

December 9, 1993

50213

Mr. J. F. Opeka
Executive Vice President
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Dear Mr. Opeka:

SUBJECT: NRC TEAM INSPECTIONS AT HADDAM NECK AND MILLSTONE
UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

This letter is provided in response to your September 14, 1993, letter to James Partlow regarding feedback pertaining to presentations the NRC made at the May 1993 Regulatory Information Conference on the total number of team inspections conducted by the NRC. In your letter you indicated that the NRC's information on team inspections did not appear to reflect the actual resource impact from inspections conducted at Northeast Utilities' plants during the last two full SALP periods.

Our review indicates that the number of team inspections conducted at Haddam Neck and Millstone were consistent with the data presented during the Regulatory Information Conference. Moreover, the number of major activities conducted at Haddam Neck and Millstone (of which team inspections are a subset) were consistent with the NRC's policy for scheduling and controlling activities that potentially cause significant impact to licensees. Haddam Neck received fewer major activities than the established threshold of four per SALP cycle. As allowed by the policy, at the discretion of senior regional managers the NRC conducted seven major activities at Millstone during the last SALP cycle. The major activities conducted were necessary to respond to a declining trend in licensee performance, the large number of employee allegations, an extensive steam generator replacement outage at Unit 2, and the unsatisfactory requalification program at Unit 1.

Although data indicates that the NRC's policy for scheduling and control of major activities has achieved some success, concerns expressed by you and others along with the results of internal inspection program audits indicates that further improvements are necessary. The NRC intends to clarify and broaden its policy to include all activities that cause significant impact on licensees.

If you have any questions on this matter, call me at 301-504-1284.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

L. J. Callan
Acting Associate Director for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Acting Associate Director for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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