



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 30 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-410

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 21, 1991, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would modify the TS to require isolation of the offgas system as part of the 18-month channel calibration for the Noble Gas Activity Monitor. With this amendment, actual isolation of the offgas flowpath would not be required during performance of the monthly functional test. The licensee indicated in the January 21, 1991, submittal that inadvertent isolation of the condenser offgas system could occur with the potential for an inadvertent turbine trip. Consequently, unnecessary challenges to plant safety systems could occur.

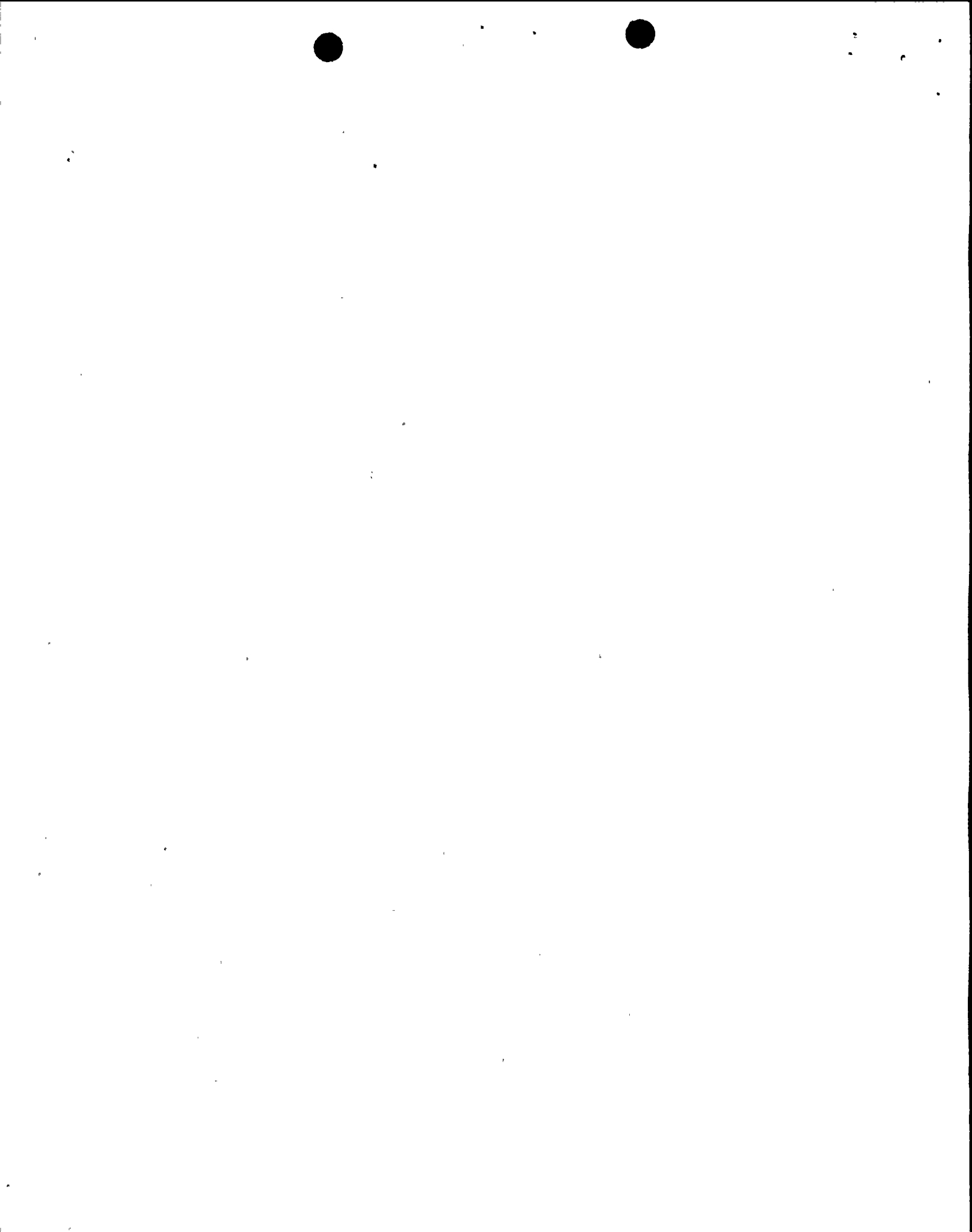
In addition to changes related to the channel functional testing of the condenser offgas system, the licensee has also proposed revisions to Table 3.3.7.10-1, "Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation," to reflect the as-built configuration of the noble gas activity monitoring instrumentation.

