



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

March 10, 2010

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Attorney General  
State of Connecticut  
Office of the Attorney General  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Attorney General Blumenthal:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to your letter dated January 21, 2010, and its reference to published reports of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC) proposed plans to offer its employees with voluntary employment severance buyouts at Millstone Power Station (Millstone). From a regulatory safety perspective, the NRC requires DNC to maintain approved staffing levels for the Millstone control room in accordance with the Millstone operating license. In the event DNC requested to reduce staffing levels for the Millstone control room, such a change to the Millstone operating license would need prior NRC staff approval in accordance with the license amendment process.

Additionally, the NRC requires DNC to maintain security and emergency personnel staffing levels in accordance with the NRC staff approved Security and Emergency Plans. The NRC staff must also approve, prior to implementation, any proposed changes in staffing that reduce the effectiveness of the Millstone Security or Emergency Plans. At this time, DNC has not requested NRC approval for any staffing level changes for the Millstone control room, or the Millstone Security or Emergency Plans, nor have they notified the NRC of any intent to make such reductions.

The NRC also maintains three resident inspectors at the Millstone site to provide oversight of day-to-day operations at the facility. As part of the agency's reactor oversight program, the NRC staff frequently inspects and observes the conduct of plant operations in the control room, as well as implementation of the Security and Emergency Plans. If deficiencies are discovered in any of these areas, they are dispositioned and remedied in accordance with the guidelines of the reactor oversight program, as well as any applicable NRC regulations.

As you state in your letter, the NRC mission is to protect public health and safety and I want to assure you that we will exercise our authority, as necessary, to do so. Thank you for bringing your safety concerns to our attention. I trust this letter addresses your concerns. If you have other concerns, please feel free to contact me in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. Leeds".

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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