

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 partial exemption from the requirements of Appendix J 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 exemption would eliminate the full pressure test required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J normal air lock opening and substitute a seal leakage test to be conducted at a pressure specified in the Technical Specifications. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's request dated September 26, 1985.

Need for Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is required to provide the licensee with greater plant availability over the lifetime of the plant.

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Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption grants the substitution of an air lock seal test for an air lock pressure test while the reactor is in a shutdown or refueling mode. With respect to this exemption from Appendix J, the increment of environmental impact is related solely to the potential increased probability of containment leakage during an accident. This could leak to higher offsite and control room doses. However, this potential increase is very small, due to the added seal leakage tests and the protection against excessive leakage afforded by the other tests required by Appendix J.

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 reduced operational flexibility and 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.

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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 September 26, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

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