

TERA



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

May 9, 1980

Docket No. 50-245

Mr. W. G. Council, Vice President
Nuclear Engineering and Operations
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
Post Office Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Dear Mr. Council:

By Amendment No. 53, dated August 26, 1978, we issued a summary of plant modifications to the Millstone 1 Nuclear Power Plant to meet General Design Criterion 3 "Fire Protection" and supplementary guidelines. One of the commitments listed under Item 3.1.4, Control of Combustibles, stated that "A blast wall will be erected between the boiler room and diesel generator room." The basis for this requirement was presented in Item 5.13 of Amendment No. 53.

By letter dated January 24, 1980, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company based on an ongoing review of implementation of the blast wall requirement identified the need for clarification of the method of compliance (attachment 2 to the letter). You proposed an alternative which you represented as equivalent or superior to the blast wall. You further stated that the intent of the NRC staff requirements would be fulfilled by the alternate proposal.

Attachment 2 to your January 24, 1980 letter stated that as the result of discussions with the boiler manufacturer you concluded that no additional wall or modification to the existing wall is necessary. Your conclusion that the existing wall provides sufficient protection for the emergency diesel generator is based on the boiler manufacturer's experience, the type of failure expected from a cylindrical type vessel (end failure), the orientation of the boilers, and the nature of the potential explosion.

We have completed our review of your January 24, 1980 submittal and attachment 2, including the statement from the boiler manufacture on which you based your conclusion that contrary to the earlier agreement between you and the staff, a blast wall between the emergency diesel generator room and the auxiliary boilers is not required. Although the manufacturer's experience is reassuring, we have concluded that there is insufficient technical justification to show that the existing 12-inch concrete blast wall can withstand

8006130010 P

May 9, 1980

any type of fuel or steam explosion involving the auxiliary boilers and prevent damage to the emergency diesel generators located on the opposite side of the wall. We, therefore, continue to require installation of a blast wall as delineated in Amendment No. 53.

Sincerely,

for *Thomas V. Wambach*
Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

May 9, 1980

cc

William H. Cuddy, Esquire
Day, Berry & Howard
Counselors at Law
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
ATTN: Superintendent
Millstone Plant
P. O. Box 128
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

Mr. James R. Himmelwright
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Resident Inspector
c/o U. S. NRC
P. O. Box Drawer KK
Miantic, Connecticut 06357

Waterford Public Library
Rope Ferry Road, Route 156
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

First Selectman of the Town
of Waterford
Hall of Records
200 Boston Post Road
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

Connecticut Energy Agency
ATTN: Assistant Director
Research and Policy
Development
Department of Planning and
Energy Policy
20 Grand Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Director, Technical Assessment
Division
Office of Radiation Programs
(AW-459)
U. S. Environmental Protection
Agency
Crystal Mall #2
Arlington, Virginia 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection
Agency
Region I Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
JFK Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203