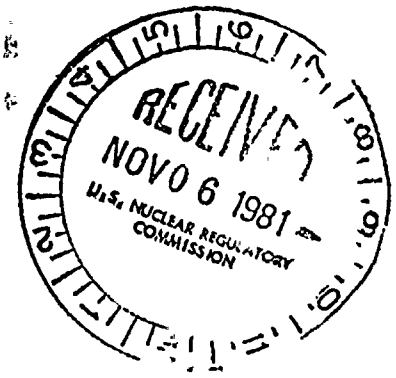
November 3, 1981

Docket No. 50-244
LS05-81-11-003



Mr. John E. Maier
Vice President
Electric and Steam Production
Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation
89 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14649

Dear Mr. Maier:

SUBJECT: SPENT FUEL POOL COOLING SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS (GINNA)

By letter dated November 15, 1976, the NRC Staff issued Amendment No. 11 to Provisional Operating License DPR-18 for the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. This amendment authorized changes in the design of the Ginna spent fuel storage pool to allow an increase in the spent fuel storage capacity from 210 assemblies to 595 assemblies.

Prior to issuance of Amendment No. 11, the staff reviewed the existing spent fuel cooling system at Ginna and determined that it was satisfactory for full core transfer to the pool, after 30 days of incore cooling, until after the normal refueling in 1979. This would assure that the pool water temperature limit of 150°F, as established by Amendment No. 11, would not be exceeded. Normal offloads (one-third of the core as opposed to full core transfer) could continue after 1979 as long as sufficient incore cooling, after shutdown, was accomplished to assure that the 150°F pool limit was not exceeded when the fuel was transferred. From a practical standpoint, this could mean additional delay and a higher outage cost.

One of the bases for the issuance of Amendment No. 11 to the Ginna license was your commitment to modify the spent fuel cooling system if necessary to maintain conformance to the Technical Specifications. By letter dated February 13, 1980, as supplemented by additional information provided by letter dated June 9, 1981, you requested staff approval of your proposed modifications to the spent fuel pool cooling system. This seismically designed system would provide substantial additional cooling beyond that needed to satisfy present pool capacity, and the existing cooling system and a backup skid-mounted unit would be retained as redundant cooling sources in case the new system should fail. The Ginna Technical Specification pool temperature upper limit of 150°F would continue to be satisfied, and even upon loss of the new system under adverse heat load conditions, sufficient time would be available to restore backup cooling before a temperature of 180°F would be reached. This temperature is the temperature at which the structural integrity of the pool was analyzed and found acceptable

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We have reviewed your submittals and have concluded that the proposed modifications to the Ginna spent fuel pool cooling system are acceptable. Our review was not limited to the capability to cool the 595 fuel assembly capacity presently licensed, but included the full 1360 fuel assembly cooling capability of the proposed cooling system.

This review did not include Systematic Evaluation Program Topic IX-1 (Fuel Storage). Review of this topic for the Ginna plant is scheduled to commence approximately November 15, 1981 with review of the information submitted as part of your June 9, 1981 letter.

Finally, we will require that the bases for Technical Specification 3.8.1.g be changed to reflect the decrease in time available before backup cooling is required, should the proposed primary cooling system become unavailable. Your proposed changes should be submitted as part of another technical specification change request within one year of the date of this letter.

Our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,
original signed by
Thomas V. Wambach for/

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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