

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-220NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an extension to two exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1, located at the licensee's site in Oswego County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

By letter dated December 12, 1991, the licensee requested extensions for two schedular exemptions previously granted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a) from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, regarding (1) leak testing of the emergency condenser condensate return line valves 39-03, -04, -05, and -06; (2) leak testing of the shutdown cooling system isolation valves 38-01, -02, -12, and -13; and (3) that the leakage of these valves be included in the 0.60 La acceptance criteria for Type B and C tests. The previously granted exemptions were issued by letters dated October 17, 1988, and August 29, 1989. Both of these previously granted schedular exemptions are valid until startup from the next (1992) refueling outage. The licensee has requested that the proposed extensions be valid until startup from the 1994 refueling outage.



The exemptions issued on October 17, 1988, and August 29, 1989, were requested and granted after the NRC staff determined that although the subject valves were required to be leak tested in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, additional time was required to perform the modifications required to perform the leak testing and to possibly obtain and install replacement valves. At the time these exemptions were issued, the licensee anticipated that the required modifications would be performed during the next (1992) refueling outage. However, the licensee has recently revised its plans for the 1992 and 1994 refueling outages. The licensee states that during the 1992 refueling outage, it will emphasize electrical work and that during the 1994 refueling outage, it will emphasize mechanical work. The licensee further states that by emphasizing the different types of activities during these refueling outages, the complexity of both outages will be reduced thereby reducing the potential for human errors. Additionally, the 1994 refueling outage is expected to include a chemical decontamination of the reactor coolant system which is expected to reduce the occupational exposures associated with the Appendix J modifications by approximately 100 person-rem. Such a decontamination is not planned for the 1992 refueling outage. Therefore, the licensee has proposed to delay these Appendix J modifications until the 1994 refueling outage and has requested that the previously-approved exemptions be extended until startup from the 1994 outage.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed extension to the previously granted schedular exemptions is required to permit the licensee to startup and operate the plant following the



next (1992) refueling outage. Delaying the required modifications until the 1994 refueling outage is expected to reduce the occupational exposures associated with the required modifications by approximately 100 person-rem. Without this extension to the previously-granted schedular exemptions, restart and operation of this plant after its 1992 refueling outage would be delayed until the necessary modifications and testing were completed.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed extension to the previously-granted exemption would allow the licensee to continue to operate the plant until the emergency condenser condensate return line valves and the shutdown cooling isolation valves are modified during the 1994 refueling outage so that these valves can be leak tested in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J.

The environmental effects of a design basis loss-of-coolant accident involving emergency condenser tubing with the condensate return line valves leaking excess of the Appendix J limits were evaluated in the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (53 FR 37376) issued in conjunction with the October 17, 1988, exemption. That assessment concluded that there would be no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the October 17, 1988, exemption. Likewise, the environmental effects of leakage past the shutdown cooling system isolation valves in excess of the Appendix J limits (during normal operation, shutdown, and accident conditions) were evaluated in the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (54 FR 26279)



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issued in conjunction with the August 29, 1989, exemption. That assessment also concluded that there would be no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the August 29, 1989, exemption. The proposed extensions of these exemptions will not change the environmental effects (determined to be not significant) of excessive leakage past these valves. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed extensions to these exemptions.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

The NRC staff has concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed extension of these exemptions. Therefore, alternatives to the proposed extension of these exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested extension of these exemptions. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 operations and would result in unwarranted delays in plant startup and operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

These actions associated with the granting of the proposed extension to these exemptions as detailed above do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1," dated January 1974.



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Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's submittal that supports the proposed extensions to these exemptions discussed above. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed extension to these exemptions.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the extension to these exemptions as listed herein, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the Penfield Library, State University College, Oswego, New York 13126.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of January 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Robert A. Capra

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation



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Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13211

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT FOR NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO.
M82276)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental
Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." This notice relates to your
application dated December 12, 1991, in which you requested an extension to
the scheduler exemptions granted in the Commission's letters dated October 17,
1988, and August 29, 1989, regarding relief from certain requirements in
10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J.

This notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:

See next page

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Docket File (50-220)

PDI1 Reading

J. Calvo

C. Vogan

OGC

ACRS (10)

Nine Mile Plant File

NRC & Local PDRs

S. Varga

R. Capra

D. Brinkman

E. Jordan

GPA/PA

CCowgill, Region I

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