

March 4, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-213  
50-245  
50-336  
50-423  
B14767

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Haddam Neck Plant  
Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3  
American Power Service, Alteration of Records

The purpose of this letter is for Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) and Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCO) to inform the NRC Staff of a recently identified issue regarding one of our vendors, American Power Service (APS) of Georgetown, MA.

On February 15, 1994, we received from APS, certificates that were represented to be issued by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) that were subsequently found to be questionable. In the interest of providing information that may be of interest to the NRC staff on a timely basis, we are docketing this unsolicited letter.

1. Identification of Component

A purchase order to rebabbit Millstone Unit No. 2 Reactor Building Closed Cooling Water (RBCCW) system pump bearings initiated the quality assurance source inspection, during which the questionable certificates were received.

2. Identification of Firm Supplying the Component

Commercial grade, rebabbit bearings are supplied by American Power Service, 97 Tenney Street, Georgetown, MA 01833, (508) 352-2299.

3. Nature of Failure and Potential Safety Concern

APS is a vendor which provides commercial grade services for the resurfacing of the babbitt material on bearings. Since 1989, APS has been providing refurbished commercial grade material to NNECO and CYAPCO. During this time, only two orders involved safety-related bearings. The first order provided on October 7, 1992, was verified to have proper nondestructive examinations (NDE) performed by a certified

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ASNT Level III examiner. The inspection and examiner were supplied by a company independent of APS.

The second order, which is the motivation for this letter, was provided on February 15, 1994. Since this order involved components which would undergo our dedication process, NNECO's and CYAPCO's Quality and Assessment Services (QAS) Department conducted a thorough source inspection of APS. In conversation prior to arrival at the APS facility, the QAS inspector was informed by the president of APS that NDE was now performed in-house. Realizing that APS had no quality procedures on which to base their examinations, the QAS inspector had changes made to the procurement documents (commercial grade dedication) such that NNECO would perform the necessary NDE examinations as part of the receipt/inspection process. Once he arrived at APS, the QAS inspector informed the president of APS that NNECO would not be utilizing APS's certifications. Following this, the APS President provided the QAS inspector a copy of the NDE results and the examiner's certificates. After the inspection, the QAS inspector took the initiative to thoroughly review the documents. Suspecting something unusual (i.e., identical certificate numbers) the QAS inspector called ASNT and discovered that the NDT Level II certifications had not been issued by ASNT (ASNT does not provide Level II certificates).

4. Date on which Information of Failures Was Obtained

The questionable ASNT certificates were received on February 15, 1994.

5. Location

The safety-related bearings, refurbished by APS under Purchase Order 304114, have undergone a thorough dedication process ensuring their acceptability. Bearings to be used in the RBCCW components at Millstone Unit No. 2 are currently stored in the QA warehouse.

6. Corrective Action

Upon identification of this situation, the following prompt actions were taken by NNECO and CYAPCO:

- The NRC resident inspectors at both the Millstone and Haddam Neck sites were verbally notified of the concern.
- A determination was made that no plant operability concerns existed regarding the bearings. The bearings were fully inspected and dedicated under NNECO's Quality Assurance program. APS refurbished bearings are in use by CYAPCO in safety-related applications. The questionable ASNT certificates were not relied upon in any way.

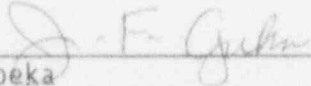
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- A Plant Information Report was initiated.
- All previous orders with APS have been reviewed. As noted before, only one other order included bearings to be used in a safety-related system and their examinations/documentation were verified to be valid.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff.

Very truly yours,

CONNECTICUT YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY  
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

  
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Executive Vice President

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