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NOV 10 1980

Docket No. 50-410

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert L. Tedesco, Assistant Director for Licensing, DOL

FROM: Paul S. Check, Assistant Director for Plant Systems, DSI

SUBJECT: NINE MILE POINT UNIT 2 MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVES

The Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Project Manager, Ken Kiper, requested the Auxiliary Systems Branch to provide an input for use in responding to Niagara Mohawk's letter of September 8, 1980. In that letter the applicant referenced their earlier letter of April 3, 1979, in which it was proposed that, for Unit 2, a 24-inch ball valve be used for main steam isolation. The 24-inch ball valve is designed and manufactured by the Gulf and Western Manufacturing Company.

In their September 8, 1980 letter, Niagara Mohawk stated that no main steam isolation valve leakage control system is necessary with the Gulf and Western valve. The applicant requested that the staff review Gulf and Western's Topical Report, "Main Steam Valve No. G&W - GSD 2538" by December 31, 1980, inoorder to allow them to maintain their engineering and construction schedule.

Regarding the Gulf and Western topical report, the Equipment Qualification Branch has the lead responsibility for that review. We have discussed the review with Z. Rosztoczy, and he indicated that his branch is already committed until next spring on more urgent matters. Therefore, the topical report cannot be reviewed on a schedule which would be compatible with the applicant's request.

With regards to the applicant's eliminating the leakage control system, Regulatory Guide 1.96 Revision 1, "Design of Main Steam Isolation Valve Leakage Control Systems for Boiling Water Reactor Nuclear Power Plants," lists Nine Mile 2 as a Section D.2 plants. Section D.2 recommends (assuming that standards MSIVs will be installed) that applicants install a supplemental leakage control system. Niagara Mohawk's argument for the leakage control system not being needed is that the Gulf and Western valve provides a positive seal utilizing "unique dual floating seat."

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After reviewing Niagara Mohawk's requests, we see no problem with the applicant proceeding with the procurement and installation of the Gulf and Western valves. We believe that the integrity of the valves can be ascertained by strict inservice inspection and testing requirements. The leakage requirements should be checked with the same frequency as with a leakage control system. If the leakage requirements are exceeded or if our later review of the topical report discloses problems, then the valves may require repair, modification or replacement. Further, the applicant should be advised to reserve space and containment penetrations should the addition of a leakage control system become necessary.

original signed by
Paul S. Check

Paul S. Check, Assistant Director
for Plant Systems
Division of Systems Integration

cc: D. Ross
D. Eisenhut
B. Youngblood
Z. Rosztoczy
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