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SUBJECT: Forwards statement released to media on 790815 re claim brought against util by contractor employee claiming injury due to overexposure to radiation.Damages of \$5 million sought. DISTRIBUTION CODE: MOI2S COPIES RECEIVED:LTR / ENCL / SIZE: TITLE: Insurance Claims (Indemnity)						
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ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION • 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14649

TELEPHONE AREA CODE 716 546-2700 YORK STATE

August 16, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Ira P. Dinitz Indemnity Specialist Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Subject: Preliminary Notice of Claim R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 Docket No. 50-244

Dear Mr. Dinitz:

In accordance with our telephone conversation today and as a preliminary report to required reports under 10CFR 140.6, I am enclosing herewith a statement to the media released by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation on August 15, 1979 at 5:00 p.m.

Our counsel is presently preparing a report to supplement our previous report dated March 28, 1979 to Mr. Jerome Saltzman of your office which will further describe the two additional claims set forth in our statement.

Very truly yours,

alan & Lohmann

Alan A. Lohrmann, Manager Claims and Insurance Department

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Enclosure

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ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION • 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14649

TELEPHONE AREA CODE 716 546-2700 THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED TODAY BY FRANCIS E. DRAKE, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION, IN CONNECTION WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO COMPANY EMPLOYEES OF PENDING LITIGATION:

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, in a letter to its employees, announced that a claim had been brought against the Company by an employee of a contractor performing repairs on the spent fuel storage facility at Ginna Station in 1974. The claimant alleges that he was injured from overexposure to radiation and is seeking \$5 million in damages. The Company is aware of two potential additional claims alleging similar injuries which seek an additional \$58 million in damages.

The Company advised its employees that it felt the claims have no merit and intends to contest the claims vigorously. RG&E records show that of the three claimants, two were exposed to less radiation than the quarterly exposure of 3 rems allowed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the third claimant was exposed to 4.17 rems, an amount less than allowable each year under applicable federal regulations. These federal exposure standards are very conservative, and rightfully so, for the protection of anyone working at a nuclear plant.

Francis E. Drake, Jr., Chairman of the Board, stated that, "Even though we believe the complaints have no merit, it is a sensitive issue that the Company employees as well as the public should be made aware of."

RG&E has taken, and is taking, every possible step to insure the safety of employees and of the general public. Ginna Station complies with all state and federal health and safety regulations. In many areas, the Company exceeds governmental requirements in protecting employees from radiation exposure, conducting health and safety training, and updating equipment.

Since the incident at Three Mile Island, there has been increased public concern over the safety of nuclear power. Nuclear power represents an important factor in the energy supply to our customers. RG&E remains confident that nuclear power is a safe and efficient means for meeting our energy demands.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Because the matters discussed in the above statement are involved in litigation, there will be no further comment from RG&E.

Richard C. Peck Corporate Spokesman 8/16/79