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JANUARY 15 1979

Docket No. 50-244

Rochester Gas & Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. Leon D. White, Vice President
Electric and Steam Production
89 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14606

RE: R. E. GINNA ATOMIC POWER STATION

As part of the Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) the NRC staff is conducting a search of your docket for pertinent information related to the seismic design bases of your facility. We are comparing the available information with current seismic design criteria in an effort to assess safety margins in the areas of geologic and seismic input and structural capability of safety-related structures, systems and equipment to withstand earthquake effects.

As you know, the major NRC regulations dealing with seismic design are 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A (General Design Criterion 2) and 10 CFR Part 100, Appendix A. We recognize that both of these regulations were issued subsequent to the design of your facility. However, one of the objectives of the SEP is to compare the original design basis with current criteria. Currently, the information on the docket is not sufficiently complete to adequately address the potential hazard of earthquakes, nor to determine whether backfitting of additional seismic resistance would provide substantial additional protection required for safety.

At this time, based on the docketed information, we expect that our safety assessment of the design bases in your FSAR and other filings will be positive in terms of actual safety margins at your facility. However, we encourage you to closely follow our review as it progresses and to initiate any effort that you may believe necessary to confirm the actual seismic safety margins of your facility. As part of our assessment, it is expected that we will require significant additional seismic design information not on the docket to support our seismic safety assessment. As our review indicates the need for such information, we will inform you.

MAY *A*

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SURNAME >						
DATE >						

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JANUARY 15 1979

Rochester Gas & Electric Company - 2 -

We expect the major area of review to be our assessment of the significance of changes in seismic design techniques from those used for your facility and those used today. As part of the effort to satisfy this objective, we have conducted a preliminary evaluation which indicates that the major area of difference in seismic input from current criteria relates to the shape of the ground response spectra used. In this regard, the NRC staff is evaluating various site specific response spectra methodologies which may demonstrate a more realistic approach in determining seismic input than that used in current licensing reviews. We encourage you to closely follow the progress of our work and initiate any effort you may feel is necessary to better assess the seismic safety margins of your plant. To provide maximum assurance that the scope of any planned evaluations is appropriate, we suggest that detailed working level meetings with the NRC staff for your facility prior to the initiation of your efforts would be beneficial. Until our evaluation of site specific response spectra methodologies is complete, it is our intent to use current criteria design spectra (e.g., Regulatory Guide 1.60, suitably modified for inelastic behavior) as a baseline for our initial evaluation of actual seismic safety margins.

The NRC staff will be contacting you periodically over the next several months to obtain information pertinent to our seismic evaluation of your plant. We expect that significant interaction with your technical staff will be required.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By
Darrell G. Eisenhut

