



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 78 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 application dated July 12, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Company (the licensee) requested an amendment to Technical Specification 6.2.2.i for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). The proposed amendment would revise the specification for the normal working hours of unit staff who perform safety-related functions from "a normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week" to "an 8 to 12 hour day, nominal 40-hour week." The change, in effect, would enable the licensee to establish unit staff work schedules that average 40 hours per week using shifts as long as 12 hours.

2.0 EVALUATION

The NRC staff has previously approved the use of 12-hour shifts at other U.S. commercial nuclear power plants and has found no evidence of adverse effects on plant safety resulting from the use of such shifts. All other existing provisions of NMP2 TS 6.2.2 (e.g., concerning consecutive hours of work, overtime, and breaks) remain unchanged. Thus, the proposed change does not alter the intent of the existing specification with respect to the number of hours that should normally be worked per week and NMP2 TS 6.2.2 will continue to provide adequate assurance that routine heavy use of overtime will not be necessary to provide adequate shift coverage.

The NRC staff finds the proposed change to be consistent with Section 5.2.2.e of NUREG-1433, Rev. 1, "Standard Technical Specifications, General Electric Plants, BWR/4" which provides licensees the option of specifying either an 8-hour or a 12-hour shift. Although the licensee has proposed to specify a range ("8 to 12 hour day") rather than a specific shift length, the NRC staff has no safety concern with the proposed specification that affords the licensee the flexibility to establish shift lengths within the 8-hour to 12-hour range.

The proposed amendment is consistent with current licensing practices and operating experience. The revised shift working hours remain within limits demonstrated acceptable by operating experience. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed change to Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Technical Specification 6.2.2.i is acceptable.



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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

This amendment changes recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this 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 Contributors: D. Desaulniers
D. Hood

Date: December 12, 1996



DATED: December 12, 1996

AMENDMENT NO. 78 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69-NINE MILE POINT
UNIT 2

Docket File

PUBLIC

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