2.0 EVALUATION

The offgas monitors provide monitoring capability in accordance with 10 CFR Part 20 and provides isolation for this release pathway to prevent exceeding release rate limits as determined in the Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM). As part of the TS-required surveillance of these monitors, the licensee has been isolating the offgas system as part of the required monthly channel functional test.

However, isolating the condenser offgas during plant operation can result in a loss of condenser vacuum sufficient to cause a plant trip in a short period of time. Thus, testing of these monitors in this fashion could result in an unnecessary plant shutdown and unnecessary challenges to plant safety systems. The requested amendment would require the verification of the isolation capability of each of the two noble gas monitor channels (individually) rather than an actual isolation when performing the monthly channel functional test.

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The TS changes proposed by the licensee are consistent with those set forth in NUREG-0123, Revision 4, "Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for General Electric Boiling Water Reactors (BWR/5)." The STS require, for a channel functional test of these monitors, the verification of operability including the alarm and/or trip functions of the channels. However, the STS do not require actual isolations of the offgas system during the required monthly channel functional testing of these monitors. Consequently, we find these changes acceptable since they implement a previously reviewed and approved staff position.

In addition, the licensee has proposed that actual isolation of the offgas flowpath will occur when the instrument channels indicate measured levels above the trip setpoint as part of the channel calibration, which is performed at refueling outage intervals. The staff finds that the demonstration of pathway isolation is not appropriate during reactor operation (in view of the potential for unnecessary plant trips) and that performance of such a surveillance during a refueling outage is a preferable alternative.

