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MECREDY,R.C. Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.
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JOHNSON,A.R. Project Directorate I-3

SUBJECT: Discusses testing frequency for insp of incore neutron monitoring sys thimble tubes,oer Bulletin 88-009.

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June 1, 1990

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Attn: Allen R. Johnson
Project Directorate I-3
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: NRC Bulletin No. 88-09: Thimble Tube Thinning in Westinghouse Reactors
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-244

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Per our letter of June 6, 1989, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation agreed to provide an appropriate testing frequency for inspection of incore neutron monitoring system thimble tubes as required by NRC Bulletin 88-09. RG&E has conducted three tests of the subject thimble tubes (February 1988, May 1989, and April 1990) using an Eddy Current testing procedure and an acceptance criterion of 65% through-wall wear as described in the June 6 letter. All thimble tubes have been inspected and meet this criteria with the greatest positive increase in through-wall wear measured to be 10% between any two consecutive years (i.e., 1988 and 1989, and 1989 and 1990) and on different thimble tubes. Only one thimble tube currently indicates through-wall wear greater than 50% with the next greatest wear measured to be less than 25%. The thimble tube indicating the greatest wear was recently repositioned in an effort to minimize its future wear.

As a result of these three tests, RG&E has determined that a testing frequency of once every other refueling outage (i.e., once every two years) is appropriate for thimble tube inspections when the previous inspection indicates less than 45% through-wall in the wear area. Thimble tubes with greater than 45% through-wall, but less than 55% in the wear area will be inspected annually, unless through-wall wear has not changed between the previous two tests. In this instance, the thimble tube will be inspected every other refueling outage. Appropriate corrective action will be performed if a thimble tube exceeds 55% through-wall in the wear area.

The above testing frequencies were determined as follows. Applying the maximum wear rate of 10% to a single thimble tube initially measuring less than 45% through-wall wear would not result in the acceptance criterion of 65% being exceeded over a two year period. Applying this same wear rate to a single thimble tube with through-wall wear ranging between 45% and 55% for one year will also not result in the acceptance criterion of 65% being exceeded. The 65% acceptance criteria includes necessary instrumentation uncertainty considerations.

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These testing frequencies may be changed if the maximum wear rate between tests indicate either excessive or significantly less through-wall wear. The NRC will be notified upon any change in testing frequency.

Robert C. Mecredy
Division Manager
Nuclear Production

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on this 1st day of June, 1990

SAMUEL H. BROWNE
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
Registration No. 4917041
Qualified in Monroe Cty. / Wayne Cty.
My Commission Expires Dec. 28, 1991

Notary Public

MDF\120

xc: Allen R. Johnson (Mail Stop 14D1)
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Ginna Senior Resident Inspector