



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 59 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 August 26, 1994, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC or the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise the Action statements for TS 3.6.1.3, "Primary Containment Air Locks," to allow continued plant operation if the containment air lock interlock mechanism becomes inoperable, provided an operable door of the air lock is locked shut and is verified locked shut at least once per 31 days.

2.0 EVALUATION

The primary containment air locks are provided with two doors each. One OPERABLE and closed door in each air lock provides containment integrity. The two doors of each air lock are mechanically interlocked so that if one door is open, the other door cannot be opened.

TS 3.6.1.3 currently permits plant operation to continue if one door of an air lock is inoperable provided the other door is OPERABLE and is locked closed. This has been determined acceptable since the closed door provides containment integrity. However, if the air lock is otherwise inoperable (including an inoperable interlock mechanism), TS 3.6.1.3 currently requires the air lock to be restored to an OPERABLE status within 24 hours or the plant must be in COLD SHUTDOWN within the next 36 hours. This requirement could cause an unnecessary plant shutdown if only the interlock mechanism was inoperable but containment integrity was being maintained by an air lock door that is closed. Therefore, the licensee has proposed the subject amendment which would permit plant operation to continue provided an OPERABLE door is locked closed within 24 hours and verified locked closed at least once per 31 days.

We have reviewed the proposed amendment and have determined that it is acceptable since it provides assurance that containment integrity will be maintained if the air lock interlock mechanism is inoperable and is consistent with similar provisions for an inoperable air lock door and with the NRC's Improved Standard Technical Specifications (NUREG-1433).



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. 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 (59 FR 49431). 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.

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