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SUBJECT: Provides status of source range detector action plan per
 LER 93-001 re loss of source range detector indication
 during energization, dtd 93042.

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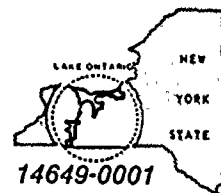
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November 3, 1993

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

Subject: Status of Source Range Detector Action Plan Pursuant to
LER 93-001
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-244

Ref.(a): Letter from R. C. Mecredy (RG&E) to USNRC, Subject: LER
93-001, Loss of Source Range Detector Indication During
Energization, dated April 12, 1993

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In a letter dated April 12, 1993 (Reference a) RG&E submitted LER 93-001, Loss of Source Range Detector Indication During Energization, citing several actions planned to prevent recurrence of source range failures. Based upon the information we have acquired from industry sources, one of those planned actions will not be performed.

Specifically, time domain reflectometry (TDR) measurements on source range detectors N-31, N-32, and the spare detectors are not being developed as part of our action plan (section V.B of Reference a) because industry sources knowledgeable of BF₃ source range detectors (Westinghouse and Imaging Sensing Technologies) have indicated that these measurements are not practical at power. We have not found any other plant that utilizes this measurement at power. Westinghouse has advised us that, due to the dynamic characteristics of the signal generated by the detectors while in the neutron field, meaningful data cannot be obtained. In addition, there is the risk of damaging the source range detector by performing the TDR at power.

The other actions listed in paragraph V.B of Reference (a) are being carried out. The calibration procedures for N-31, N-32, and the spare source range detectors have been revised to ensure the detectors are monitored over time for signs of degradation. Plateau curves from each calibration will be trended for indications of BF₃ gas dissociation. As the BF₃ gas dissociates over time the high voltage will need to be adjusted higher until it

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can no longer be set on the plateau. The integral bias curves will also be trended over time and any changes will be analyzed for signs of detector degradation.

Subsequent to the failures reported in the referenced LER, the "old style" source range detectors were installed in the N-31 and N-32 locations. We are planning to replace these with the new Westinghouse design (low voltage gold plated tungsten center electrode) detectors in the 1995 and 1996 outages, respectively. These new design detectors have been used in other plants with much improved reliability.

We believe that the planned actions of improved emphasis on performance monitoring of the source range detectors and the planned installation of the new design in 1995/1996 are sufficient to prevent the failure of both source range detectors simultaneously as experienced in March 1993.

Very truly yours,


Robert C. Mecredy

GAH/306

xc: Mr. Allen R. Johnson (Mail Stop 14D1)
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Washington, D.C. 20555

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Ginna Senior Resident Inspector



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