

NORTHEAST UTILITIES

THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
 WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY
 10TH FLOOR WATER POWER COMPANY
 NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY
 NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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January 30, 1991

Docket No. 50-423

B13723

Re: Generic Letter 90-05

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

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Relief from ASME Code Section XI Requirements

In a letter dated September 26, 1990, (1) Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) submitted to the NRC Staff a request for relief from the requirements of the ASME Code, Section XI, regarding a temporary non-code repair to pipe 3SWP*EJ10A. A metal expansion joint in this pipe had developed a leak, and was replaced with a rubber expansion joint of design parameters equal to or greater than the original part. Plans at the time of installation of the temporary rubber expansion joint called for replacement with an improved metal expansion joint during the next refueling outage (estimated at the time for March 1991). The planned permanent repair would fully conform to ASME Code Section XI requirements. By letter dated October 16, 1990, (2) the NRC Staff granted NNECO's request for relief.

ASME requirements to modify failed components to prevent recurrence required the development of a new design. Development of the technical requirements for the new expansion joint was necessary prior to placing the order. The order is now placed and a premium is being paid to expedite it; however, the new joint will not be available until after the current refueling outage. NNECO currently expects the replacement joint to be available within three months, at which time it will be installed.

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- (1) E. J. Mroczka letter to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Modification to Pipe 3SWP*EJ10A: Relief Request from ASME Code Section XI Requirements," dated September 26, 1990.
- (2) J. F. Stolz letter to E. J. Mroczka, "Inservice Inspection Relief Request, Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3 (TAC No. 77476)," dated October 16, 1990.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
B13723/Page 2
January 30, 1991

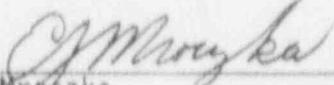
The expected useful life of the material of the temporary expansion joint is 10 years. NNECO had planned to leave the part installed for approximately 6 months. Therefore, postponement of the replacement until after the refueling outage will not significantly extend into the useful life of the temporary expansion joint.

Accordingly, NNECO hereby requests an extension to the previously filed and approved relief request, to allow continued use of the temporary rubber expansion joint in pipe 3SWP*EJ10A, until such time as a suitable replacement is available. NNECO expects said replacement to be delivered from the manufacturer within three months, at which time it will be installed. The subject piping is isolable during power operation, therefore installation will not require an additional plant shutdown.

Please call if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



E. J. Mroczka
Senior Vice President

cc: T. T. Martin, Region I Administrator
J. F. Williams, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
W. J. Raymond, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2,
and 3