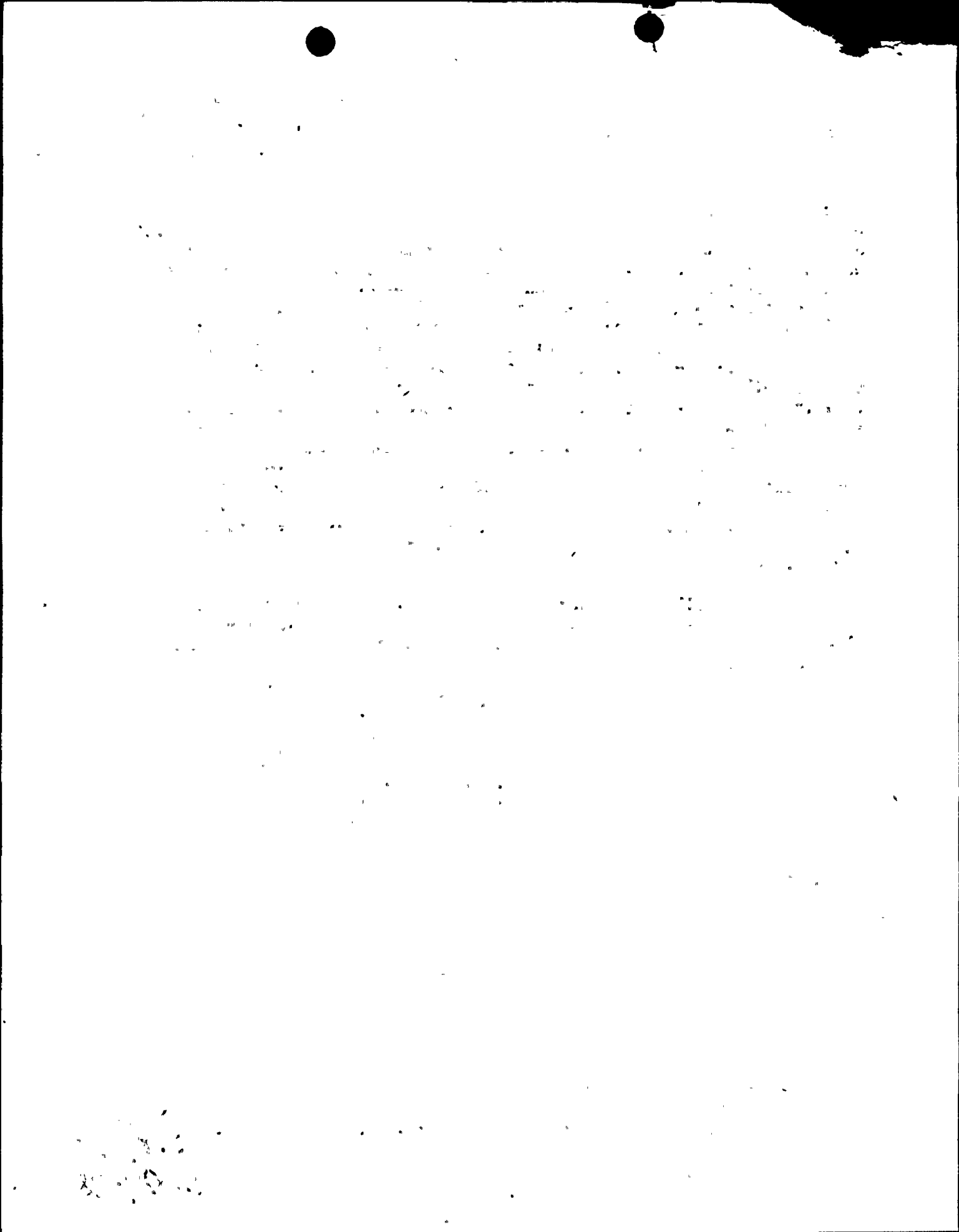
[Signature] Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
See next page

OELD

*SEE ATTACHED YELLOW FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

OFFICE >	DOR:SEPB/S&P	DOR:SEPB/S&P	DOR:ORB.#2	DOR:ORB.#2	DOR:A/AD/S&P	DOR:DIR
SURNAME >	HALevin:rj	DKDavis	JShea	DLZiemann	DGEisenhut	VStello
DATE >	12/29/78	12/8/78*		12/14/78*		12-09-78



JANUARY 15 1979

cc:

Lex K. Larson, Esquire
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
1757 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Mr. Michael Slade
1250 Crown Point Drive
Webster, New York 14580

Rochester Committee for
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P. O. Box 5236 River Campus
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Rochester, New York 14627

Jeffrey Cohen
New York State Energy Office
Swan Street Building
Core 1, Second Floor
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

Director, Technical Development Programs
State of New York Energy Office
Agency Building 2
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

Rochester Public Library
115 South Avenue
Rochester, New York 14627

We expect the major area of review to be our assessment of the significance of changes in seismic design techniques from those used for your facility and those used today. As part of the effort to satisfy this objective, we have conducted a preliminary evaluation which indicates that the major area of difference in seismic input from current criteria relates to the breadth of the ground response spectra used. In this regard, the NRC staff is evaluating various site specific response spectra methodologies which may demonstrate a more realistic approach in determining seismic input than that used in current licensing reviews. We encourage you to closely follow the progress of our work and initiate effort in this area to better assess the seismic safety margins of your plant. Until our evaluation of site specific response spectra methodologies is complete, it is our intent to use current criteria design spectra (e.g., Regulatory Guide 1.60, suitably modified for inelastic behavior) as a baseline for our initial evaluation of actual seismic safety margins.

