



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

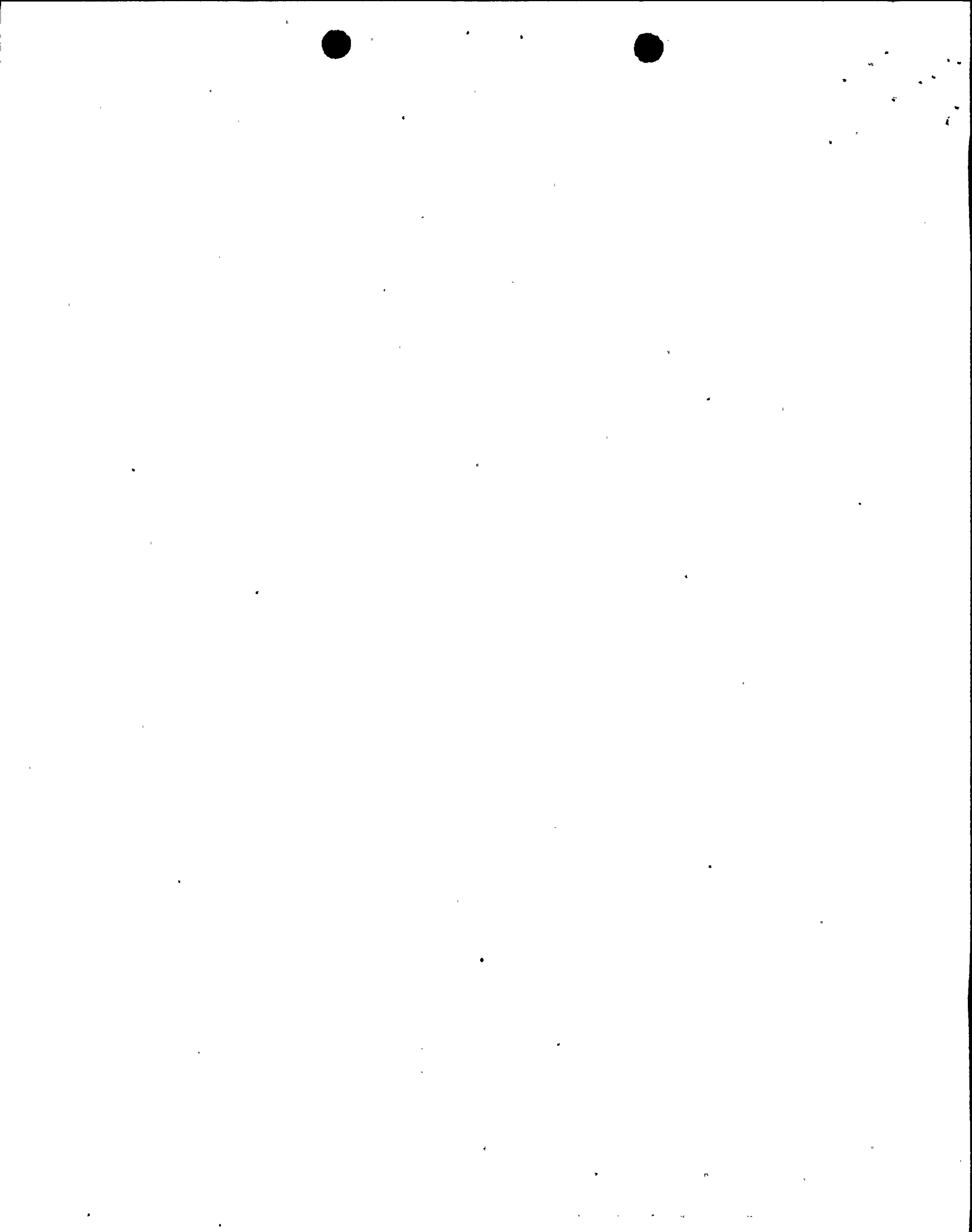
SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO.160 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63  
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-220

