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ROBERT C. MECREDY
Vice President
Nuclear Operations

October 20, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Attn: Guy S. Vissing
Project Directorate I-1
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License
Date Change for Boraflex Degradation Temporary Measures
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-244

Reference: (a) Letter from Robert C. Mecredy (RG&E) to Guy S. Vissing (NRC), "Boraflex Degradation", dated March 30, 1998.

(b) Letter from Guy S. Vissing (NRC) to Robert C. Mecredy (RG&E), "Issuance of Amendment No. 72 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-18, R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant", dated July 30, 1998.

Dear Mr. Vissing:

The enclosed License Amendment Request (LAR) proposes to revise the Ginna Station Improved Technical Specifications (ITS) associated with the Design Features Fuel Storage (4.3).

In Reference (a), RG&E notified the NRC that testing of boraflex panels contained within Region 2 of the spent fuel pool (SFP) indicated degradation such that certain portions of the criticality analysis provided to the NRC may no longer be conservative. This included the ability of Region 2 to maintain a $k_{eff} \leq 0.95$ if flooded with unborated water. The letter described interim compensatory actions taken by RG&E until a permanent solution with respect to boraflex degradation could be engineered.

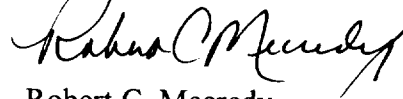
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By Reference (b) the NRC provided approval of the interim measures and the addition of a footnote to the ITS associated with the Design Features Fuel Storage Specification 4.3.1.1.b which required that 2300 ppm boron be maintained in the SFP until December 31, 1999. RG&E has been evaluating an analytical approach to the boraflex degradation which would allow resolution of the issue without requiring physical modifications to the SFP. RG&E currently plans to have a permanent solution to the boraflex degradation concern approved by the NRC and implemented by June 30, 2001. This reflects the time needed to finalize the criticality analysis, perform required fuel assembly movements, and obtain NRC review and approval of the required ITS changes. RG&E expects to submit a LAR to remove the conservative boron concentration requirement no later than March 10, 2000. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to revise the date by which Specification 4.3.1.1.b will be met or amended.

RG&E requests that upon NRC approval, this LAR should be effective immediately and implemented within 30 days.

Very truly yours,



Robert C. Mecredy

Attachments

xc: Mr. Guy S. Vissing (Mail Stop 8C2)
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