

Docket File



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 19, 1995

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

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM 10 CFR PART 50,
APPENDIX J - GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (TAC NO. M91753)

Dear Dr. Mecredy:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." This notice relates to your application for exemption dated March 15, 1995. The proposed exemption would grant a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3, to Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E). Section III.D.3 requires Type C tests to be performed during each reactor shutdown for refueling but in no case at intervals greater than 2 years. This one-time exemption pertains to two parts of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3. First, RG&E requests a one-time exemption from performing Type C tests during the 1995 refueling outage except for: (1) containment isolation valves (CIVs) that have maintenance performed; and (2) CIVs that have not demonstrated acceptable leakage during the previous two leakage rate tests. Second, RG&E requests a one-time exemption from performing Type C tests within a 2-year interval, as required by the regulation, up to a 1-month extension of the 2-year interval for 129 CIVs.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Allen R. Johnson
Allen R. Johnson, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

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Dr. Robert C. Mecredy

R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION
DOCKET NO. 50-244
GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from Facility Operating License No. DPR-18, issued to Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E), (the licensee), for operation of the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, located in Wayne County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant a one-time exemption from performing Type C tests for certain containment isolation valves (CIVs) during the 1995 refueling outage and extend the schedule required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3, up to 1-month of the 2-year interval.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for the exemption dated March 15, 1995.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is requested on a one-time basis only to support the current refueling outage schedule. Requiring a plant shutdown before the next scheduled refueling outage in April 1996, solely to perform surveillance tests would cause an unnecessary thermal transient on the plant and could result in unnecessary exposure to personnel. The performance of the CIVs and the plant's overall containment integrity have been good. RG&E proposes to limit the exemption to exclude those valves: (1) on which maintenance has been

performed; and (2) on those valves that have not demonstrated acceptable leakage rate testing during the past two leakage tests.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemption would allow RG&E to conduct the local leak rate tests during the next refueling outage, an extension of up to 1 month. There will be no changes to the facility or the environment as a result of the exemption.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental

impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 11, 1995, the staff consulted with the New York State official, Donna Ross, Acting State Liaison Officer of the New York Energy, Research, and Development Authority, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 15, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120

the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Rochester Public Library, 115 South Avenue, Rochester, New York.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of April 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Handwritten signature of Ledyard B. Marsh in cursive script.

Ledyard B. Marsh, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

April 19, 1995

Dr. Robert C. Mecredy
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
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Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Allen R. Johnson, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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