

April 14, 2004

The Honorable Matthew Thomas, Chief Sachem
Narragansett Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 268
Charlestown, RI 02813

**SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF MILLSTONE
POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

Dear Chief Thomas:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of applications from the Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC) to renew the operating licenses for the Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (MPS). MPS is located on the north shore of Long Island Sound in Waterford, Connecticut, approximately 40 miles southeast of Hartford, Connecticut. MPS is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Narragansett Indian Tribe. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Narragansett Indian Tribe to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. A copy of this letter is also being forwarded to Mr. John Brown, your Tribal Preservation Officer. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for MPS Units 2 and 3 will expire in July 2015 and November 2025, respectively. DNC submitted its application for renewal of the MPS operating licenses on January 22, 2004.

The NRC is gathering information for a MPS-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the MPS site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, historic and archaeological resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the MPS license renewal supplement to the GEIS on May 18, 2004, at the Waterford Town Hall Auditorium, 15 Rope Ferry Road in Waterford, Connecticut, 06385. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML040260070. ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 1-301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html>.

A paper copy of the application can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738; the Waterford Public Library, located at 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut, 06385; and at the Thames River Campus Library at Three Rivers Community College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, 06360. The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any written comments that the Narragansett Indian Tribe may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by June 4, 2004. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001, or by e-mail to MillstoneEIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date, December 2004), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for MPS is planned for July 2005. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Mr. Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1590.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-336, 50-423

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Please submit any written comments that the Narragansett Tribal Community may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by June 4, 2004. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001, or by e-mail to MillstoneEIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

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 Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
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 Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-336 and 50-423

Distribution: See next page

Accession No. **ML041050878**

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DISTRIBUTION: Ltr. to The Honorable (Chief) M. Thomas, Re: Millstone Dated: April 14, 2004

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Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3

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Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3

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