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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 84 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 February 5, 1998, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensee), proposed a license amendment to change the Technical Specifications (TS) for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). The proposed changes would update the terminology and references to 10 CFR 50.55a(f) and (g) consistent with the 1989 edition of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code).

Specifically, TS 4.0.5 would be changed to reference 10 CFR 50.55a(f) for the inservice testing (IST) Program and 10 CFR 50.55a(g) for the inservice inspection (ISI) Program. Changes to TS Table 4.3.7.5-1 and TS 4.4.3.2.2 would replace the references to ASME Section XI with references to criteria in the IST Program. Changes to TS 3.4.9.1 and 3.4.9.2 would add the phrase "system leakage" to notes that identify testing conditions when the shutdown cooling mode loop may be removed from service. Changes to TS 4.8.1.1.2.h.2 would correct a typographical error for which a reference to ASME Code Section II should refer to Section XI. Appropriate changes would be made to the TS index. Editorial changes to several other TS (i.e., TS 3/4.4.6.1, TS Figure 3.4.6.1-1, TS 3/4.10.7, TS Bases 3/4.4.6, TS Bases 3/4.10.7, and TS Table 5.7.1-1) would make references to "hydrostatic testing" and "leak testing" conform to the terminology to be used in the second 10-year ISI/IST Programs.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has proposed changes to the TS to provide for consistency between (1) the NMP2 TS, (2) the second 10-year interval of the ISI and IST Program Plans for NMP2, and (3) the requirement of 10 CFR 50.55a that the ISI/IST activities conducted during successive 10-year intervals comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code that was in effect 12 months before the start of the 10-year interval. The second 10-year ISI/IST interval for NMP2 began on April 5, 1998. The effective edition of the ASME Code for this second interval is the 1989 edition. The 1989 edition uses some terminology that differs from the terminology used by the 1983 edition to the ASME Code--the edition upon which the existing TS is based. Therefore, changes are proposed to make the TS terminology consistent with the terminology of the 1989 edition, rather than the 1983 edition of the ASME Code.

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The NMP2 programs for the second 10-year interval are written to address the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(f), "Inservice testing requirements," and 10 CFR 50.55a (g), "Inservice inspection requirements." Changes to TS 4.0.5 are proposed to reflect these changes in the applicable regulations. The NRC staff agrees that these regulations are the appropriate bases for the NMP2 programs and, therefore, finds these changes to TS 4.0.5 acceptable.

The proposed changes to TS Table 4.3.7.5-1 and TS 4.4.3.2.2 replace references to ASME Code Section XI with references to criteria in the IST Program. As previously noted, the IST Program for the second 10-year interval is based on Section XI of the 1989 edition of the ASME Code. Therefore, the NRC staff finds these changes to be appropriate and acceptable.

The proposed changes to TS 3.4.9.1 and 3.4.9.2 add the phrase "system leakage" to notes that identify testing conditions when the shutdown cooling mode loop may be removed from service. The proposed changes do not change the test conditions or frequency. The proposed changes are consistent with Section XI Code Case N-416-1, dated February 15, 1994, entitled "Alternative Pressure Test Requirement for Welded Repairs or Installation of Replacement Items by Welding Class 1, 2, and 3, Section XI, Division 1" and Section XI Code Case N-498-1, dated May 11, 1994, entitled "Alternative rules for 10-Year System Hydrostatic Testing for Class 1, 2, and 3 Systems." These two code cases allow a licensee to perform a system leakage test at nominal operating pressure in lieu of a hydrostatic test. The NRC staff has authorized use of Code Cases N-416-1 and N-498-1 at NMP2 by letters dated October 18, 1994, and January 13, 1995, respecitvely. Therefore, the NRC staff finds these changes to be acceptable.

The licensee proposes a change to TS 4.8.1.1.2.h.2 to correct an erroneous reference to "ASME Code Section II" which should have referred to "ASME Code Section XI." The NRC staff finds that Section XI is the appropriate reference and, therefore, finds this correction to be acceptable.

The licensee proposes several changes to terminology to make the references to "hydrostatic testing" and "leak testing" conform with the terminology used in the second 10-year ISI/IST program. The NRC staff finds these changes to be of an editorial nature which does not change the substance of the TS requirement. Similarly, the proposed changes to the TS index are of an editorial nature. These changes are, therefore, acceptable.

The NRC staff finds that each of the proposed changes are of a clarifying nature which do not alter the substance of the TS requirement and are consistent with regulatory requirements in 10 CFR 50.55a. Rather, the changes substitute terminology and references, or make corrections, that are appropriate and consistent with the ISI/IST Program Plans for the second 10-year interval.

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 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents 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 (63 FR 11920). 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 Contributor: D. Hood

Date: December 3, 1998