

March 9, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-99-010 - CLOSURE OF
ORDER REQUIRING INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY
OVERSIGHT OF NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY
COMPANY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF THE
MILLSTONE STATION EMPLOYEES' SAFETY CONCERNS

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation to close the Order associated with third-party oversight of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company's efforts to improve performance in the Employee Concerns Program (ECP) and Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) at Millstone.

The Commission believes that the staff must continue to be vigilant in its efforts to monitor the licensee's performance in the areas of ECP and SCWE so that any decline in performance is detected in its early stages. As discussed in the February 19, 1999 SRM associated with the Millstone briefing, the staff should provide the Commission with its future plans to monitor and assess performance in the areas of ECP and SCWE at Millstone, including the criteria that will be utilized to determine if increased regulatory actions are warranted. The plan should provide for periodic assessments until ongoing organizational changes, the pending restart of unit 2, and continuing efforts to further improve the ECP/SCWE at Millstone have been successfully completed. The third-party audit reports which the licensee has indicated will be performed, should also be provided to the Commission as they are made available. The staff should provide the Commission with future NRC inspection results that pertain to the ECP and SCWE at Millstone and promptly inform the Commission if a decline in performance is detected in these areas.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

5/28/99)

In the cover letter to the licensee (Attachment 4 of SECY-99-010), the staff should reconfirm that licensee management intends to perform independent, third-party audits of the SCWE and ECP at Millstone until the "fragility" in the various programs that make up the SCWE is remedied.

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
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CFO
OCA
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Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
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