

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

Docket No. 50-244
License No. DPR-18
EA No. 84-120

On October 5-19, 1984, an inspection was conducted to review the circumstances associated with two examples of a violation of a technical specification limiting condition for operation involving handling of fuel in the auxiliary building with the required ventilation flow path and the spent fuel pit charcoal adsorber system inoperable. The violation was reported to the NRC on October 5 and October 18, 1984, and following review, has been classified at Severity Level IV.

In accordance with the revised NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR 2, Appendix C), published in the Federal Register on March 8, 1984 (49 FR 8583), the violation is set forth below.

Technical Specification 3.11.1 establishes the required conditions that must be met prior to handling of irradiated fuel assemblies in the auxiliary building. In particular, Technical Specification 3.11.1.c requires that the auxiliary building exhaust fan 1C, which takes a suction from the spent fuel pit area, be operating; and Technical Specification 3.11.1.e requires that charcoal adsorbers be installed in the spent fuel pit area ventilation exhaust, and be operable.

Contrary to the above,

1. On October 4, 1984, 73 fuel assemblies were transferred in the Auxiliary Building with the fan 1C inoperable in that its exhaust damper was closed because of a mechanical failure of the operating shaft. The condition had existed since at least October 1, 1984 when positive pressure was identified in the Auxiliary Building, but the cause of the positive pressure was not identified and corrected prior to the fuel handling.
2. Between August 6 and October 17, irradiated fuel assemblies were transferred in the auxiliary building on eight occasions, and during that time, the charcoal adsorbers were inoperable in that approximately 3 percent of the exhaust flow was bypassing the adsorbers because the blanking plate used to block the ventilation bypass flow path and ensure flow through the charcoal adsorbers, was improperly installed on August 6, 1984. The charcoal adsorbers are required to provide 99 percent iodine removal in the event of a fuel handling accident, and meeting this operability requirement is not possible with three percent bypass flow.

This is a Severity Level IV Violation (Supplement 1)

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Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, is hereby required to submit to this office within thirty days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice, a written statement of explanation in reply, including for each violation: (1) corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved; (2) corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations; and (3) the date when corrective actions will be completed. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extend the response time.