June 24, 2002

Mr. J. A. Price
Vice President - Nuclear Technical Services - Millstone
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
c/o Mr. David A. Smith
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: REVISED COMMITMENT ASSOCIATED WITH GENERIC LETTER 83-28, MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. MB5292)

Dear Mr. Price:

By Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.'s letter dated December 4, 2001, you requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of a commitment change related to Reactor Trip Circuit Breaker (RTCB) trip torque testing for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2 (MP2). Specifically, your letter requested NRC approval to extend the RTCB trip torque test interval from a 6-month interval to a refueling outage interval and to delete the requirement for trending the RTCB trip torque values.

As discussed in your letter, NRC approval was requested for the commitment change based on a statement in an NRC Safety Evaluation (SE) issued on March 7, 1986. The SE provided an evaluation of the adequacy of the licensee responses for MP2 to Items 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of Generic Letter (GL) 83-28, "Required Actions Based on Generic Implications of Salem ATWS Events." Items 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of GL 83-28 addressed the actions to be taken by licensees aimed at ensuring that a comprehensive program of preventative maintenance and surveillance testing is implemented for RTCBs. Section 2.2 of the SE discussed trending of parameters, including trip torque, to forecast degradation of operation of the RTCBs. The SE stated that "[i]f subsequent experience indicates that any of these parameters are not useful as a tool to anticipate failures or degradation, the licensee may, with justification and NRC approval, elect to remove that parameter from those to be tracked." Attachment 1 to your letter dated December 4, 2001, provided the justification for the commitment change. The justification conclusion stated that MP2 has been performing RTCB trip torque testing since 1984 and the data collected had shown no evidence of degrading conditions.

On September 21, 2000, the NRC issued Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2000-17, "Managing Regulatory Commitments Made By Power Reactor Licensees to the NRC Staff." RIS 2000-17 stated that the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) guidance document NEI 99-04, "Guidelines for Managing NRC Commitment Changes," describes an acceptable way for licensees to control regulatory commitments. Based on review of the process described in Section 4 and Figure A-1 of NEI 99-04, and subsequent discussion with Mr. Ravi Joshi of your staff, prior NRC review and approval is not required for the proposed commitment change. The decision steps for the NEI process related to the proposed change are summarized as follows:

Step 1: Is there a codified change process for the commitment?

No. Based on discussion with Mr. Joshi, the existing commitment is not located in the Final Safety Analysis Report, Emergency Plan, Quality Assurance Plan, Fire Protection Plan, or Security Plan.

Step 2: Is the change significant to safety?

No. Based on your submittal dated December 4, 2001, the proposed commitment will not negatively impact the ability of the RTCBs to perform their reactor protection function.

Step 3: Was the original commitment designed to achieve compliance with an obligation?

No. The commitment was not associated with restoring compliance to a requirement imposed through rules, regulations, orders, or licenses.

Step 4: Did the NRC rely upon the original commitment being considered for change?

Yes. The NRC's SE dated March 7, 1986, credited the original commitment as part of the basis for concluding that the licensee had implemented an acceptable preventative maintenance and surveillance program for the RTCBs in response to GL 83-28. In accordance with the NEI process for step 4, since the original commitment has already been implemented, the licensee can revise the commitment and the NRC should be notified in a summary report (annual or refueling outage).

Your letter also requested that the NRC address the acceptability of managing future changes to commitments associated with GL 83-28 using the NEI 99-04 process. The NEI process is an acceptable method to manage future changes to commitments associated with GL 83-28 or for other commitments. As described in RIS 2000-17, the NRC encourages licensees to use the NEI guidance or similar administrative controls to ensure that regulatory commitments are implemented and that changes to the regulatory commitments are evaluated and, when appropriate, reported to the NRC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1420.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-336

cc: See next page

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