



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 40 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 February 12, 1993, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC or the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, (NMP-2) Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would revise a footnote in TS Table 1.2, "Operational Conditions," and the Applicability statement of TS 3/4.9.1, "Reactor Mode Switch."

The TS currently permit withdrawal of a single control rod in the Hot or Cold Shutdown Conditions for the purpose of recoupling a control rod to its drive. This is done by placing the mode switch in the Refuel position, provided the one-rod-out interlock (which limits withdrawal to one rod) is operable. Permission for this withdrawal for recoupling is provided in a footnote to the Conditions 3 and 4 mode switch position requirement statements in TS Table 1.2. The licensee has proposed that the word "recoupled" in this footnote be replaced with "moved." This change would provide permission for the movement of a single control rod in those operational conditions for purposes other than recoupling, e.g., for post-scrum venting, friction testing, or scrum time testing.

There is currently no TS required surveillance related to the rod withdrawal for recoupling permitted for Conditions 3 and 4 in Table 1.2. The licensee proposes to augment the Applicability statement of TS 3/4.9.1 to include "Operational Conditions 3 and 4 when the reactor mode switch is in the Refuel position." This change would extend the applicability of the appropriate testing requirements for the one-rod-out interlock to Operational Conditions 3 and 4 when the reactor mode switch is in the Refuel position.

2.0 EVALUATION

The NRC staff has evaluated NMPC's submittal dated February 12, 1993, considering the factors that are discussed below.

The proposed change to TS Table 1.2 is similar to existing approved TS Table 1.2 specifications in other BWR reactors (e.g., Clinton, Grand Gulf, LaSalle, Perry, and River Bend). These were either in the initial TS or the result of approved changes similar to those proposed by NMPC.

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Since control rod movement is blocked when the mode switch is in the Shutdown position, movement of the switch to Refuel (or to Startup or Run) is necessary to move a rod for recoupling or any other purpose. When the mode switch is in the Refuel position, the redundant logic of the one-rod-out interlock limits rod movement to one rod. Because of the required shutdown margin with one control rod fully withdrawn, there is reasonable assurance that the reactor will remain subcritical with the mode switch in the Refuel position.

The proposed change to TS Table 1.2 does not change the current permission to withdraw a single control rod in Operational Conditions 3 and 4, but it does expand the permitted testing and maintenance activities for withdrawal. While this will increase the frequency of single control rod withdrawals in Operational Conditions 3 and 4, the probability of withdrawal events is not affected since these events would occur in Operational Conditions 1, 2, or 5.

Maintenance and testing on control rod drives are currently allowed for all BWRs in Operational Conditions 1 and 2 (Startup and Power Operation, respectively), where these activities are not under the control of the one-rod-out interlock, as well as in Operational Condition 5 (Refueling).

The proposed change to TS 3/4.9.1 provides appropriate surveillance of the one-rod-out interlock in Operational Conditions 3 and 4, as it currently does for Operational Condition 5.

The factors discussed above indicate that the proposed change to TS Table 1.2 is consistent with previous NRC staff approvals and existing TS for other BWR reactors, provides for needed maintenance and testing of rods, is not significantly different from currently permitted rod withdrawal operations, and does not increase the probability of a rod withdrawal event. The proposed change to TS 3/4.9.1 provides additional and appropriate surveillance requirements for rod withdrawal in Operational Conditions 3 and 4 not currently required for permitted withdrawals for control rod recoupling. Therefore, the staff concludes that the proposed changes to the NMP-2 TS are 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 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 (58 FR 16866). 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:
John E. Menning

Date: May 10, 1993



May 10, 1993

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. M85888)

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No.40 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-69 for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your application transmitted by letter dated February 12, 1993.

The amendment revises Technical Specifications (TS) Table 1.2, "Operational Conditions," and Section 3/4.9.1, "Reactor Mode Switch," to permit movement of a single control rod with the reactor in the Hot Shutdown or Cold Shutdown Conditions for post-maintenance and surveillance testing on control rod drives. The TS had previously permitted movement of a control rod in these operational conditions to recouple a control rod to its drive.

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:
John E. Menning, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 40 to NPF-69
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

OFFICE	PDI-1:LA	PDI-1:PM	SRXB	OGC/ASB	PDI-1:D
NAME	CVogan <i>CV</i>	JMenning <i>JM</i>	RJones <i>RJ</i>	R Bachmann	RACapra <i>RC</i>
DATE	4/20/93 <i>4/21</i>	4/21/93	4/26/93	4/29/93	5/10/93

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