



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 158 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-220

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated July 12, 1996, as supplemented October 30, 1996, Niagara Mohawk Power Company (the licensee) requested an amendment to Technical Specification 6.2.2.h for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (NMP1). 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.

The licensee also requested a change to TS 6.2.2.i. TS 6.2.2.i presently states that the General Supervisor Operations, Supervisor Operations, Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear, and Assistant Station Shift Supervisor Nuclear shall each hold senior reactor operator licenses. The proposed change would replace the references to "General Supervisor Operations" and "Supervisor Operations" with a single position, Manager Operations.

The licensee's submittal of October 30, 1996, provided additional information in support of the request to change TS 6.2.2.i, and did not affect the NRC's finding of no significant hazards consideration.

2.0 EVALUATION

2.1 Unit Staff Work Schedules

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 NMP1 TS 6.2.2.h (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 NMP1 TS 6.2.2.h will continue to provide adequate assurance that routine heavy use of overtime will not be necessary to provide adequate shift coverage.



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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 1 Technical Specification 6.2.2.h is acceptable.

2.2 Organizational Change

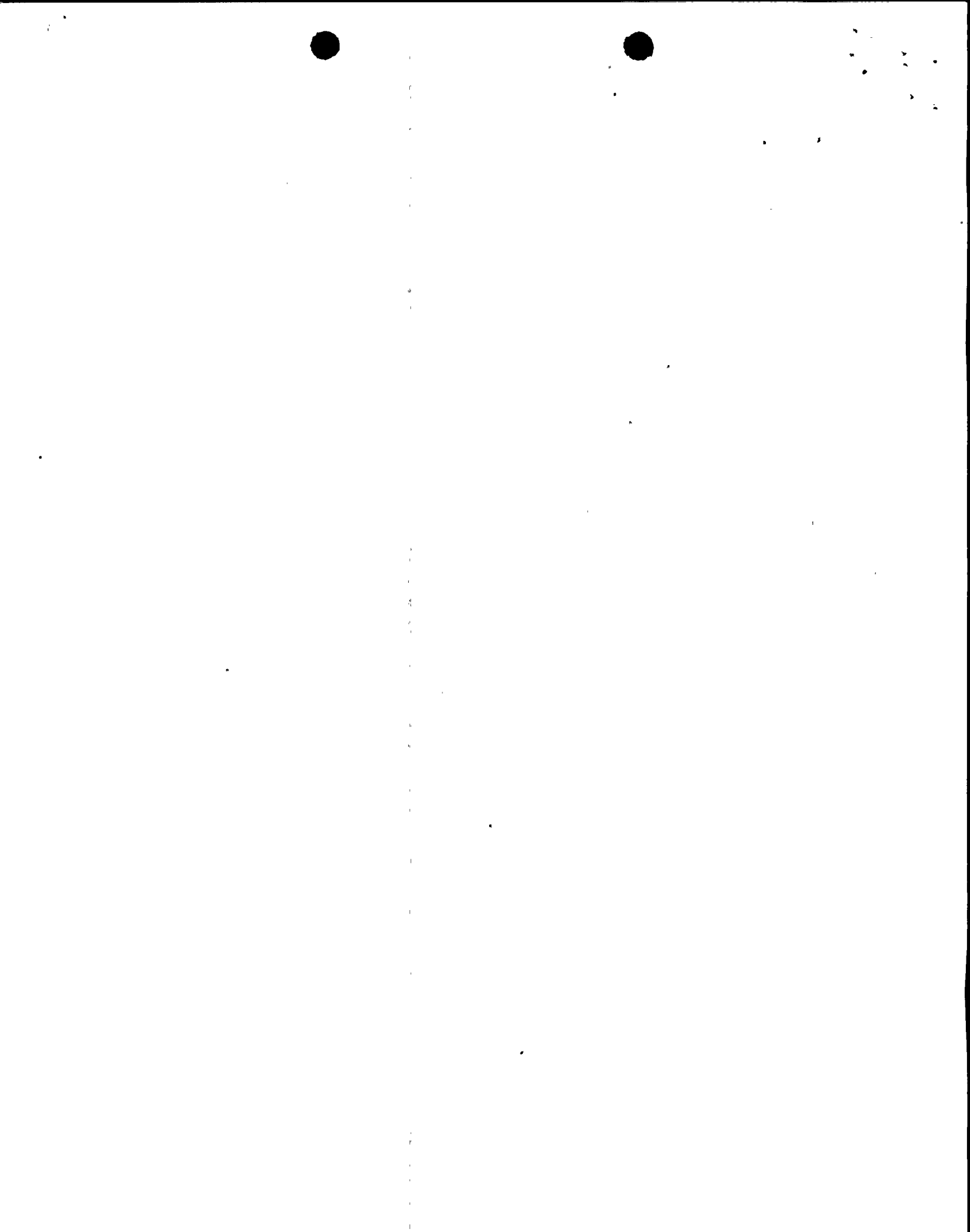
The licensee proposes to remove the positions of General Supervisor Operations and Supervisor Operations from the NMP1 Operations management structure. The responsibilities of the two eliminated positions will be incorporated into the position of Manager Operations or delegated to off-shift Senior Reactor Operators. The change reduces layers of management in the Operations organization and allows a direct interface between the Manager Operations and the rest of the Operations Department.

As stated in the licensee's letter of October 30, 1996, the Manager Operations will retain overall authority and responsibility for the oversight of NMP1 operations. Instructions and expectations for day-to-day plant operations will be communicated directly to the on-shift Station Shift Supervisors by the Manager Operations. This is consistent with criteria in Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800), Section 13.1.II.B.4, which require clear management control and effective lines of communication between the organizational units involved in the management, operation, and technical support for the operation of a nuclear facility. The requirement for the Manager Operations to hold a senior reactor operator's license is consistent with the criteria established by ANSI N18.1-1971, "Selection and Training of Nuclear Power Plant Personnel."

Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed amendment to be consistent with current licensing practices and the relevant review criteria. The NRC staff concludes that the proposed change to NMP1 TS 6.2.2.i is 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

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.

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Date: December 12, 1996

