

50-244

FEB 20 1985

Docket No. 50-244

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Roger W. Kober
Vice President
Electric and Steam Production
49 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14649

Gentlemen:

Subject: Requalification Examinations at R.E. Ginna Station

This letter is to notify you that the NRC staff plans to review administration of the requalification program (oral, and written) at the R.E. Ginna Station in February of this year. The objectives of these examinations are to verify the effectiveness of your segmented requalification training program and to provide a measure of the qualifications of selected individuals.

The purpose of our requalification effort generally is to evaluate the effectiveness of your training program to assure that the knowledge and understanding of plant operations and reactor safety required for performance of license duties is being maintained. Our examination will be based on the learning objectives of your training program, and will consist of review of the adequacy of your oral and written examinations. The examinations will be conducted by NRC staff from the NRC Region I office. We request that the examinees include at least two shifts of your regular operating crews as well as the five Senior Operators (SRO's) who were licensed following the examinations conducted in October, 1983 at your facility.

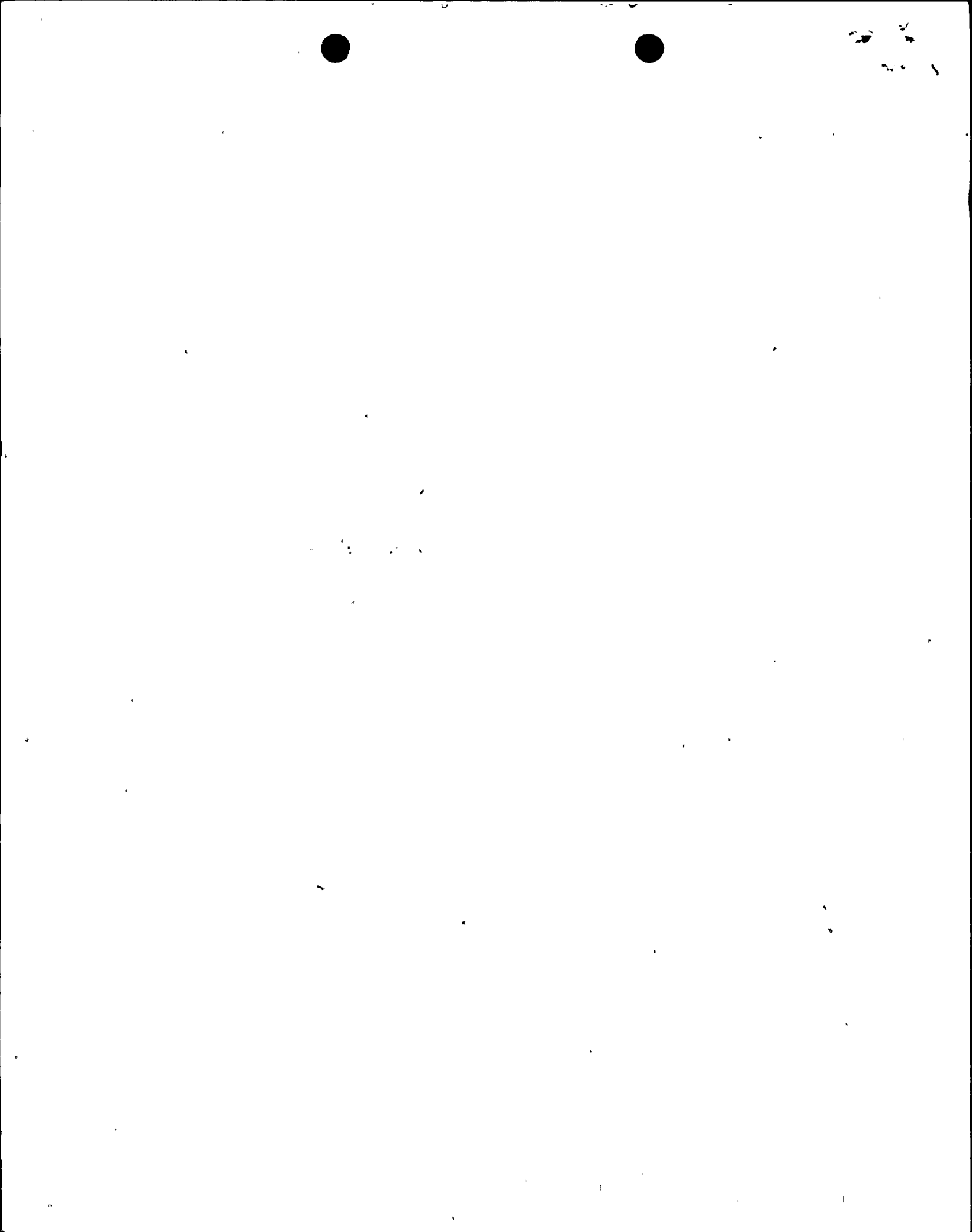
Although such a requalification effort on our part is being, and has been, conducted at other facilities as part of our ongoing operator licensing program, conducting this program at this time at R.E. Ginna is a reflection of our need to address the matter directly for the five senior operators referred to above. As part of our review regarding apparent improprieties or misjudgments by a former NRC operator licensing examiner in conducting examinations at licensed facilities, we have determined that the NRC examiner utilized an examination at your facility in October, 1983 which closely paralleled one developed by a third party, not under contract to or authorized by the NRC. This NRC examination was subsequently administered by the NRC examiner to five candidates for Senior Operator licenses at your facility. The third party had recently provided services for several facilities including the R.E. Ginna Training Department, in preparation for the NRC examinations, and prepared and administered audit (written and oral) examinations to the candidates. Based on our review, we have found that a large portion of the questions on the NRC licensing examination were taken from the audit examinations. Our increased involvement at this time is to resolve any doubts or concerns as to the level of training and knowledge of licensed operators.

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We are not aware of any wrongdoing or improprieties by your staff, the third party, or the five SRO candidates.

I also acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 14, 1984 and our subsequent phone conversation of December 20, 1984 in which you described the present and future duties of the five SRO's pending further action by the NRC. This letter is also to notify you of the actions we are taking in this matter. We expect that the five individuals will be included in our requalification effort which will consist of a review of the written examination for adequacy, parallel grading of a limited number of completed exams, and accompaniment during licensee conducted oral walkthrough examinations. The demonstration of acceptable knowledge through satisfactory completion of the requalification examinations to be conducted in February will provide a basis to relax any presently imposed restriction as to future assignments of the affected individuals.

We will develop more detailed schedules for these examinations in cooperation with your training staff. Your cooperation in this program is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc:
Harry H. Voigt, Esquire
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Public Document Room (PDR)
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NRC Resident Inspector
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bcc:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
DRP Section Chief

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