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CONTACT: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

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Email: opa1@nrc.gov

NRC SENDS SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO GINNA NUCLEAR PLANT TO REVIEW CONTAINMENT SUMP ISSUE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent a team of inspectors to the R.E. Ginna nuclear power plant to review a degraded containment sump condition. The plant, located in Ontario, N.Y., is operated by Rochester Gas & Electric (RGE) Company.

The containment sump would, under certain accident conditions, be used to collect water released from the reactor coolant system and pump it back into the reactor vessel. Earlier this year, NRC sent a letter to operators of pressurized water reactors asking them, among other things, to confirm that their containment sump systems comply with NRC regulations. On September 18, RGE informed the NRC that while performing an inspection in response to the bulletin, it found a potential flow path into the containment sump that bypasses screening designed to prevent foreign materials from getting into and potentially clogging the sump.

The three-member special inspection will determine the facts, conditions, circumstances and causes of the containment sump issue. The inspection will focus on assessing Ginna's performance related to the degraded condition, including immediate corrective actions.

A report detailing the findings will be issued within 45 days of the end of the inspection.

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