



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 30 TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-18

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION

R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-244

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated November 14, 1979 (transmitted by letter dated November 19, 1979), Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) requested an amendment to License No. DPR-18 for the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant which would change the requirements for the minimum fire brigade shift size.

2.0 DISCUSSION

Technical Specification Section 6.2.2 (f) currently requires a fire brigade of 3 members be maintained on site at all times, excluding the two members of the minimum shift crew necessary for safe shutdown.

The subject of minimum fire brigade shift size, as a part of the fire protection program for operating plants, has been under review by the staff and its consultants for some time. This evaluation included a visit to all operating facilities and an extensive review of the factors which should determine the minimum size of the fire brigade. It was found that at all operating plants, there were combinations of hazards, conditions of access; and physical arrangement of safety related equipment that would require immediate actions by at least five persons in the event of a fire. Further, the need for leadership of the brigade by a person who is relatively free of other duties (including actively fighting the fire), the ability to transport necessary fire fighting equipment to the scene, and responsiveness of the fire brigade to a broad range of fire situations support the need for a 5 member fire brigade. Thus, the staff has taken the position that the minimum fire brigade shift size at all operating reactor sites should consist of 5 trained members. Further, we have established a minimum acceptable level of fire brigade training in cases where licensees do not train all members in accordance with staff guidelines.

In response to the NRC position stated above, RG&E has requested that the onsite fire brigade be increased from 3 to 5 members. Additionally, RG&E has completed the initial training of 5 member fire brigades including at least 2 members trained as fire brigade captains.

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We requested, and the licensee agreed to add to the proposed Technical Specification an exception to the minimum requirements which would make the Specification consistent with the Standard Technical Specifications. This would relieve the minimum fire brigade size of 5 members for a period not to exceed 2 hours to accommodate unexpected absence of fire brigade members provided immediate action is taken to restore the fire brigade to the minimum requirements.

3.0 EVALUATION

The results of our review indicate that the technical specification change requested by RG&E with the agreed upon modification, complies with the NRC positions concerning minimum fire brigade shift size. A minimum of 5 trained fire brigade members will be on site at all times except for an unexpected absence of a Fire Brigade member. Such an unexpected absence should be a rare occurrence and shall only relieve the minimum requirements of 5 members for 2 hours or less. Since we anticipate that such unexpected absences will occur infrequently in addition to the stipulation that RG&E take immediate action to restore the Fire Brigade to within the minimum requirements, we have determined that exception does not seriously reduce the capability of the fire brigade or constitute non-conformance with the NRC positions on minimum fire brigade shift size. We, therefore, find the proposal acceptable.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d) (4), that an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: January 23, 1980

