

January 22, 1990

Mr. Edward J. Mrocza  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Engineering and Operations  
Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company  
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company  
P. O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Dear Mr. Mrocza:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 89-16, HARDENED WETWELL VENT -  
MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. 74872)

By letter dated October 30, 1989, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) responded to the request for information regarding hardened wetwell vents in Generic Letter 89-16. In that letter, NNECO stated that it would not at that time commit to make voluntary modifications to harden the wetwell vent. NNECO indicated that additional analysis would be required to substantiate reduction in core melt frequency and that evaluation in the Integrated Safety Assessment Program process would be utilized to develop the implementation priority for any justifiable modifications. In addition, NNECO stated that it will be working with the BWR Owners Group to develop general design criteria for a hardened wetwell vent. Plant-specific design details, if warranted, will be developed in parallel with the Individual Plant Evaluation. It was stated that NNECO's intent would be to complete the installation of a hardened wetwell vent, if warranted, within approximately 3 years. Because no commitment was made to voluntarily install a hardened wetwell vent, NNECO provided preliminary cost estimates for the installation.

As noted in Generic Letter 89-16, since NNECO has not made a commitment to install a hardened wetwell vent on a voluntary basis, the staff will complete a plant-specific backfit analysis for Millstone Unit 1. If the completed analysis supports the conclusion that modifications to the wetwell vent meet the requirements of the NRC backfit rule, a copy of our analysis will be sent to you to provide you with another opportunity to make the requisite modifications under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59.

If your current position on this issue differs from that stated in your October 30, 1989, letter or if our understanding of your position is not accurate, please provide any necessary clarifications within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael L. Boyle, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-4  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Unit No. 1

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