

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY, ET AL.
MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 3
DOCKET NO. 50-423
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-49 issued to Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) for operation, and NNECO, et al. for possession, of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, located in New London County, Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the operating license to reflect the transfer of control of Public Service Company of New Hampshire's (PSNH's) 2.8475 percent ownership in Millstone Unit No. 3 through the merger of PSNH with a wholly owned subsidiary of Northeast Utilities (NU) with PSNH emerging as the surviving entity from the merger as a wholly owned subsidiary of NU. Millstone Unit No. 3 is operated by NNECO, on behalf of 14 co-owners, one of which is PSNH. NNECO alone is licensed to operate Millstone Unit No. 3. Ownership of the other 13 participants would not change. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated March 21, 1991, as supplemented June 11, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is required to reflect the ownership change discussed above. The amendment reflecting the transfer of PSNH's interest in

the license will have minimal impact on the operation of the facility by NNECO. The transfer and amendment will not affect the facility's Technical Specifications, license conditions, or the organization and practices of NNECO.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed license amendment and concludes that there will be no changes to Millstone Unit No. 3 or the environment as a result of this action. The transfer of PSNH's interest in the license and the associated license amendment will not affect the numbers, qualifications, or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate the facility, as NNECO will remain the holder of the operating license and continue to be responsible for the operation of Millstone Unit No. 3. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no radiological or nonradiological environmental impact.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in no benefits to the public or the parties involved.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, issued in February 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons regarding this environmental assessment.

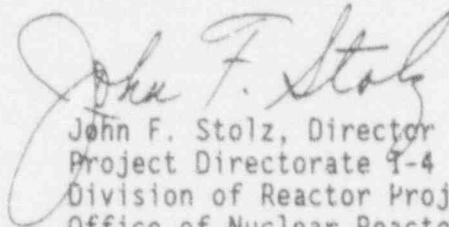
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for the license amendment dated March 21, 1991, supplemented June 11, 1991, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the Learning Resources Center, Thames Valley State Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 20th day of May 1992

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate 9-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation