

October 7, 2002

Mr. Robert C. Mecredy, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
89 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14649-0001

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE
RENEWAL FOR R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (TAC NO. MB5225)

Dear Mr. Mecredy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received your application dated July 30, 2002, to renew the operating license for the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). In support of the application and in accordance with 10 CFR Part 54 and 10 CFR Part 51, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) submitted an environmental report (ER). This letter provides information related to the staff's review of the Ginna ER.

The NRC has prepared a notice of intent advising the public that the NRC intends to gather information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) in support of the review of the application for the renewal of the Ginna operating license. Enclosed is a copy of the notice of intent, which has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28, RG&E is invited to participate in the environmental scoping process. As discussed in the enclosed notice, the staff is providing the public with two opportunities to participate in the environmental scoping meeting to be held Wednesday, November 6, 2002. The first session will be held in the afternoon and the second session, covering the same subjects, will be held in the evening. The NRC will present an overview of the environmental review process and will describe how the process will be implemented for the review of the Ginna license renewal application. The meetings will be held in the Betty Rissberger Community Room of the Webster Public Library in Webster, New York. A separate NRC meeting notice will be issued with a more detailed agenda. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

Additionally, NRC staff and contractors plan to be on site November 5 and 7, 2002, to discuss the background details of the preparation of the ER with members of your staff, to perform a walkdown of the site and its environs, and to review documentation. Additional details regarding the site visit will be provided to your staff before the visit. In the interim,

R. Mecredy

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should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, please contact the NRC environmental project manager, Mr. Robert G. Schaaf, at (301) 415-1312.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

R. Mecredy

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-244

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION

R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) has submitted an application for renewal of Facility Operating License DPR-18 for an additional 20 years of operation at the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). Ginna is located in Wayne County, New York, approximately 20 miles east of Rochester, New York. The application for renewal was submitted by letter dated July 30, 2002, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54. A notice of receipt of application, including the environmental report (ER), was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 26, 2002 (67 FR 54825). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on September 30, 2002 (67 FR 61354). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process, as defined in 10 CFR 51.29.

In accordance with 10 CFR 54.23 and 10 CFR 51.53(c), RG&E submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records

component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/ginna.html>. In addition, the Ontario Public Library, located at 1850 Ridge Road, Ontario, New York 14519, and the Rochester Public Library, located at 115 South Avenue, Rochester, New York 14604, have agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) in support of the review of the application for renewal of the Ginna operating license for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. Section 51.95 of 10 CFR requires that the NRC prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in the scoping process by members of the public and local, State, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.

- b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate, from detailed study, those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to, but are not part of the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, and include any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping process:

- a. The applicant, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.

- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold public meetings for the Ginna license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meetings will be held in the Betty Rissberger Community Room of the Webster Public Library in Webster, New York, on Wednesday, November 6, 2002. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session in the Webster Public Library. No comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meetings on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting Mr. Robert G. Schaaf, by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 1312, or by Internet to the NRC at GinnaEIS@nrc.gov no later than October 30, 2002. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral

comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. Mr. Schaaf will need to be contacted no later than October 30, 2002, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the Ginna license renewal review to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6 D 59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Comments may also be delivered to Room 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by December 11, 2002. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at GinnaEIS@nrc.gov. Electronic submissions should be sent no later than December 11, 2002, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through the NRC's PERR link at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was the subject of the aforementioned FEDERAL REGISTER notice of acceptance for docketing. Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection through the PERR link. The staff will then prepare and issue, for comment, the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and separate public meetings. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Mr. Schaaf at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of October 2002.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
/RA/
Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

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