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 16, 1997, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted a license amendment request for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (NMP1), to change Technical Specification (TS) 6.2.2i to reflect a proposed organizational change to unit staff. The proposed TS change would reflect the reestablishment of the position of General Supervisor Operations (GSO), a position NMPC had eliminated in December 1996 during the implementation of Amendment No. 158. Following initial NRC staff review and subsequent discussions with NMPC regarding the May 16, 1997, submittal, NMPC provided a new submittal on October 21, 1997, that superseded the May 16, 1997, submittal in its entirety. The October 21, 1997, submittal included changes to TS 6.3.1 that were not included in the May 16, 1997, submittal. The proposed changes would no longer require the Operations Manager to hold a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) license at the time of initial appointment to the position and would allow either the Operations Manager or the GSO to hold a license to meet the requirement of 10 CFR 50.54(l) that the licensee "designate individuals to be responsible for directing the licensed activities of licensed operators. These individuals shall be licensed as senior operators...." On February 3, 1998, NMPC supplemented the application to add a sentence to TS 6.2.2i stating that "Only licensed individuals may direct licensed activities."

The February 3, 1998, letter provided supplemental information in support of the October 21, 1997, application for amendment and does not affect the Commission's finding of no significant hazards consideration or expand the scope of the original Federal Register notice (62 FR 59919, November 5, 1997).



