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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 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

NRC Confirmatory Order dated March 14, 1983 confirmed Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E, licensee) commitments to implement those Post-TMI related items set forth in NUREG-0737 (Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements) for which the staff requested completion on or after July 1, 1981. One of the items included was Item III.D.3.4, Control Room Habitability which was to be completed by July 1984. By letters dated July 20 and August 30, 1984, the licensee stated that some of the equipment necessary to meet the Item III.D.3.4 commitment would not be operable until the end of September 1984. The licensee requested that the license be modified to extend the date for completion of Item III.D.3.4.

A Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing related to the requested action was published in the Federal Register on October 24, 1984 (49 FR 42829). No requests for hearing and no public comments were received.

2.0 EVALUATION

Item III.D.3.4 requires that the licensee assure that control room operators will be adequately protected against the effects of accidental release of toxic and radioactive gases and that the nuclear power plant can be safely operated or shut down under design basis accident conditions. The activities required by Ginna in order to resolve Item III.D.3.4 included relocation of the ammonia tank, installation of redundant dampers, measurement and confirmation of acceptable residence time in the charcoal filter, and the installation of new radiation and toxic gas monitors.

A new ammonia tank designed to use dilute ammonia has been installed in a new location to reduce the potential ammonia concentration at the control building HVAC intake. The old tank, which contained anhydrous ammonia, was emptied by the end of July. If for any reason it becomes necessary to use the old ammonia tank at any time in the future, the control building air intake dampers will be closed so that a potential release of ammonia will not present a hazard to the control room operators.

It may be necessary during such times to periodically open the dampers for fresh air makeup for short periods of time (i.e., less than 1 hour) in order to improve the working environment in the control room for the operators. The reason for this is that ammonia is required for about 24 hours to accomplish condensate demineralizer resin regeneration, but experience has shown that fresh air makeup to the control room is desirable every 8 to 16 hours. During the fresh air makeup, efforts will be made to limit handling of the anhydrous ammonia. In particular, any transfer between the delivery truck and the tank will be suspended.

Redundant dampers have been installed in the control room ductwork and acceptable charcoal filter residence times have been considered in the modification of the recirculation system for the control room. New radiation and toxic gas detectors have been procured and the analyzer cabinets installed. However, detector operation to automatically isolate the redundant control room dampers was not available at the end of July 1984.

Reasons for the delay were due primarily to: (1) vendor interface difficulties between the equipment supplier and another design organization which resulted in delays in producing design documents required to begin construction; and (2) a contractor strike which occurred from May 31 through July 2, 1984 and further delayed installation of piping necessary to draw intake air samples from the ducting to the detector cabinets. The licensee also rebid the construction services contract and the resulting organizational changes required additional time to orient new people to the current tasks. By letter dated November 15, 1984, the licensee informed the staff that all actions necessary to meet the control room habitability commitments were completed by September 30, 1984.

Based on the staff's review of the licensee's request to modify the schedule for completion of Item III.D.3.4, Control Room Habitability, and the fact that all items were completed within the requested time extension, the staff concludes that modification of the order to show a completion date of September 30, 1984 is acceptable.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The 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 this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this 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 this amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has further 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; and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

G. Dick prepared this Safety Evaluation.

Dated: December 20, 1984