

# NORTHEAST UTILITIES



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

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May 26, 1981

Docket No. 50-245  
A01662



Mr. Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

- References: (1) W. G. Council letter to D. G. Eisenhut, dated December 31, 1980.  
(2) D. G. Eisenhut letter to D. B. Waters, dated April 6, 1981.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1  
TMI Action Plan Item II.K.3.27  
Common Water Level Reference

In Reference (1), Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) indicated that the viability of modifying Millstone Unit No. 1 reactor vessel water level instrumentation such that all level instruments would be referenced to the same point had been investigated through the BWR Owners' Group. The results of this investigation were forwarded to the NRC on December 29, 1980 by the BWR Owners' Group. NNECO further indicated in Reference (1) that after reviewing this information, it had concluded that identification of a common water level reference was not vital to ensure safe reactor operation and as such, no modifications to the current control room water level instrumentation were planned.

In Reference (2), the NRC Staff informed BWR licensees (by copy of the NRC Staff's letter to Mr. D. B. Waters in lieu of the more appropriate direct mailing to the officers of the respective licensees) that the NRC Staff did not agree with the BWR Owners' Group conclusion that "the current BWR water level indication system is fully adequate to allow plant operators to respond properly under all postulated reactor conditions."

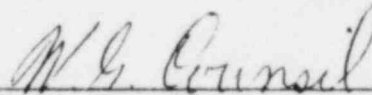
Although NNECO still believes that identification of a common water level reference is not vital to ensure safe reactor operation, plant modifications are planned such that reactor water level instruments will be referenced to the same point. Since NNECO has only recently decided to make such modifications, additional time is necessary for implementation of this requirement than that specified in NUREG-0737 and Reference (2). Therefore, NNECO intends to submit a schedule by July 1, 1981 for completion of such plant modifications and corresponding procedural changes, and for submittal of any required technical specification changes.

To ensure that proper and timely action is taken for all issues for which the NRC requires a docketed response, it is essential that correspondence regarding these matters be addressed to this office.

Should you have any questions on the above, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council  
Senior Vice President

STATE OF CONNECTICUT )  
 ) ss. Berlin  
COUNTY OF HARTFORD )

*May 26, 1981*

Then personally appeared before me W. G. Council, who being duly sworn, did state that he is Senior Vice President of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, a Licensee herein, that he is authorized to execute and file the foregoing information in the name and on behalf of the Licensees herein and that the statements contained in said information are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

*Shirley M. Cates*  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 1986