



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 79 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-69

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION  
NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-410

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 31, 1997, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC or the licensee) requested a license amendment to change the Technical Specifications (TSs) for Nine Mile Point, Unit 2 (NMP2). The proposed change would revise Action Statement 36 of TS Table 3.3.3-1, "Emergency Core Cooling System Actuation Instrumentation," so as to include actions to be taken if more than one channel per trip function should be inoperable in the high-pressure core spray (HPCS) drywell pressure and reactor water level instrumentation. Presently, Action 36 only addresses actions for the plant condition of having one channel per trip function inoperable. Specifically, Action 36 would be changed to require that, with the number of operable channels less than required by the minimum operable channels per trip function requirement, then (1) with one channel inoperable, the inoperable channel is to be placed in the tripped condition within 24 hours or the HPCS system is to be declared inoperable, and (2) with more than one channel inoperable, the HPCS system is to be declared inoperable.

The effect of this change is to allow the licensee to declare the HPCS system inoperable when more than one channel is inoperable, and thereby allow entry into a specified TS action statement, rather than entering TS 3.0.3.

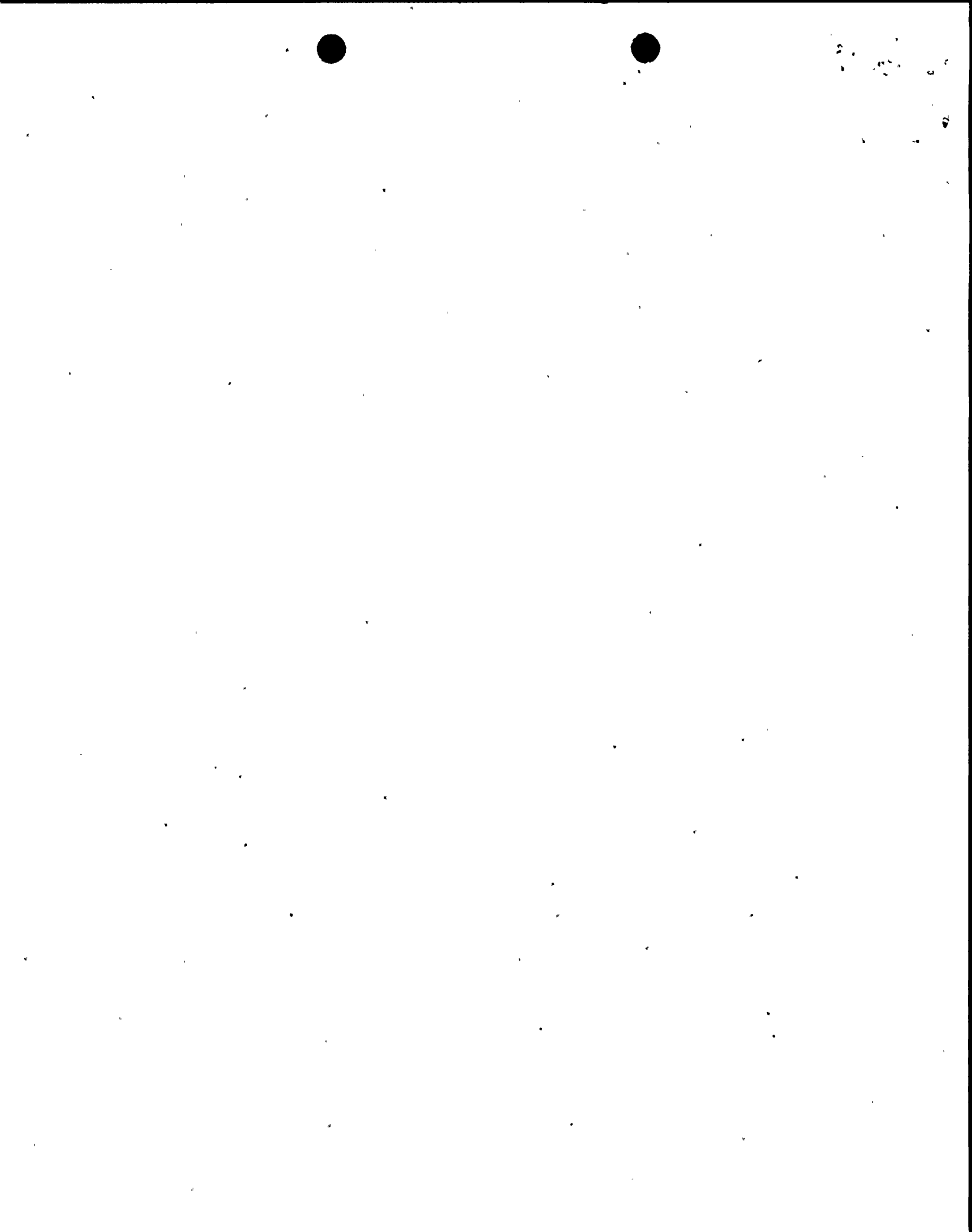
2.0 EVALUATION

The current TS Table 3.3.3-1, Action 36, does not address plant conditions when more channels than the required minimum operable channels per trip function are inoperable. Accordingly, instead of declaring HPCS inoperable, the licensee is required to shut down in accordance with TS 3.0.3.

The proposed changes to TS Table 3.3.3-1, Action 36, allow the licensee to declare HPCS inoperable during plant conditions when more than one HPCS instrumentation channel per trip function is inoperable. Declaring HPCS inoperable because of inoperable initiating instrumentation is consistent with TS actions that declare HPCS inoperable for other equipment failures within the system. The revised Action 36 allows the licensee to follow the appropriate TS for HPCS inoperability instead of following TS 3.0.3.

Accordingly, the staff concludes that the changes are appropriate and acceptable because they (1) prevent unnecessary plant shutdowns as presently required by TS 3.0.3, by allowing the licensee to declare the HPCS system inoperable when more than one channel per trip function of HPCS drywell pressure and reactor water level instrumentation is inoperable, and (2) provide consistency in the Emergency Core Cooling System instrumentation and system TS actions when less than the minimum required channels are operable.

9803230160 980316  
PDR ADOCK 05000410  
P PDR



### **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 effluent 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 (62 FR 45460). 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.

Principal Contributors: M. Waterman  
D. Hood

Date: March 16, 1998

