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3/10/05

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



12/9/04
69FR 71137

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 23, 2005

Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-6 D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3, NUREG-1437, Supplement 22

Dear Chief:

A draft supplemental impact statement (SEIS) has been submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Incorporated concerning the application to renew the operating license for Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3 for an additional 20 years. The County of Suffolk finds the document overly narrow in scope, and lacking detail with regard to the issues of concern to the 1.4 million residents of our county. It appears that public notifications to areas in Suffolk County within the 10 and 50 mile emergency planning zones were neglected; that there is no need to rush operating license renewal for the plants decades prior to their license expiration; and, that radiological emergency evacuation plans for Suffolk County were not addressed.

I was dismayed that a public hearing was not held in Suffolk County concerning the renewal application and that the Commission failed to contact local municipalities and environmental groups on eastern Long Island (Supplement 22, Appendix D, Organizations Contacted). An analysis of major points of view concerning significant problems and objections raised by federal, state or local agencies is required by 10 CFR 51.71 in a draft environmental impact statement. In accordance with NRC policy regarding public involvement in reactor license renewal and as Suffolk County residents may be adversely affected by the renewal, we request that a public hearing be held in Suffolk County where the NRC and Dominion can respond to these issues.

Suffolk County views the applications to renew Millstone's operating licenses as premature at this time. The current operating licenses do not expire for periods of 10 and 20 years, until July 2015 for Unit 2 and November 2025 for Unit 3. With the advance of science in the next two decades, it is likely that alternative cleaner energy sources and/or conservation will negate the need for license renewal for outmoded and hazardous nuclear generating plants. It is clearly self-serving for the Commission to conclude that environmental impacts for future generating and conservation alternatives would be greater than those operating Millstone (Supplement 22, pages ix and 8-51). The NRC Fact Sheet on Reactor License Renewal states that the license renewal

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procedure is expected to take no more than 30 months. Why then is there a push to renew operating licenses decades before it is necessary to perform such a review?

Suffolk County is an important stakeholder in the application to renew the operating licenses because the plants are located within 10 miles NNE of the tip of Orient Point and seven miles WNW of Fishers Island in Suffolk County. Fishers Island and a portion of the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory, now operated by the Department of Homeland Security, are located within the Millstone Power Station's primary 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). In the event of an emergency, Fishers Island's residents are to be evacuated to either New London or Stonington Harbor and be bused north to Windham, CT. What is the fate of researchers and operations at Plum Island in the event of a severe accident at Millstone?

A 50-mile Ingestion Planning Zone is identified in the State of Connecticut's Radiological Emergency Plan in the event that a nuclear plant release is carried beyond 10 miles. This EPZ encompasses virtually all of Suffolk County east of the William Floyd Parkway in Brookhaven Township. ~~Although ingestion suggests an assessment of food and drinking water, a release~~ carried southward to Suffolk County is likely require additional public protective actions, up to and including evacuation. This had been deemed infeasible during the public discourse concerning the Shoreham nuclear plant due to the lack of adequate transportation infrastructure. Since that era, no new major east-west transportation facilities have been constructed, and there has been a significant increase in the population of eastern Suffolk County. Evacuation of eastern Suffolk County remains an infeasible scenario, a fact we consider to be a major factor impeding renewal of Millstone's operating licenses.

NRC regulations limit commercial power reactor licenses to 40 years, but also permit such licenses to be renewed where appropriate. In the case of Millstone, however, renewal for 20 years is not an appropriate public policy decision. The NRC recognizes that some structures and components of nuclear plants may have been engineered on the basis of an expected 40-year service life. Suffolk County is not reassured by the assumption made by the NRC in NUREG-1437, Vol.1, section 5.3.1.

"In assessing the impact on the environment from postulated accidents during the license renewal period, the assumption has been made that the license renewal process will ensure that aging effects on the plant are controlled and that the probability of any radioactive releases from accidents will not increase over the license renewal period."

This does not appear to be a credible position in light of Dominion's statement (Supplement 22, page xviii) that it *"did not identify any major plant refurbishment activities or modifications as necessary to support the continued operation of Millstone for the license renewal period."* The county has difficulty reconciling the two positions that, 1) the NRC will "control" the effects of an aging plant forty years into the future, and yet 2) Dominion foresees no major maintenance activity as necessary for safe operation through the year 2045.

Other significant issues that are not adequately addressed in the SEIS include:

- The cumulative impact of routine operations to aquatic resources, although recognized as significant for winter flounder (Supplement 22, page 4-56), are not adequately addressed or mitigated by the SEIS.
- In the event of a severe accident at Millstone the probability of weighted consequences of a release to groundwater is stated to be small (Supplement 22, page 5-4). However, there is a potential for radioactive fallout directly onto the surface water bodies that serve as the

Fishers Island water supply. Radiological monitoring and the provision of an alternative public water supply for these Suffolk County residents are not addressed in the document.

- Dominion estimates that the dose to the population within 50 miles of the Millstone site from severe accidents to be between 12.8 and 17.4 person-rem. What is the expected dose to county residents living on Fishers Island and the North Fork that are in considerably closer proximity and what health risks are posed by this exposure?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and we look forward to hearing your response at a forum held in Suffolk County.

Sincerely,



Steve Levy

Suffolk County Executive

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