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No. 96-145

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Thursday, October 17, 1996)

NRC ASKS UTILITY LICENSEES FOR INFORMATION ON  
CONCRETE CONTAINMENT FOUNDATIONS AT NINE NUCLEAR PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has sent letters to five utility licensees requesting additional information on their use of porous concrete in containment foundations at nine nuclear power plants.

The NRC staff has been studying the reported erosion of the containment foundation basemat at the Millstone 3 Nuclear Power Plant, operated by Northeast Utilities, in Waterford, Conn. Based on information gathered by the staff thus far, there is no immediate safety concern about the Millstone 3 containment foundation, which is supported on rock. The amount of concrete that may have eroded since the plant was built in 1975 is only a small fraction of the total cement weight, and no adverse consequences have either been observed or predicted. The NRC staff is continuing its review of this issue in order to ensure that any potential consequences of this phenomenon are completely understood.

However, the NRC staff has identified nine other nuclear plants for which it requires more detailed information on their use of porous concrete. They are:

- Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 — operated by the Duquesne Light Co., 17 miles west of McCandless, Pa.
- James A. Fitzpatrick — operated by the New York Power Authority eight miles northwest of Oswego, N.Y.
- Haddam Neck — operated by Northeast Utilities, 13 miles east of Meriden, Ct.
- North Anna Units 1 and 2 — operated by Virginia Electric & Power Co., 40 miles northwest of Richmond, Va.
- Perry — operated by the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co., seven miles northeast of Painesville, Ohio.

- Surry Units 1 and 2 — operated by the Virginia Electric & Power Co., 17 miles northwest of Newport News, Va.

In the letters, dated October 16, the NRC staff asked each utility to provide information within 14 days on whether they have found slurry in the drainage below their containment basemats, and whether they have observed any settlement of the containment basemats. NRC also asked if they have noticed any unusual conditions which may be related to the porous concrete sub-foundation layers and if they are monitoring anything related to the drainage from the porous concrete sub-foundation layers below their containment basemats.

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