ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

December 17, 1971

Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Subject: REPORT ON ROBERT EMMETT GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT UNIT NO. 1

Dear Dr. Schlesinger:

At its 140th meeting, December 9-11, 1971, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed the request by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation for an increase in the licensed power level of its Robert Emmett Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1 from 1300 MW(t) to 1520 MW(t). A Subcommittee had previously met with the licensee on December 6, 1971. During its review the Committee had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the licensee, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, the AEC Regulatory Staff, and their consultants. The Committee also had the benefit of the documents listed.

The Committee reported to the Commission on the operating license application on May 15, 1969, and a Provisional Operating License was issued on September 19, 1969, authorizing operation at steady-state power levels up to 1300 MW(t). New analyses have been submitted to show that the plant will perform satisfactorily at 1520 MW(t). The Ginna Unit is essentially the same as Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, which have been authorized for operation at 1518 MW(t).

Changes in Technical Specifications have been proposed to assure safe operation at the higher power. The licensee has also applied the Ginna operating experience to make improvements in the plant and mode of operation. The Committee believes the licensee should continue to work towards solutions of problems that have been identified by the Regulatory Staff and ACRS as common to large water reactors, including tolerance to anticipated transients with failure to scram. These matters can be resolved wih the Regulatory Staff on an appropriate time schedule, not necessarily before commencing operation at the higher power.

The monitoring of iodine released with gaseous wastes at the Ginna plant has not provided reliable evidence of satisfactory performance of the iodine removal system. The Committee believes that attention should be given to improving iodine monitoring methods such that assurance can be provided that total offsite doses remain within appropriate limits.

The licensee will maintain a peak linear power density at full power not exceeding 16.0 kw/ft. Analyses of postulated loss-of-coolant accidents indicate acceptable low peak clad temperatures at the proposed power level of 1520 MW(t).

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards believes that, if due regard is given to the items mentioned above, there is reasonable assurance that the Robert Emmett Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1 can be operated at power levels up to 1520 MW(t) without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Spencer H. Bush

Spencer H. Bush
Chairman

References

1. Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (RG&E) Proposed Technical Specifications and Bases, R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1, received April 25, 1969

2. RG&E Report, Significant Plant Problems, dated February 5, 1970

3. RG&E Petition Requesting Amendment of License and Extension of Expiration Date of Provisional Operating License, with Technical Supplement, received February 22, 1971

4. Amendments 1-4 to Petition and Technical Supplement

5. RG&E Performance Report for Ginna Plant No. 1, received September 13, 1971