

January 26, 1999

Dr. Robert C. Mecredy
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
89 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14649

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF TAC REGARDING GENERIC IMPLICATION OF THE PART-LENGTH CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM HOUSING LEAK AT PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 2, R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (TAC NO. MA3320)

Dear Dr. Mecredy:

By the enclosed letters dated August 11 and December 23, 1998, the NRC has responded to Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) positions regarding corrective actions to address generic aspects of the part-length control rod drive mechanism housing issue that originated as a result of the leak at Prairie Island, Unit 2, on January 23, 1998. The WOG program is a voluntary industry initiative to address this issue.

By letter dated April 24, 1998, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation discussed its participation in the WOG initiative and the activities at R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant resulting from that initiative. The NRC staff's review of this letter and results was performed under TAC No. MA3320.

As discussed in the December 23, 1998 letter, the NRC staff has concluded that, given the marginal increase in risk and the small number of welds with potentially reduced safety margins, the actions taken under the industry initiative are acceptable for protecting public health and safety. Accordingly, our review under TAC No. MA3320 is considered complete.

If you have questions regarding this letter, contact me by phone at (301) 415-1441 or by electronic mail at GSV@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Guy S. Vissing, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-244

Enclosures:

1. Letter from B. Sheron to L. Liberatori dated December 23, 1998
2. Letter from B. Sheron to L. Liberatori dated August 11, 1998

cc w/encls: See next page

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Dr. Robert C. Mecredy
Rochester Gas and Electric Company

R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

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