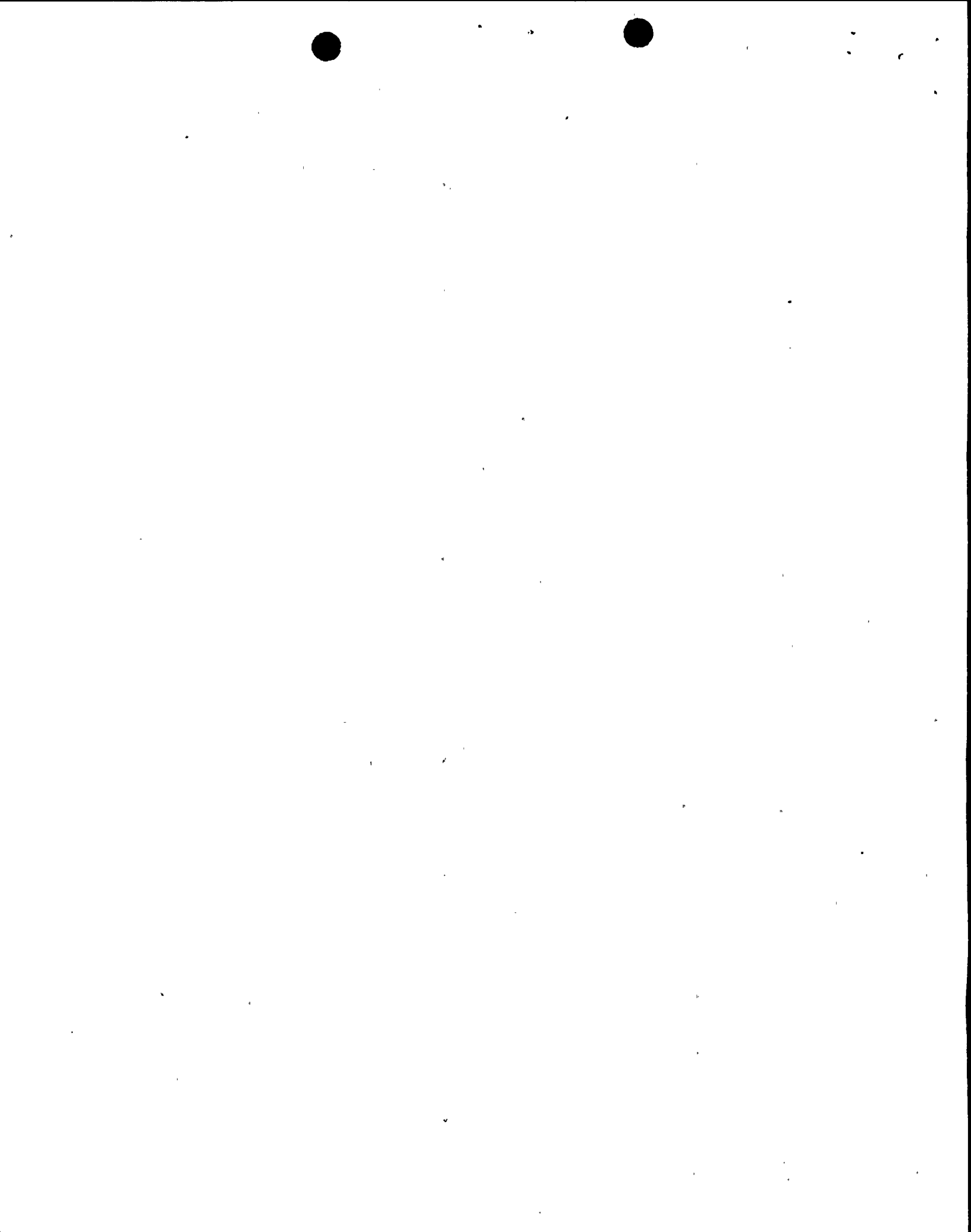
The additional changes proposed by the licensee involve a renumbering of certain Action Statements associated with Table 3.3.7.10-1 and a revision to the (currently numbered) Action Statement 136 to reflect the fact that the (condenser offgas) Noble Gas Activity Monitors are configured in a two-out-of-two logic. Consequently, the correct number of Minimum Required Operable Channels for the offgas system - Noble Gas Activity Monitor and Sample Flow-Rate Measuring Device is 2, vice the currently stated Table 3.3.7.10-1 value of 1. The licensee has proposed making the necessary changes, which we find acceptable.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation has also proposed revising Table 4.3.7.10-1 to note that the two channels of the Offgas System Noble Gas Monitors are to be tested independently so as to not initiate an isolation during operation. Finally, the licensee has proposed adding footnote (e) to Table 4.3.7.10-1 to specifically require demonstration of the automatic isolation of the condenser offgas flowpath when measured levels exceed the trip setpoint. We find that these changes are necessary to preclude the possibility of inadvertent trips from inadvertent offgas isolations while maintaining an appropriate level of surveillance. Consequently, we find these changes acceptable.

Based on the above, the staff finds that the Technical Specification changes proposed by the licensee in its January 21, 1991, request will provide suitable operability and surveillance requirements for the Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation. The proposed changes meet our criteria, are suitable for operation with the installed system; and are therefore acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New York State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

