

NORTHEAST UTILITIES



THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY
HOLYOKE WATER POWER COMPANY
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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December 7, 1984

Docket No. 50-423
F0637A

Dr. Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator
Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies
in Design and Construction:
Auxiliary Feedwater Pump Wear Rings (SD-63)

In a November 7, 1984 telephone conversation between your Mr. T. Rebelowski and our Mr. A. K. Gulesserian, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) reported a potential significant deficiency in the construction of Millstone Unit No. 3 as required by 10CFR50.55(e). The potential significant deficiency involved the failure of auxiliary feedwater pump impeller wear rings. Northeast Utilities was notified by Bingham Willamette Company (BWC) that an auxiliary feedwater pump at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station had experienced the failure of the first stage impeller wear ring. BWC stated that the Millstone Unit No. 3 auxiliary feedwater pumps have the identical wear ring design and material (440A spuncast) as the Palo Verde pumps.

The failure of an impeller wear ring would most likely result in a degradation of performance for the affected stage. The presence of metal fragments in the flow path caused by the failure could potentially affect other stages within the pump by restricting the discharge flowpath. This could lead to a reduction or loss of pumping capacity such that coincident with a postulated single failure in the auxiliary feedwater system, the system's ability to remove core sensible and decay heat could be adversely impacted. A common cause failure of impeller wear rings on multiple pumps could also adversely impact the system's ability to perform its intended function. Because of the similarity between the Millstone Unit No. 3 and Palo Verde pumps, we consider this to be a significant deficiency.

BWC has agreed to repair the impeller wear rings. Corrective action will include the replacement of auxiliary feedwater pump impeller wear rings, throttle sleeves, and bushings with components fabricated from AISI 420 wrought material. All three auxiliary feedwater pump rotors have already been shipped

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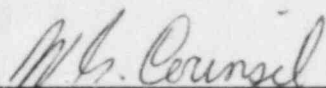
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to BWC for material replacement and are expected back for reinstallation by the end of this year.

We consider this to be our final report closing out SD-63. We trust that the above information satisfactorily responds to your concerns.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council
W. G. Council
Senior Vice President

cc: Mr. R. C. DeYoung, Director
Division of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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