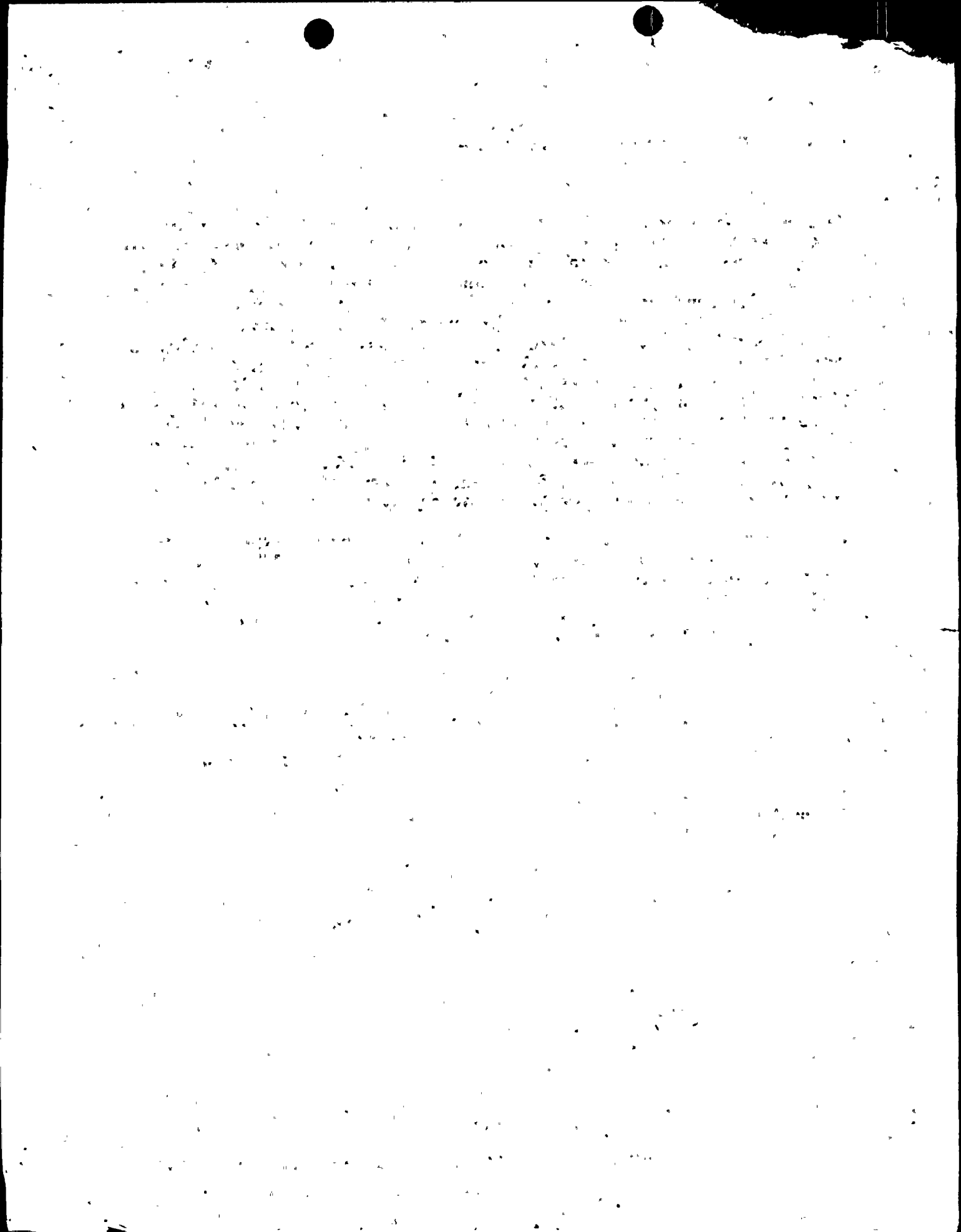
The NRC staff will be contacting you periodically over the next several months to obtain information pertinent to our seismic evaluation of your plant. We expect that significant interaction with your technical staff will be required.

Sincerely,

Victor Stello, Jr., Director
 Division of Operating Reactors
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
 See next page

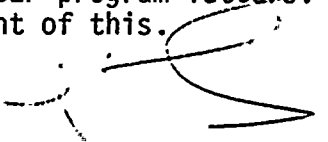
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DATE	12/4/78	12/8/78		12/14/78		



January 15, 1979

Note to Howard Levin, EB

I looked over the letters re seismic for the SEP plants. I think they should be sent out as soon as you can. As I understand it from your people, the letters now reflect the status of this matter as accurately as possible at this stage. I don't see any specific need for ELD concurrence on these letters. We do, however, remind you to assure that these letters have appropriate GAO authorization if such authorization is necessary for the SEP program letters. I believe Mr. Felton's office is most cognizant of this.



Joseph F. Scinto
Deputy Director, Hearing Division

CALL TO G. HUTTON ON 1/16/79 :
GAO AUTHORIZATION IS NOT
REQUIRED SINCE ONLY 4 LETTERS
ASK FOR A RESPONSE.

Howard A. Levin