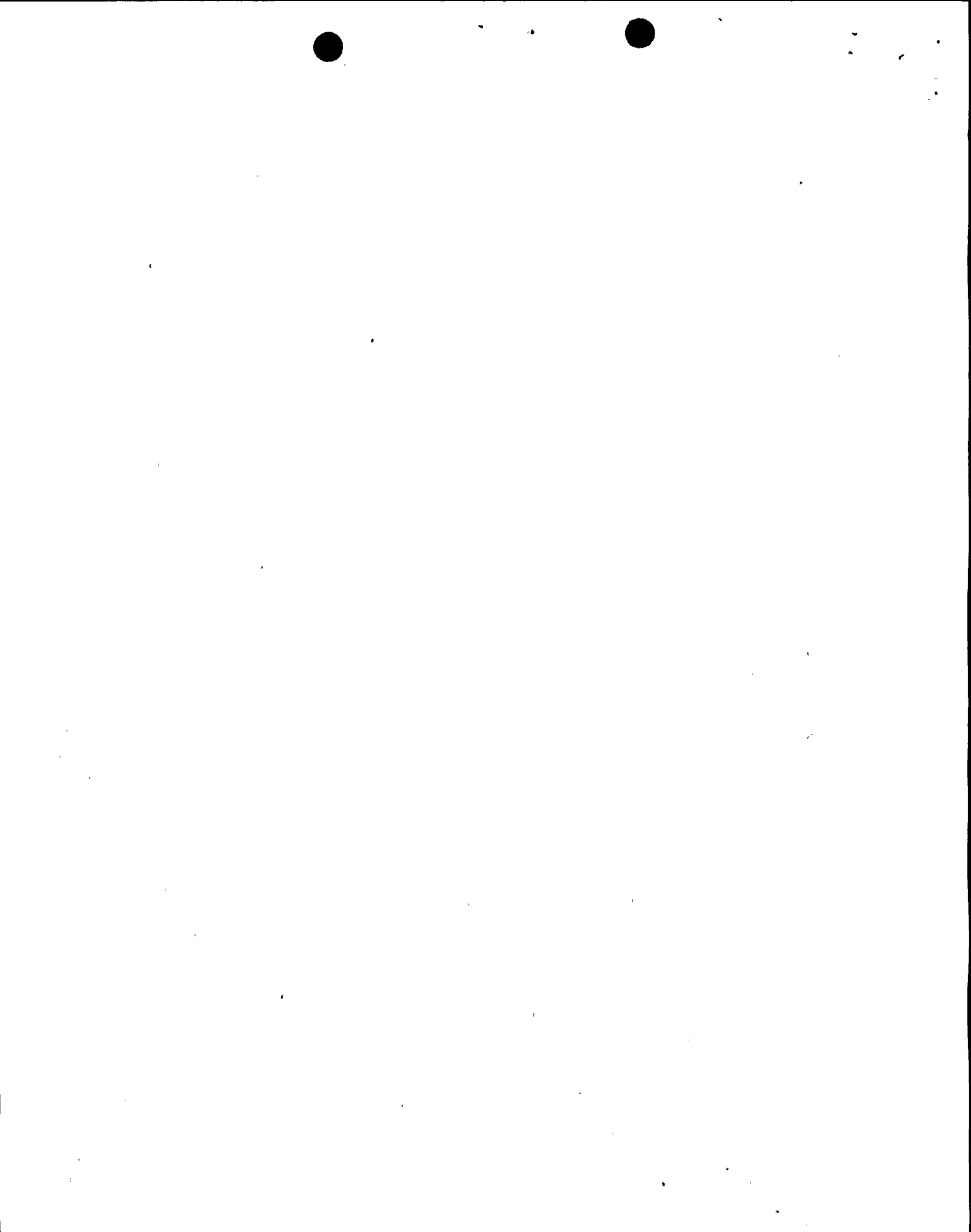
The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes the surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and 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 the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (56 FR 13665). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 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 the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has 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, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor:
K. Eccelston

Date: May 9, 1991 .



May 9, 1991

Docket No. 50-410

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President, Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT FOR NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION,
UNIT 2 (TAC NO. 79480)

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The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 30 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-69 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 2 (NMP-2). The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your application transmitted by letter dated January 21, 1991.

The amendment revises Technical Specification Table 4.3.7.10-1 to require isolation of the offgas system as part of the 18-month channel calibration for the noble gas activity monitor in lieu of the requirement to demonstrate actual isolation during the monthly functional test. This amendment also revises Technical Specification Table 3.3.7.10-1 to reflect the as-built configuration of the noble gas activity monitor instrumentation and makes an editorial change.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next regular biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
Donald S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 30 to NPF-69
- 2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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