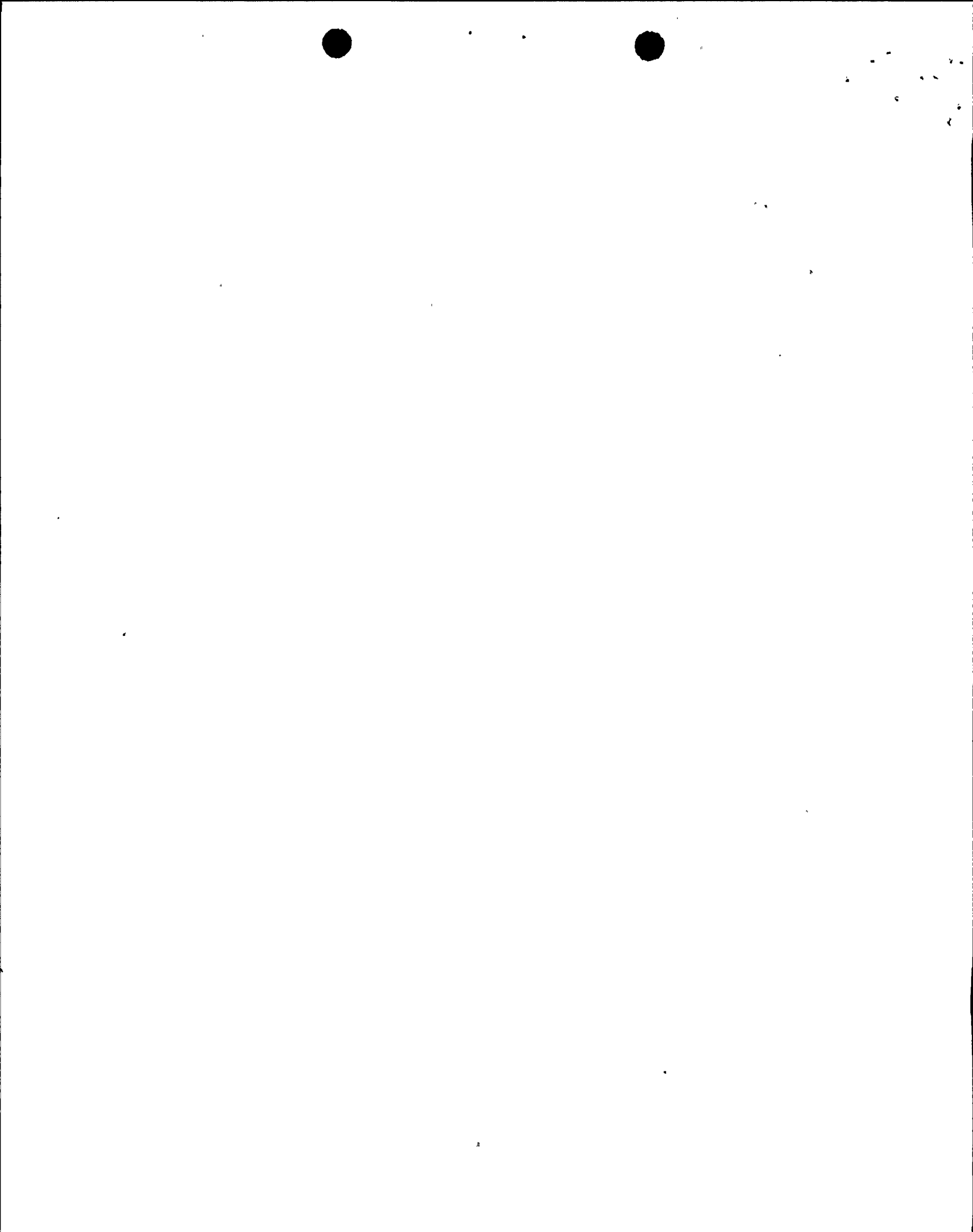
## 2.0 EVALUATION

The description of the GSO position contained in the October 21, 1997, submittal indicates that the position is equivalent to an "Operations Middle Manager" as defined in American National Standard Institute (ANSI)/ANS standards. However, NMPC states that the GSO will meet the same minimum education and experience requirements as the Operations Manager as specified in ANSI N18.1-1971, "Selection and Training of Nuclear Power Plant Personnel." Further, NMPC states in its submittal that the GSO will meet the requirements of having an SRO license at the time of appointment.

NMPC proposes to revise its commitment to the ANSI requirements contained in TS 6.3.1 by adding an exception for the position of Operations Manager. NMPC's commitment to ANSI N18.1-1971 currently requires the Operations Manager to hold an SRO license at the time of appointment to the active position. The proposed exception would allow the Operations Manager, in lieu of meeting the ANSI N18.1 requirement of holding an SRO license, to (1) hold an SRO license at the time of appointment, or (2) have held a license at NMP1 or a similar unit, or (3) have been certified for equivalent SRO knowledge. This approach is supported by ANSI/ANS 3.1-1987 and 3.1-1993, "American National Standards for Selection and Training of Nuclear Power Plant Personnel," which allow individuals to be appointed to the position of Operations Manager based on the options proposed by NMPC for TS 6.3.1. These 1987 and 1993 standards further state that if the Operation Manager does not hold a license, then the Operations Middle Manager shall hold an SRO license. NMPC's proposed change to TS 6.2.2i reflects the requirement that one of the positions must hold a license.

10 CFR 50.54(l) requires that the individuals designated by a licensee to direct the licensed activities of licensed operators shall be licensed as senior operators. Consistent with this regulation, NMPC supplemented the application by letter dated February 3, 1998, to add a sentence to the end of TS 6.2.2i stating that "Only licensed individuals may direct licensed activities."

Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that proposed TS 6.2.2i, requiring that either the Operations Manager or the GSO hold a NMP1 SRO license, is consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(l) and ensures that a licensed off-shift senior operator will direct the licensed activities of the licensed operators. Further, requiring an ANSI/ANS qualified and licensed GSO when the Operations Manager does not hold an NMP1 SRO license is consistent with the requirements of ANSI N18.1-1971 and ensures there is site-specific, detailed, and relevant knowledge of technical and systems aspects in a senior operations management position. The NRC staff concludes that the proposed changes to NMP1 TS 6.2.2i and 6.3.1, re-establishing the position of GSO and modifying the commitment to ANSI N18.1-1971 for the Operations Manager, is consistent with and meets the intent of the relevant review criteria and is, therefore, 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.

Principal Contributors: M. Biamonte  
D. Hood

Date: February 19, 1998



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DATED: February 19, 1998

AMENDMENT NO160 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-63-NINE MILE POINT  
NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT NO. 1

Docket File

PUBLIC

PDI-1 R/F

J. Zwolinski

S. Bajwa

S. Little

D. Hood

R. Eckenrode

R. Pelton

OGC

ACRS

M. Biamonte

L. Doerflein, Region I

cc: Plant Service list

