



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 14, 1999

50-410

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, Second Floor
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST RR-RI-ISI-1 FOR THE SECOND TEN-YEAR INTERVAL
INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN, NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR
STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. MA6470)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

By letter dated September 15, 1999, as supplemented December 3, 1999, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC and the licensee) submitted Relief Request RR-RI-ISI-1 for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP2). RR-RI-ISI-1 requests relief from the minimum examination requirements specified in Sections IWB-2412 and IWC-2412 of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI. During NMP2's next refueling outage (RFO7) in March-April 2000, the requested relief would provide for the elimination of ASME Code Class 1 and 2 piping weld examinations that may no longer be required once NMP2's risk-informed inservice inspection RI-ISI program for piping is implemented. NMPC plans to develop and implement an RI-ISI methodology by RFO8 in the spring of 2002.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), NMPC proposes an alternative to the examination percentage requirements in Sections IWB-2412 and IWC-2412. Specifically, NMPC proposes that, after the RI-ISI is established, all examinations required by the risk-informed methodology would be accomplished by the end of the second ten-year ISI interval that is scheduled for completion on April 4, 2008. The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed alternative and finds that it provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. The enclosure is our safety evaluation in which we authorize the relief requested by RR-RI-ISI-1 pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). Specifically, the NRC staff authorizes a delay of 2 years from April 4, 1998, or through RFO7, whichever is later, for conforming to the piping weld examination requirements of the 1989 Edition of the ASME Code, Section XI, for the second ten-year ISI interval at NMP2. This authorization does not apply to any augmented examination.

The NRC staff acknowledges, as stated in the enclosure, that NMPC plans to submit its RI-ISI program to the NRC staff by October 1, 2000. While this schedule is acceptable, it provides only minimal contingencies for completion of the NRC staff's review before RFO8. Accordingly, you are encouraged to ensure that this submittal schedule is not delayed.

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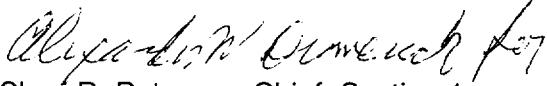
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J. Mueller

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This completes the NRC staff's review under TAC No. MA6470. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Darl Hood by phone on 301-415-3049 or by electronic mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,


Sheri R. Peterson, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-410

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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