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OCT 07 1992

Docket No. 50-423  
FA 92-166

Mr. John F. Opeka  
Executive Vice President - Nuclear  
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Dear Mr. Opeka:

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE UNIT 3 INSPECTION 50-423/92-23

This letter transmits the report of the safety inspection conducted by Mr. P. Swetland of this office on August 18, 1992, through September 14, 1992, at Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut. The preliminary findings were discussed with Mr. C. Clement and others of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection. Areas examined during the inspection are described in the enclosed report.

During this inspection, your staff identified two events which resulted in the inoperability of two safety systems for extended periods. The first event involved degradation of the hydrogen recombiner system for a period of about 90 days due to inadequate control of a lifted lead during maintenance, and failure to perform a maintenance retest prior to returning the system to service. The second event involved the degradation of the auxiliary building filter system since initial plant startup because of mispositioned filter fan variable inlet vanes and inadequate periodic surveillance testing to verify system operability. These two issues, as documented, are apparent violations and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, as revised February 18, 1992.

An enforcement conference to discuss these matters has been scheduled for October 22, 1992, in the NRC Region I Office. At the conference, please be prepared to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, any corrective action to the inspection report, corrective actions taken and planned, and other information pertinent to the NRC enforcement decision. After the enforcement conference, you will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations. No response regarding the apparent violations is required at this time.

We note that subsequent to this inspection, your ongoing evaluation of the auxiliary building filter system (ABFS) and its interaction with the supplemental leak collection and release system (SLCRS) determined that the startup sequence of the ABFS could prevent SLCRS from reaching its required vacuum within one minute following an accident actuation signal.

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On September 29, 1992, you declared SLCRS inoperable and initiated a plant shutdown. At the conference, you should be prepared to discuss the circumstances surrounding this plant shutdown and your corrective actions to resolve the problem.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Hehl, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: NRC Region Inspection Report 51-423/92-23

cc w/encl:

W. D. Romberg, Vice President - Nuclear, Operations Services

S. E. Scace, Vice President, Millstone Nuclear Power Station

C. H. Clement, Nuclear Unit Director, Unit 3

R. M. Kacich, Director, Nuclear Licensing

D. O. Nordquist, Director of Quality Services

Gerald Garfield, Esquire

Nicholas Reynolds, Esquire

K. Abraham, PAO (2)

Public Document Room (PDR)

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NRC Resident Inspector

State of Connecticut SLO

bcc w/encl:

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J. Joyner, DRSS

R. Blough, DRP

L. Doerflein, DRP

W. Raymond, SRI, Haddam Neck

J. Durr, DRS

P. Swetland, SRI, Millstone

J. Stolz, NRR/PD I-4

R. Lobel, OEDO

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DRS/EB SALP Coordinator

R. Barkley, DRP

bcc w/Report Cover Sheet:

C. Hehl, DRP

W. Hodges, DRS

R. Cooper, DRSS

W. Lanning, DRS

L. Bettenhausen, DRS

D. Holody, EO

RI:DRP

*JTW*  
P.SWETLAND

*for*  
9/24/92

RI:DRP

*JTW*  
L.DOERFLEIN

9/24/92

RI:DRP

*JTW*  
R.BLOUGH

10/7/92

RI:DRP

*CH*  
C.HEHL

1/92