

FEB 13 1984

Docket No. 50-336

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
ATTN: Mr. W. G. Council
Senior Vice-President - Nuclear
Engineering and Operations Group
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06101

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 50-336/84-02

This refers to the special safety inspection conducted by Mr. D. R. Lipinski of this office on January 17 - 27, 1984, at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, Waterford, Connecticut, of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-65 and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Lipinski with Mr. Mroczka and others of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

This inspection identified an apparent violation of a Technical Specification (TS) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) associated with the failure to maintain the required number of Reactor Protective System channels operable during critical plant operations (Mode 1 and 2) between January 6, 1981, and January 17, 1984. The violation was a result of improperly connected detector cables for the power range linear instrument which rendered two channels of the reactor protective system inoperable. This could have resulted in a less conservative thermal margin/low pressure trip setpoint later in core life.

Although there was no immediate safety concern, we consider this apparent violation to be serious, not only because it occurred, but because it went undetected for such a prolonged time period. Consequently, we have scheduled an enforcement conference on February 15, 1984. At this meeting you should be prepared to discuss the circumstances surrounding this event including the causes of the violation and your corrective action to prevent recurrence of problems of this nature.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within 10 days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within 30 days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10-day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Supervisor, Files, Mail and Records, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

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The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard W. Starostecki, Director
Division of Project and Resident
Programs

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report
Number 50-336/84-02

cc w/encl:

J. F. Opeka, Vice-President, Nuclear Operations
E. J. Mroczka, Station Superintendent
D. O. Nordquist, Manager of Quality Assurance
R. T. Laudenat, Manager, Generation Facilities Licensing
Gerald Garfield, Esquire
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of Connecticut

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Senior Operations Officer (w/o encl)
DPRP Section Chief

RI:DPRP

Shedlosky/dmg
2/9/84

RI:DPRP

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