

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 18, 1996

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 96-17: REACTOR OPERATION INCONSISTENT WITH THE UPDATED
FINAL SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORT

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this information notice to alert addressees to instances of reactor operation that may not conform to the licensing basis. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances

On August 21, 1995, the NRC received a petition under 10 CFR 2.206 which was supplemented on August 28, 1995, that requested NRC to shut down Millstone Unit 1 and take enforcement action based upon alleged violations of licensed activities related to operation of spent fuel pool cooling systems and refueling practices. Followup of the issues raised in the 2.206 petition, including the findings from investigations conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, found that certain activities at Millstone Unit 1 may have been conducted in violation of license requirements and that refueling activities may not have been conducted consistent with the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). In a letter dated December 13, 1995, [Accession No 9512150278], NRC subsequently required that the licensee submit additional information under oath or affirmation pursuant to Section 182a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and 10 CFR 50.54(f). Specifically, the licensee was required to report on actions taken to ensure that future operation of Millstone Unit 1 will be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Millstone Unit 1 operating license, the Commission regulations, including 10 CFR 50.59, and the Millstone Unit 1 UFSAR.

Discussion

As one element of its response to the letter of December 13, 1995, Northeast Utilities Service Companies, the licensee for Millstone Unit 1, established an Event Response Team to determine the causes for inaccuracies contained in the Millstone Unit 1 UFSAR. A copy of the Executive Summary and of the text of the resulting licensee report is attached. The complete document, including

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attachments, has been placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) in Washington, D.C. and the local public document rooms (LPDRs) (Accession No. 9603150021).

The Report identifies a number of fundamental factors that led to an inaccurate UFSAR for Millstone Unit 1. The Report states that because of the nature of the causes that the team has identified, the potential exists for similar configuration management conditions at Haddam Neck and Millstone Units 2 and 3. As a result, the NRC issued two letters dated March 7, 1996, that are similar to the letter of December 13, 1995. Because of a number of operability and design concerns involving Millstone Unit 2, one letter (which is attached) required the licensee to submit to the NRC no later than 7 days before restarting Unit 2 from its current outage the actions taken to ensure that future operation of Unit 2 will be conducted in accordance with the license, regulations, and UFSAR. The second letter from NRC requested information from the licensee within 30 days regarding actions taken to date and future plans to address the conclusions expressed in the 7007 report at Millstone Unit 3 and Haddam Neck. This letter is available in the NRC PDR and the LFRs (Accession No. 9603120179).

This information notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
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Attachments:

1. NU Report ACR 7007
2. March 7, 1996, Millstone 2 Letter
3. List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

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original signed by
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- Tech Editor has review. and concurred 3/14/96

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