



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 18, 2000

Doris Blossom  
96 Hempstead  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Dear Ms. Blossom:

I am responding to your letter dated October 12, 1999, to President Clinton and Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton, expressing your concerns about the continued operation of the Millstone nuclear power plants. The White House staff forwarded your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for response. I note that your letter to President and Mrs. Clinton is the same letter you sent to former Chairman Dicus and Members of the Commission, dated October 12, 1999. I responded to your letter to Chairman Dicus and the Commission by letter dated December 17, 1999. A copy of this response is enclosed. Please refer to my previous correspondence regarding your concerns about the continued operation of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station and New York Times article dated September 28, 1999, which reported the record fine the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company agreed to pay as a result of their guilty plea to 25 felony counts.

Again, I assure you that the NRC continues to monitor the performance of Millstone to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected. As stated before, the NRC is committed to the level of regulatory oversight needed to carry out this mandate. I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the NRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elinor G. Adensam".

Elinor G. Adensam, Director  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/incoming & enclosure: See next page

cc:

Mrs. Helen S. Castleman  
Director, Office of Agency Liaison  
Room 6, OEOB  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20502



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20545-0001

December 17, 1999

Doris Blossom  
P.O. Box 2396  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Dear Ms. Blossom:

I have been asked to respond to your letter dated October 12, 1999, to former Chairman Dicus, expressing your concerns about the continued operation of the Millstone nuclear power plants. I would like to address your concerns arising from the New York Times article dated September 28, 1999, which reported the record fine the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) agreed to pay as a result of their guilty plea to 25 felony counts.

As the same article points out, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ordered the Millstone plants to shut down as a result of some of the very problems you cited. During this period, not only were there investigations, which resulted in the historic fines, but the NRC also established a special oversight organization in the NRC Region I office and at NRC headquarters to inspect and follow the licensee's progress and efforts to address and correct management and technical problems that NRC inspectors had uncovered. The extent of the problems and the corrective actions, which eventually led to the Commission decision to allow the restart of Millstone Unit 3 and later Unit 2, are well documented in reports, public meetings, and Commission meetings. The documentation of the inspection reports and meeting activities is available either on the NRC web site <[www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)> or in the NRC Public Document Room, e-mail <[pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov)> or call 1-800-397-4209. There is a minimal charge of \$0.08 per page of printed material should you wish to obtain a hard copy of any of the documentation.

Judge Chatigny's remark, "Ultimately, the public has to depend on the good faith, honesty and integrity of the people who manage our large companies." is fundamental to the regulatory process to ensure continued safe operation of nuclear power plants. An additional consideration, however, is the oversight role of Federal agencies, such as the NRC, in regulated industries, such as commercial nuclear power. It was, in fact, through the oversight role that many of the problems at Millstone surfaced.

The Millstone plants remained shutdown until the Commission was convinced that all of the problems that caused the units to be shut down were corrected, and that the licensee could operate the facilities safely and in compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. There were extensive changes in management at the operating facilities and at NNECO in general. Our confidence in the new managers was an important factor in evaluating the commitment NNECO has made to ensure the safe operation of their licensed facilities. Even though the Millstone units have been authorized to operate, the NRC continues to provide extra resources to maintain an ongoing assessment of the licensee performance. Specifically, the NRC formed the Millstone Assessment Panel (MAP) to not only assess the licensee's performance, but also to provide oversight of NRC activities, make recommendations for enhanced inspection activities, provide NRC management and the Commission with periodic

Enclosure

Doris Blossom

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status reports, and conduct periodic public meetings with NNECO and their contractor, Little Harbor Consultants, to discuss licensee performance.

The NRC is committed to the level of regulatory oversight needed to continue monitoring the performance of Millstone to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected. I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the NRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elinor G. Adensam". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Elinor G. Adensam, Director  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

May 18, 2000

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96 Hempstead  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

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Again, I assure you that the NRC continues to monitor the performance of Millstone to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected. As stated before, the NRC is committed to the level of regulatory oversight needed to carry out this mandate. I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the NRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elinor G. Adensam, Director  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/incoming & enclosure: See next page

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