

NORTHEAST UTILITIES



THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
THE HARTFORD ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY
YORK WATER POWER COMPANY
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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October 31, 1979

Docket No. 50-245

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. D. L. Ziemann, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Reference: (1) W. G. Council letter to D. L. Ziemann dated March 20, 1978.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1
Containment Monitoring

On March 20, 1978, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) submitted a proposed Technical Specification change to the NRC, to delete the Surveillance Requirement for primary containment continuous leak monitoring at Millstone Unit No. 1. Since that time, we have reevaluated the advisability of deleting such a specification. The purpose of this letter is to present NNECO's current assessment of this subject.

The current method of continuous containment monitoring is nitrogen make-up; obtaining accurate results has been compromised by drywell-torus differential pressure requirements and by containment purging. We are evaluating the plant changes that would be necessary to make the existing monitoring method more accurate. If the method can be improved, it will not be necessary to delete the Technical Specification requirements. Therefore, we request the Staff postpone their review of the proposed change in Reference (1) until further direction and basis are provided by NNECO.

Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

W. G. Council
Vice President

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