

March 31, 2000

Dr. Robert C. Mecredy  
Vice President, Ginna Nuclear Operations  
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation  
89 East Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14649

SUBJECT: PLANT PERFORMANCE REVIEW - GINNA

Dear Mr. Mecredy:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the NRC's assessment of Ginna performance and to inform you of our planned inspections at the facility. On February 24, 2000, we completed a Plant Performance Review (PPR) of Ginna Station. We conducted this review to develop an integrated overview of the safety performance of the plant. We used the results of the PPR in planning and allocating inspection resources and as an input to our senior management meeting (SMM) process. This PPR evaluated inspection results and safety performance information for the period from January 16, 1999, through January 31, 2000, but emphasized the last six months to ensure that our assessment reflected your current performance. Our previous summary of plant performance at Ginna was provided to you in a letter dated April 9, 1999.

The NRC has been developing a revised reactor oversight process that will replace our existing inspection and assessment processes, including the PPR, the SMM, and the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP). We recently completed a pilot program for the revised reactor oversight process at nine participating sites and are making necessary adjustments based on feedback and lessons learned. We plan to begin implementation of the revised reactor oversight process industry-wide on April 2, 2000.

This PPR reflects continued NRC process improvements as we make the transition into the revised reactor oversight process. The following summary of plant performance is organized differently from our previous performance summaries. Instead of characterizing our assessment results by SALP functional area, we organized the results into the strategic performance areas embodied in the revised reactor oversight process. In assessing your performance, we have considered the historical performance indicator data that you submitted in January 2000 in conjunction with our inspection results. The results of this PPR were used to establish the inspection plan in accordance with the new risk-informed inspection program (consisting of baseline and supplemental inspections). Although this letter incorporates some terms and concepts associated with the new oversight process, it does not reflect the much broader changes in inspection and assessment that will be evident after we have fully implemented our revised reactor oversight process.

During the last six months of the assessment period, Ginna operated at or near full power. We have not identified any significant performance issues in any of the strategic performance areas (reactor safety, radiation safety, and safeguards) during this assessment period and observed that Ginna continued to operate in a safe manner.

Ginna plant operators exhibited effective day-to-day operations of the unit and appropriate response to unplanned events. Plant operations were effectively supported by the maintenance and engineering department staffs. Human performance was improved and the corrective action program was adequately implemented. No significant performance issues were noted in the implementation of the emergency preparedness program. As a result, only normal baseline inspections are currently planned in the reactor safety strategic performance area.

We identified no significant performance issues in either the radiation safety or safeguards strategic performance areas. As a result, only normal baseline inspections are currently planned in these areas.

Enclosure 1 contains a historical listing of plant issues, referred to as the Plant Issues Matrix (PIM), that were used during this PPR process to arrive at our integrated view of your performance trends. The PIM for this assessment is grouped by the prior SALP functional areas of operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support, although the future PIM will be organized along the cornerstones of safety as described in the revised reactor oversight process. The PIM includes items summarized from inspection reports or other docketed correspondence between the NRC and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation regarding Ginna. We did not document all aspects of licensee programs and performance that may be functioning appropriately. Rather, we only documented issues that we believe warrant management attention or represent noteworthy aspects of performance. In addition, the PPR may also have considered some pre-decisional and draft material that does not appear in the attached PIM, including observations from events and inspections that had occurred since our last inspection report was issued, but had not yet received full review and consideration. We will make this material publically available as part of the normal issuance of our inspection reports and other correspondence.

Enclosure 2 lists our planned inspections for the period April 2000 through March 2001 at Ginna to allow you to resolve scheduling conflicts and personnel availability in advance of our inspector arrival onsite. Since many of the inspections at Ginna and at the other Region I facilities during this period involve a team of inspectors, our ability to reschedule inspections is limited. Therefore, we request you inform us as soon as possible of any scheduling conflicts. The inspection schedule for the latter half of the period is more tentative and may be adjusted in the future due to emerging performance issues at Ginna or other Region I facilities. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

Robert C. Mecredy

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We will inform you of any changes to the inspection plan. If you have any questions, please contact me at (610) 337-5224.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michele G. Evans, Chief  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000244  
License Nos. DPR-18

Enclosures: 1. Plant Issues Matrix  
2. Inspection Plan

Docket No. 05000244  
License No. DPR-18

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