



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 14 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-6  
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2  
DOCKET NO. 50-410

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 8, 1990, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) requested changes to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Technical Specifications Section 6.2.2, Unit Staff. This section of Administrative Controls provides the staffing requirements during fuel movement and core alterations. The changes requested by the licensee will allow a Licensed Senior Operator Limited to Fuel Handling to supervise fuel handling activities and non-licensed operators to manipulate fuel handling equipment.

DISCUSSION

The current Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Technical Specifications Section 6.2.2f. requires that a Licensed Senior Operator be responsible for movement of new and irradiated fuel within the site boundary and that all core alterations be directly supervised by a Licensed Senior Operator. The Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50.54(m)(2)(iv), does not restrict the responsibility of core alterations supervisor to Senior Operators. It states that: "Each licensee shall have present, during alteration of the core of a nuclear power unit (including fuel loading or transfer), a person holding a senior operator license or a senior operator license limited to fuel handling to directly supervise the activity and, during this time, the licensee shall not assign other duties to this person."

The licensee's proposed revision to Technical Specification Section 6.2.2f. is consistent with 10 CFR Part 50.54. It would allow persons with senior operator license limited to fuel handling to supervise core alteration which includes fuel loading or transfer.

In addition, Nine Mile Point Unit 2 current Technical Specification Section 6.2.2f. states that a Licensed Operator will be required to manipulate the controls of all fuel handling equipment except movement of new fuel from receipt through dry storage.

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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.

Dated: May 7, 1990

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Ronald B. Eaton

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The licensee's proposed deletion of this requirement would allow non-licensed operators to operate fuel handling equipment. The Code of Federal Regulation, Part 55.13(b), General Exemptions, states that the regulations do not require a license for an individual who, under the direction and in the presence of a licensed senior operator, manipulates the controls of a facility to load or unload the fuel into, out of, or within the reactor vessel.

The licensee proposed revision to Technical Specification Section 6.2.2f. is consistent with 10 CFR Part 55.13(b). It would allow operation of fuel handling equipment by non-licensed operators.

Table 6.2.2-1 Note (e), Minimum Shift Crew Composition, will be revised accordingly to be consistent with the changes made in Section 6.2.2f.

A typographical error in Section 6.2.2-1 Note (b) will also be corrected. An extraneous to will be removed in the following sentence: This provision does not permit any shift crew position to be unmanned upon shift change because to an oncoming shift crewman scheduled to come on duty is late or absent.

#### SUMMARY

Nine Mile Point 2 Technical Specifications Section 6.2.2 requirements are more restrictive than the Standard Technical Specifications or Technical Specifications of operating Boiling Water Reactors with similar fuel handling equipment.

The changes proposed by the licensee would correct this discrepancy and be consistent with the Code of Federal Regulations. The staff has reviewed the proposed changes for Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Technical Specification Section 6.2.2 and found these changes acceptable.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves only changes in administrative procedure and requirements. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Section 51.22(c)(10). 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.



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