



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 74 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-18

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION

R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-244

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 1, 1999, the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E or the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise the Ginna Station TS battery cell parameters limit for specific gravity (Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.8.6.3 and SR 3.8.6.6).

2.0 EVALUATION

The license amendment is requested since the licensee has determined that the battery cell parameters limit for specific gravity that is currently contained within the referenced surveillances is not consistent with the guidance of NUREG-1431, Rev. 1, Standard Technical Specifications for Westinghouse Plants. The minimum specific gravity value as recommended by NUREG-1431 is "0.020 below the manufacturer recommended fully charged, nominal specific gravity." Ginna utilizes batteries manufactured by GNB Technologies Industrial Battery Company and the recommended nominal specific gravity is 1.215. Therefore, the minimum value should be 1.195. However, the licensee identified that SR 3.8.6.3 and 3.8.6.6 currently contain minimum limits of 1.188 for A battery and 1.192 for B battery. The values currently in the Ginna TS were based on the actual observed fully charged specific gravity of the batteries at the time of installation, not the manufacturer's nominal value. The immediate corrective actions performed by the licensee as the result of this discovery were to review previous surveillance results to verify operability and to place administrative controls within the Technical Requirements Manual to control the battery cell surveillances in accordance with the more conservative NUREG-1431 guidance. The proposed new minimum value would provide a higher assurance that the battery has sufficient capacity to meet all analyzed conditions and, thus, would provide an increase in safety. Therefore, we have determined that the proposed changes are acceptable.

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3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New York State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (64 FR 14284). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: G. Vissing

Date: April 23, 1999

