



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 50 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By letter dated March 30, 1993, as superseded August 27, 1993, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee or NMPC) submitted a request for changes to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2), Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise TS 4.8.1.1.2.e and add a new TS 4.8.1.1.2.f to replace the requirement to perform a hot Loss of Off-Site Power (LOOP) test following the 24-hour full-power emergency diesel generator (EDG) run during shutdown with a requirement to perform a hot EDG restart test following a full-load EDG run of greater than two hours in any operational condition. The amendment would also reletter current TSs 4.8.1.1.2.f and g to accommodate the addition of the new TS 4.8.1.1.2.f.

The current TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.8 requires for each of the three EDGs the demonstration of EDG hot restart capability by initiating a LOOP test within 5 minutes of completing the 24-hour EDG run. The licensee has stated that the requirement to demonstrate hot restart capability in this manner creates significant scheduling demands during an outage and has proposed a new hot restart requirement. The proposed hot restart test would require verification that each EDG achieves the specified speed, voltage, and frequency in the required time after starting. The proposed hot restart test would be preceded by at least a 2-hour, full-load run and could be performed in any operational condition. The requirement of TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.4. to conduct a LOOP test from standby conditions at least once per 18 months during shutdown would be unaffected by the proposed changes.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has proposed to modify the TSs to delete the requirement of TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.8 to perform a LOOP test within 5 minutes of completing the 24-hour full-load run on each EDG. This testing is performed at least once per 18 months during shutdown. The licensee has stated that this requirement creates significant scheduling demands during outages by reducing scheduling flexibility and imposing unnecessary operational burdens without a corresponding increase in EDG reliability. NMPC has proposed a different method of demonstrating EDG hot restart capability. Specifically, hot restart capability would be demonstrated at least once per 18 months in any operational condition by starting each EDG and verifying that it achieves the

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specified speed, voltage, and frequency in the required time. Each hot restart test would be performed within 5 minutes of completing a 2-hour, full-load EDG run in order to assure that normal operating temperature conditions have been achieved prior to demonstrating hot restart capability. The EDG manufacturers have indicated that 2-hour, full-load runs will achieve normal operating temperatures.

NMPC has proposed to add the new hot restart test requirement as TS 4.8.1.1.2.f. The addition of this new requirement would require the relettering of existing TSs 4.8.1.1.2.f and g.

The NRC staff has concluded that the primary purpose of the existing requirement to perform a LOOP test within 5 minutes of completing the 24-hour, full-power EDG run is to demonstrate the ability of each EDG to restart shortly after being shutdown following prolonged operation at or near full power (hot restart). Requiring a LOOP test in conjunction with a hot restart imposes a strain on multiple systems/components without measurable benefit. The staff has also concluded that demonstration of hot restart capability within 5 minutes of completing a 2-hour, full-power run is appropriate and consistent with NUREG-1434, "Standard Technical Specification - General Electric Plants, BWR/6." Based on these considerations, the staff has determined that the TS changes proposed by the licensee 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 25860) and (58 FR 48385). 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.



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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: October 18, 1993

