

UNITED STATES OF AMERICANUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC  
CORPORATION

R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

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Docket No. 50-244

REVOCATION OF EXEMPTION

I

The Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-18, which authorizes operation of the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. The license provides that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized-water reactor at the licensee's site located in Wayne County, New York.

II

On March 21, 1985, the NRC issued 11 exemptions from the requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. The first exemption, relevant here, related to the Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST). The licensee was granted an exemption from the technical requirements of Section III.G.2 in connection with the absence of a required continuous fire-rated barrier between redundant shutdown systems in the Auxiliary Building Fire Areas ABBM and ABI. The RWST extends through the concrete floor/ceiling at elevation 271 feet, which provides the common boundary between Fire Area ABBM and ABI. An 8-foot concrete block wall partially circles the circumference of the RWST on the upper side of the barrier. At the time the exemption was granted, there was a 3-inch gap around the circumference of the RWST.

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III

By letter dated January 13, 1998, the licensee informed the NRC that the exemption is no longer required. The licensee indicated that the subject barrier has now been sealed by insertion of a 12 inch minimum depth of kaowool into the 6-inch gap around the circumference of the tank and closure of the gap by a 3/4-inch thick steel plate.

On the basis of the licensee's submittal, the Commission hereby revokes the exemption granted on March 21, 1985, from the technical requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 with respect to the absence of a continuous fire-rated barrier at the common boundary between Fire Areas ABBM and ABI. The NRC staff did not review the modification that the licensee implemented to eliminate the need for the original exemption. The NRC staff may review the modification and its supporting technical bases during a future on-site inspection.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the revocation of the exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 31534).

This revocation of exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



S. Singh Bajwa, Director  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear-Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,  
this 15 day of June 1998.

