

50-423



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001
July 1, 1998

Mr. Martin L. Bowling, Jr.
Recovery Officer - Technical Services
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
c/o Ms. Patricia A. Loftus
Director - Regulatory Affairs
P. O. Box 128
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3 - AMENDMENT NO. 158
(TAC NO. MA0070)

Dear Mr. Bowling:

By letter dated April 9, 1998, the Commission issued Amendment No. 158 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-49 for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, in response to your application dated November 11, 1997.

It has come to our attention that the wording in our Safety Evaluation regarding the refuel building and the plan for a rerack are inaccurate. Specifically, on page 3 of the Safety Evaluation, the staff states:

The licensee determined that some piping may leak following a seismic event greater than an OBE [operating basis earthquake], but that the leakage would not reach the SFP [spent fuel pool] due to the refueling building floor drains and the elevated curbs surrounding the SFP.

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The sentence should have read, "...due to the fuel building floor drains..." not "...refuel building floor drains." In addition, the first paragraph on page 5 of the Safety Evaluation, the staff states:

off

The staff notes that the licensee stated that this [is] a temporary condition, which is not expected to go beyond the year 2001. The licensee stated that they will replace spent fuel storage racks containing Boraflex prior to the start of the eighth operation cycle. The licensee expects to perform the rack replacement during the seventh operating cycle, which is currently scheduled for years 1999-2001.

In the November 11, 1997, application for amendment, you stated that the reracking of the SFP is expected prior to the start of the eighth operating cycle. When the pool is reracked, new spent fuel storage racks using a different neutron absorber material will be installed, and any

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M. L. Bowling

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July 1, 1998

remaining existing spent fuel racks will not credit Boraflex. As such, the staff's statement regarding rack replacement was inaccurate. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

James W. Andersen, Project Manager
Special Projects Office - Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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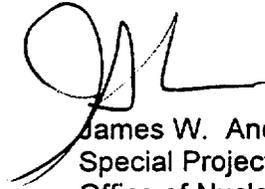
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M. L. Bowling

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remaining existing spent fuel racks will not credit Boraflex. As such, the staff's statement regarding rack replacement was inaccurate. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JW Andersen', written over the typed name.

James W. Andersen, Project Manager
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-423

cc: See next page

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Unit 3**

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Unit 3**

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