

R

NORTHEAST UTILITIES



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

P.O. BOX 270
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06101
(203) 666-9911

December 12, 1978

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

DUPLICATE

- References: (1) W. G. Council letter to D. L. Ziemann dated November 3, 1978.
- (2) W. G. Council letter to D. L. Ziemann dated October 13, 1978.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1
High Density Spent Fuel Racks

In Reference (1), Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) forwarded to the NRC Staff the Carborundum Company Test Program Report No. CBO-N-78-299 which described the B4C neutron absorbing material requalification program tests and results. In addition, a non-proprietary version of the report and answers to specific NRC Staff questions were attached to Reference (1). Also in Reference (1), NNECO stated the conclusion that the results of the first three tests as contained in the Test Program Report verified the original determination that the B4C material will maintain its structural integrity when exposed to a spent fuel pool environment. Accordingly, NNECO stated that an internal "plant design change procedure" for the purpose of venting the spent fuel racks, would be processed based on the Test Program Report and reviewed in accordance with 10CFR50.59. Further, if the design change was approved and found not to constitute an unreviewed safety question, NNECO stated that the racks would be used in the vented configuration to store spent fuel no earlier than December 1, 1978.

Since that time, the above stated "plant design change procedure" has been processed, approved, and found not to constitute an unreviewed safety question, and NNECO has endeavored to keep the NRC Staff informed as to the progress and results of that review.

In Reference (2), NNECO stated that the new spent fuel racks would not be used in any configuration until such time as approval to do so was received from the NRC Staff. In a phone conversation on December 1, 1978, the NRC Staff informed NNECO

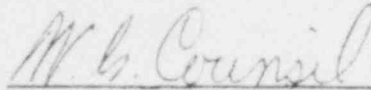
7812190083

Approved
5/10
P

that based on Reference (1) and a meeting between the NRC Staff, NNECO, other utilities, consultants, and vendors, on October 26, 1978, their concerns had been addressed and they were not opposed to NNECO using the new racks in a vented configuration. This letter documents the verbal understanding that we have your concurrence to use the new racks as soon as necessary.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. G. Council", is written over a horizontal line.

W. G. Council
Vice President