

NORTHEAST UTILITIES



The Connecticut Light and Power Company
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Docket No. 50-423

Re: 10CFR50.36

March 13, 1992

MP-92-274

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3 Malfunctioning Loose Parts Monitoring System

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to Millstone Unit 3 Technical Specification 3.3.3.8.a, Loose Parts Detection System. Plant Technical Specification 3.3.3.8.a requires that a Special Report be submitted to the NRC 10 days following one or more channels of the Loose Parts Detection System being declared inoperable for more than 30 days while in Mode 1 (Power Operation) or Mode 2 (Startup).

On February 4, 1992, at 1057 hours, with the plant in Mode 2 (Startup), at 3% power, 2250 psia and 558 degrees Fahrenheit, the Loose Parts Monitoring (LPM) System was declared inoperable. All twelve channels were not functioning normally.

Loose Parts impacts in the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) are detected by accelerometers attached to major RCS components. An impact generates an electrical signal from one or more accelerometers, which triggers the LPM to record information from all twelve channels on a computer disk, and actuates an alarm on the main control board.

The LPM system channel Low Alarm setpoints were changed to obtain a more accurate reflection of the actual operating plant parameters. After the setpoints were changed the system was calibrated per retest procedures. Upon completion of the recalibration procedures the system was switched to normal operations at which time all twelve channel Low Alarms were actuated.

The root cause of this event is unknown at the present time and is still under investigation. Based upon the troubleshooting procedures the old setpoints were reset. The LPM System channel responses are still in question. Investigative steps have focused around the controller card and the system field inputs. The system is currently inoperable pending investigation results. The system vendor has been contacted for assistance in resolving these issues. An update report will be submitted by May 29, 1992 to provide resolution information.

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