

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANYDOCKET NO.: 50-423NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a schedular exemption from the requirements of General Design Criterion 2 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (the licensee) for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, located at the licensee's site in New London County, Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Identification of Proposed Action: The schedular exemption would allow the licensee additional time to complete implementation of its seismic interaction program. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's request dated October 15, 1985, supplemented November 18, 1985.

Need for Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is required to provide the licensee additional time to complete implementation of its seismic interaction program.

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Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed schedular exemption allows additional time for completion of the licensee's seismic interaction program. The program is primarily a confirmation of the plant design and no hardware modifications are anticipated as a result of the program. In addition, the schedular exemption would only allow operation up to 5% power before completing the program. At these levels, the accumulated fission product inventory will be minimal and the potential environmental impact would be correspondingly low. And finally, the probability of having a safe shutdown earthquake prior to completing the seismic interaction program is extremely low.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to these exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operations and would result in unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3," dated December 1984.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the exemption dated October 15, 1985, supplemented November 18, 1985, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the Waterford Public Library, Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 20th day of November, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

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