendment would revise Technical Specification Table 3.2.7 to delete the Main Steam Warmup Valves.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

The Main Steam Warmup Valves were originally designed to equalize temperature and pressure around the outboard Main Steam Isolation Valves during startup. After the pressures and temperatures were equal, the outboard Main Steam Isolation Valves could be opened without causing a pressure transient downstream. The licensee performs startups with all four Main Steam Isolation Valves open. This procedure warms up the steam lines as the reactor heats up. Thus, the warmup valves are not required.

The warmup valves were also designed to equalize pressure and temperature when bringing the reactor from the hot standby condition (reactor critical, pressure less than 600 psig and Main Steam Isolation Valves closed) to full power. At Nine Mile Point Unit 1, this operation is performed by fully opening the outboard air-operated isolation valves and partially opening the inboard electrically-operated isolation valves. When the pressures and temperatures are equal, the inboard valves are fully opened. Thus, the warmup valves are no longer required.

Since the warmup valves are no longer required for operational purpose, the licensee has physically removed them from the plant. The removal of the warmup valves does not affect the operation of any safety system nor the performance of the Main Steam Isolation Valves. Also, the warmup valves have no role in accident mitigation.

The removal of these valves eliminates two potential containment leakage paths.

We have concluded that this change is acceptable since the warmup valves are not needed for operation of any safety system and are not required to mitigate any accidents.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change in the installation or use of the facility components located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR 20. The staff has determined that this 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 this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding.

Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Sec 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 this amendment.

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 these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: March 25, 1988

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR:

J. Neighbors

