

**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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February 19, 1985

Docket No. 50-423  
B11455

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Chief  
 Licensing Branch No. 1  
 Division of Licensing  
 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Washington, D. C. 20555

- References: (1) D. G. Eisenhut to W. G. Council, Design Verification Activities - Millstone Unit No. 3, dated August 13, 1984.
- (2) W. G. Council to D. G. Eisenhut, Design Verification Activities - Millstone Unit No. 3, dated October 26, 1984.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3  
Design Verification Activities

In Reference (1), the NRC requested that Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) provide any plans that we have for assuring Millstone Unit No. 3 has been designed and constructed in accordance with FSAR commitments. In Reference (2), NNECO provided documentation of our assurance that Millstone Unit No. 3 has been designed and constructed in accordance with applicable requirements based on a number of special audits and other NNECO initiatives.

A meeting was held with the NRC on January 11, 1985 in Bethesda, Maryland to discuss several of NNECO's initiatives in the area of design verification. The NRC Staff was most interested in the Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation (SWEC) Engineering Assurance (EA) program. NNECO gave a brief overview of the EA program including the scope of technical audits completed on Millstone Unit No. 3. Three of four audits scheduled for Millstone Unit No. 3 have been completed. The fourth audit will be conducted during the period from April to July 1985. SWEC personnel at the meeting discussed the EA program in comparison with the NRC Integrated Design Inspection (IDI) program. An outline of typical EA audit chronology was presented showing activities associated with planning and preparation, performance, reporting and follow-up action. The NRC Staff noted that an ongoing management supported technical review program within the utility company, such as the EA program at Millstone Unit No. 3, may be an acceptable alternative to a third party review performed at the end of the design and construction efforts. In concluding the meeting the Staff stated their interest in meeting with NNECO representatives in the near future to discuss NNECO's plan for the fourth EA audit at Millstone Unit No. 3.

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