

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-410

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION - UNIT 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from Facility Operating License No. NPF-69, issued to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2) located in Oswego County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to address potential environmental issues related to the licensee's application of March 9, 1995. The proposed action would exempt the licensee from: 1) the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.1.(a), to permit a one-time interval extension between the first and second Type A test (containment integrated leak rate test) for approximately 24 months from the 1995 refueling outage to the 1997 refueling outage.

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The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to permit the licensee to defer the Type A test from the 1995 refueling outage to the 1997 refueling outage, thereby deferring the cost of performing the tests and eliminating the time required to perform the test from the critical path schedule during the upcoming spring 1995 refueling outage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the one-time interval extension between the first and second Type A tests would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed exemptions would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents. The licensee has analyzed the results of previous Type A tests performed at NMP-2 to show good containment performance and will continue to be required to conduct the Type B and C local leak rate tests which historically have been shown to be the principal means of detecting containment leakage paths with the Type A tests confirming the Type B and C test results. It is also noted that the licensee, as a condition of the proposed exemption, will perform the visual containment inspection although it is only required by Appendix J to be conducted in conjunction with Type A tests. The NRC staff considers that these inspections, though limited in scope, provide an important added level of confidence in the continued integrity of the containment boundary. The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and



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radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, the NRC staff consulted with the New York State official regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 9, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Reference and Documents Department, Penfield Library, State University of New York, Oswego, New York 13126.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of March 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Ledyard B. Marsh, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation



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