

March 28, 2003

Dr. Robert C. Mecredy, Vice President
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
89 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14649

SUBJECT: REVISED REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE REVIEW
OF THE R.E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION

Dear Dr. Mecredy:

By letter dated August 1, 2002, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) submitted, for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) review, an application pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54, to renew the operating license for the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). By letter dated March 21, 2003, the NRC staff (staff) issued requests for information (F-RAI) for areas where additional information is needed to complete its review of the license renewal application.

Subsequently, the staff has identified further information needed to complete its review of the license renewal application. Two of the original questions that were issued to RG&E on March 21, 2003, have been revised. The enclosed F-RAI are to replace F-RAI 3.7 -5 and F-RAI 3.7 -6. The F-RAI are numbered to coincide with the Ginna License Renewal Application.

The staff is willing to meet with RG&E prior to submittal of the responses to provide clarifications of the staff's RAIs.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Russell J. Arrighi, Project Manager
License Renewal Section
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

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Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
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R. E. GINNA
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

F-RAI 3.7 -5

a) The discussion in line number (1) Electrical Phase Bus of Table 3.7-2 of the license renewal application (LRA) indicates that because a one-time inspection found no aging effects requiring management (AERM), no additional aging management programs (AMPs) are required through the period of extended operation. The potential AERMs identified in line number (1) for the electrical phase bus appear to be associated with organic insulating components of phase bus, although the material column in the table only identifies porcelain insulators at Ginna. NRC Information Notice 89-64, a recent LRA, and information from an engineering forum on the internet, identify bus duct insulation problems requiring management. IN 89-64 indicates a combination of cracked insulation and accumulation of dust, debris, and moisture caused failure of the bus. Corrective actions included enhanced periodic inspections and cleaning of bus bars and their housings.

Provide a description of your AMP, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 54.21(a)(3), used to detect aging effects associated with phase bus insulation components; or provide justification why such a program is not needed.

b) Line number (1) Electrical Phase Bus of Table 3.7-2 does not address aging effects associated with the metallic electrical current carrying components of the phase bus. Has the applicant considered oxidation and corrosion of the metallic components, or loosening of the fastener components? For example, oxidation of aluminum electrical connections can be problematic. The oxidation can create a high resistance connection resulting in additional heating at the connection and further oxidation until failure occurs.

With regard to the fasteners, reference 1 to Section 3.7 of the LRA, Aging Management Guideline for Commercial Nuclear Power Plants, on page 4-38 states:

Circuits exposed to appreciable ohmic or ambient heating during operation may experience loosening related to the repeated cycling of connected loads or of the ambient temperature environment ... Repeated cycling in this fashion can produce loosening of the termination under ambient conditions, and may lead to high electrical resistance joints or eventual separation of the termination from the conductor.

Similarly, NRC Information Notice 2000-14 identifies the phenomenon of "torque relaxation" that can lead to overheating and arcing at the bus joint connection.

Provide a description of your AMP, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 54.21(a)(3), used to detect aging effects associated with oxidation and corrosion of metallic components, and loosening of fastener components in the electrical phase bus; or provide justification why such a program is not needed.

F-RAI 3.7 -6

The discussion in line number (2) Switchyard Bus of Table 3.7-2 of the application states: Plant operating experience reviews show that the activities performed by the Energy Delivery Department on the Switchyard Buses are effective in managing Switchyard Bus components.

It appears that the activities performed by the Energy Delivery Department constitute the makings of an AMP for the switchyard bus that should be included under license renewal in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 54.21(a)(3). Describe the ten attributes of the switchyard bus aging management program consistent with the guidance provided in Branch Technical Position RLSB-1 of the staff's license renewal Standard Review Plan (NUREG-1800). Include a discussion in your response addressing the metallic topic portion of Question 3.7-5 above.