



NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- REGION I**

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NRC TO DISCUSS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF R.E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) Corp. on Wednesday, April 2, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the R.E. Ginna nuclear power plant. The facility is located in Ontario, N.Y., and operated by RG&E.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at the Ontario Golf Club, 2101 Country Club Lane in Ontario. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Ginna plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region I Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the facility during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/ginn_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, Ginna was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety, and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the letter states. The NRC did identify one inspection finding of low to moderate safety significance ("white") during the assessment period. It pertained to the failure of the off-site emergency siren feedback system. An NRC supplemental inspection, scheduled for April, will review whether that issue has been successfully addressed. The agency also plans to conduct an inspection of the upcoming reactor vessel head replacement at Ginna.

The letter also notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections, conduct portions of the security baseline inspection

program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. "

Current performance information for Ginna is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/GINN/ginn_chart.html

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