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Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS REPORT ON A FULL-TERM OPERATING LICENSE FOR THE
MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 1

During its 308th meeting, December 5-7, 1985, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards completed its review of the application by the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (Licensee) for conversion of the provisional operating license (POL) for its Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 to a full-term operating license (FTOL). The ACRS Subcommittee on Millstone Point, Units 1-3 toured Unit 1 on November 18, 1985 and met in Waterford, Conn., on November 18-19, 1985 to consider the application. During our review, we had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the Licensee and the NRC Staff. We also had the benefit of the documents referenced. The Committee most recently discussed and reported on this plant in a letter dated December 13, 1982 relating to the Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) review of Millstone, Unit 1.

Millstone, Unit 1 received a POL in October 1970 and began commercial operation in December of the same year. The Licensee applied for an FTOL in 1972, but review of this application was deferred by the NRC Staff in 1975, along with several other FTOL reviews. In 1978, Millstone, Unit 1 was included in Phase II of the SEP because much of the review needed for the FTOL was similar in scope to that for the SEP.

In the Committee's letter reporting on the results of the SEP as applied to Millstone, Unit 1, we indicated that our review of the FTOL would be deferred until the NRC Staff had completed its actions on the SEP issues that were still pending and on the Unresolved Safety Issues (USI) and TMI Action Plan items. The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the NRC Staff in the manner reported in Supplement 1 to the Integrated Plant Safety Assessment Report for Millstone, Unit 1. The status of the USI and TMI Action Plan items for Millstone, Unit 1 has been discussed by the NRC Staff in its SER related to the FTOL for Millstone, Unit 1. We believe that the procedures and schedules that have been agreed to for these items are satisfactory.

This is the first plant to use the Integrated Safety Assessment Program (ISAP) as a device for identifying and scheduling the resolution of regulatory items. This program requires a plant-specific probabilistic safety analysis, as well as an evaluation of plant operating experience and licensee performance. The licensee has taken an active and dedicated part in this endeavor and the program appears to be working well.

Our review of the operating experience at Millstone, Unit 1 indicates that the plant is being satisfactorily operated. This conclusion is further supported by the recent Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance reports for Millstone, Unit 1 in which all activities reviewed were classed in either Category 1 or 2.

The Committee believes that there is reasonable assurance that the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 can continue to be operated at power levels up to 2011 Mwt under a full-term operating license without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

References:

1. Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, "Final Safety Analysis Report, Facility Description and Safety Analysis Report, Millstone Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1," Volumes 1-3
2. Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, "Application for Conversion from Provisional Operating License to Full-Term Operating License, Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1," dated September 1, 1972
3. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Integrated Plant Safety Assessment, Systematic Evaluation Program, Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1," USNRC Report NUREG-0824, dated February 1983 and Supplement 1, dated November 1985
4. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Full-Term Operating License for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1," USNRC Report NUREG-1143, dated October 1985

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