

April 11, 2005

EA-04-190

Mrs. Mary G. Korsnick
Vice President R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, LLC
1503 Lake Road
Ontario, NY 14519

SUBJECT: R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME TO REPLY TO NOVEMBER 5, 2004, ORDER IMPOSING
REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTING CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS
INFORMATION

Dear Mrs. Korsnick:

By letter dated November 22, 2004, you requested an extension of time to respond to the above referenced Order. You requested the extension until 20 days after receiving clarifications from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding differences between the implementation of the SAFEGUARDS information - MODIFIED HANDLING (SGI-M) requirements provided in the November 5, 2004, Order, and the SAFEGUARDS Information program carried out by your facility for handling SAFEGUARDS information (SGI) pertaining to special nuclear material under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 73.21. In your extension request, you indicated that the SGI-M designated information transmitted with the Order would be managed during the extension period under the provisions of the 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information program currently being used at your facility.

Licensees who currently have a SAFEGUARDS Information program approved under 10 CFR 73.21 may use that program to control SGI-M, as designated by Commission Orders. The NRC considers that 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information programs are adequate for protection of SGI-M. As a general matter, an acceptable response to the November 5, 2004, Order, is that the designated SGI-M will be handled under the same provisions as the current 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information program.

Licensees who currently have a SAFEGUARDS Information program approved under 10 CFR 73.21 will find it necessary to ensure that their program adequately addresses the following circumstances associated with SGI-M:

1. When information is transmitted, whether by letter or electronic means, to a licensee who only has an SGI-M program, the handling provisions described in the November 5, 2004, Order, must be followed to prevent the receiving licensee from potentially violating the provisions of the Order. Specifically, licensees with approved 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information programs should ensure that the provisions of the November 5, 2004, Order, associated with double wrapping, electronic transfer, portion marking, and top and bottom SGI-M page designations on each page are carried out when information is transmitted to a licensee who has an SGI-M program.

These SGI-M handling provisions need only be applied to SGI-M which is received or generated after the date of the November 5, 2004, Order. It should not be construed that SGI documents administered under the 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information program are to be retroactively modified to conform to the SGI-M marking designations.

2. SGI-M may be stored in a key-locked filing cabinet, whereas 10 CFR Part 73 SGI must be stored in an approved security container. Licensees who currently have a SAFEGUARDS Information program approved under 10 CFR 73.21, and respond that all SGI-M will be managed under the 10 CFR Part 73 program, could either: (a) store SGI-M in accordance with its SAFEGUARDS Information program under 10 CFR Part 73; or (b) modify their procedures to allow SGI-M storage in a key-locked filing cabinet, in compliance with the November 5, 2004, Order. This modification, if adopted, would help to avoid potential inadvertent violations of the facility's SAFEGUARDS Information program, if the SGI-M is not stored in a security container approved for SGI.

This letter clarifies the issues you raised, which constituted good cause for an extension, and grants your request for an extension of time to respond to the November 5, 2004, Order, until 20 days from the date of this letter.

Please contact the NRC licensing project manager if you have any questions regarding these clarifications.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. E. Dyer, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

cc: See next page

1. When information is transmitted, whether by letter or electronic means, to a licensee who only has an SGI-M program, the handling provisions described in the November 5, 2004, Order, must be followed to prevent the receiving licensee from potentially violating the provisions of the Order. Specifically, licensees with approved 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information programs should ensure that the provisions of the November 5, 2004, Order, associated with double wrapping, electronic transfer, portion marking, and top and bottom SGI-M page designations on each page are carried out when information is transmitted to a licensee who has an SGI-M program.

These SGI-M handling provisions need only be applied to SGI-M which is received or generated after the date of the November 5, 2004, Order. It should not be construed that SGI documents administered under the 10 CFR Part 73 SAFEGUARDS Information program are to be retroactively modified to conform to the SGI-M marking designations.

2. SGI-M may be stored in a key-locked filing cabinet, whereas 10 CFR Part 73 SGI must be stored in an approved security container. Licensees who currently have a SAFEGUARDS Information program approved under 10 CFR 73.21, and respond that all SGI-M will be managed under the 10 CFR Part 73 program, could either: (a) store SGI-M in accordance with its SAFEGUARDS Information program under 10 CFR Part 73; or (b) modify their procedures to allow SGI-M storage in a key-locked filing cabinet, in compliance with the November 5, 2004, Order. This modification, if adopted, would help to avoid potential inadvertent violations of the facility's SAFEGUARDS Information program, if the SGI-M is not stored in a security container approved for SGI.

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/RA/

J. E. Dyer, Director

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R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

Mr. Michael J. Wallace
President
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, LLC
c/o Constellation Energy
750 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Mr. John M. Heffley
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Constellation Generation Group
1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway
Suite 500
Annapolis, MD 21401

Kenneth Kolaczyk, Sr. Resident Inspector
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1503 Lake Road
Ontario, NY 14519

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Peter R. Smith, President
New York State Energy, Research,
and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Carey W. Fleming, Esquire
Senior Counsel
Constellation Generation Group, LLC
750 East Pratt Street, 17th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Charles Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Daniel F. Stenger
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP
601 13th Street, N.W., Suite 1000 South
Washington, DC 20005

Ms. Thelma Wideman, Director
Wayne County Emergency Management
Office
Wayne County Emergency Operations
Center
7336 Route 31
Lyons, NY 14489

Ms. Mary Louise Meisenzahl
Administrator, Monroe County
Office of Emergency Preparedness
1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200
Rochester, NY 14624

Mr. Paul Eddy
New York State Department of
Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12223