

WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.  
1ST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1210 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515-2901  
(202) 225-5456

340 COMMERCIAL STREET  
MANCHESTER NH 03101  
(603) 689-6330

601 SPAULDING TURNPIKE, SUITE 2B  
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801  
(603) 433-1601

TOLL FREE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE  
1-800-649-7290

COMMENT LINE  
1-800-NH1-9596

E-MAIL [zeliff@hr.house.gov](mailto:zeliff@hr.house.gov)  
WWW <http://www.house.gov/zeliff/>



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2901

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

CHAIRMAN  
SMALL BUSINESS SURVIVAL CAUCUS  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT  
CHAIRMAN  
NATIONAL SECURITY INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS AND CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
WATER RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
AVIATION

COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS

May 13, 1996

Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Jackson:

Recently I received the enclosed correspondence from an individual who lives in the vicinity of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, Nuclear Plant. He is concerned with both the enclosed article regarding an alleged radiation "spike" recorded south of the plant and with the long term plan of the NRC to insure that competition in the electric industry does not lead to "cost cutting initiatives" by the plant which would jeopardize safety and health.

I would appreciate your explanation of both issues. Please respond to my office at 1210 Longworth.

Sincerely,

Bill Zeliff  
Member Of Congress

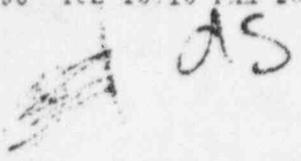
WHZ/dgs

enclosures

5/16...To EDO to Prepare Response for Chairman's Signature....  
Date due Comm: May 31.....Cpy to; Chairman, RF, OCA to Ack...96-0511

9607080345 960628  
PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER


  
**THOMAS J. SEDORIC**  
 840 CENTRAL ROAD  
 POST OFFICE BOX 397  
 RYE BEACH NEW HAMPSHIRE 03871

MAY 07 1996

 Congressman Bill Zeliff  
 Washington DC 20515

May 1, 1996

 Date: 5/1/96  
 Initials: AS

The Honorable Bill Zeliff  
 1210 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515-2901

Dear Representative Zeliff,

As a resident of Rye Beach, I am increasingly concerned by the risk of mishaps, or worse, at Seabrook Station. I enclose a copy of an article from the Wall Street Journal which, I think you will agree, gives cause for grave concern about the management and operation of the power plant.

Without questioning the wisdom and prudence of building a nuclear power station in Seabrook, I need not remind you that the poor performance of Public Service Company of New Hampshire offers little confidence that the plant was soundly constructed. Moreover, misgivings about the construction of the plant have, from time to time, been confirmed by allegations and findings of flawed materials and workmanship. As the plant ages, both reason and experience suggest that its safe operation will increasingly require exemplary management.

Consequently, I am troubled to learn that Northeast Utilities not only routinely operated Millstone 1 in an unsafe manner but also "willfully" misled the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the plant. Apparently NU knowingly violated operating procedures and falsified regulatory reports in order to foreshorten the time the reactor was out of service and so minimize its operating costs.

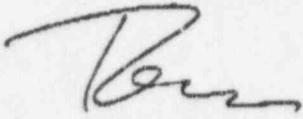
As you know, the gathering momentum toward a more competitive market for electric power in New Hampshire will augment pressures on NU to control its operating costs. Therefore, It is absolutely imperative that the safe operation of Seabrook Station be maintained as NU copes with the challenges of a changing energy market. Needless to say, the reckless and dishonest conduct of NU at Millstone 1 does not inspire confidence.

In light of NU's demonstrated failure to honor its obligations what steps have you, perhaps in concert with other members of the congressional delegation, taken to ensure that the company manages and operates Seabrook Station in compliance with all the regulations and procedures of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission? In particular, I wish to be assured that you are doing all you can to ensure that nothing will be done to diminish either the financial resources nor the regulatory authority of the NRC.

I appreciate the desire not to encumber business with unnecessary regulation. But, as a licensed securities dealer, I also know from experience that, without appropriate regulation and effective enforcement, some individuals and some corporations may be tempted to endanger the safety and prejudice the interests of the public. Unfortunately, NU has shown itself to be a less than responsible and honorable corporate neighbor. I trust you will do everything in your power to forestall any risk to your neighbors the Seacoast from the conduct of Northeast Utilities.

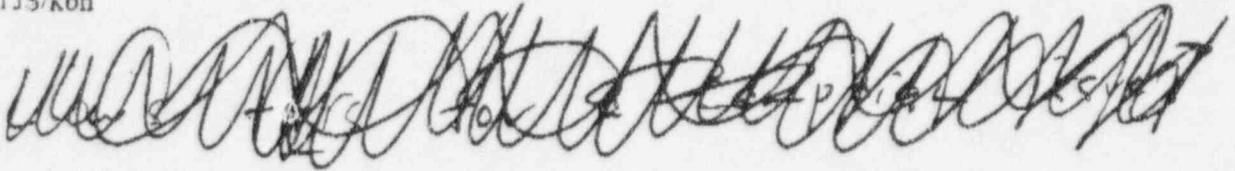
I look forward to hearing what you are doing to ensure the safe operation of Seabrook Station.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Sedoric

TJS/kbn



**MONEY & INVESTING UPDATE****FROM THE ARCHIVES OF  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

The Wall Street Journal — April 18, 1996

## Northeast Utilities, Workers Violated Procedures at Nuclear Plant, NRC Says

By Ross Kerber

Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation has found that employees at Northeast Utilities operated the company's **Millstone** nuclear plant without proper engineering studies, and that the company "willfully" filed misleading reports to the government about the plant.

The findings, by the NRC's Office of Investigations, were confirmed yesterday by an agency official. They stem from allegations of corporate misconduct and poor oversight by the NRC made by one of the utility's engineers. In public petitions filed last year he charged the utility was routinely overloading a spent-fuel cooling pool in order to minimize the time the **Millstone 1** reactor was out of service.

The NRC is now considering whether to levy penalties against the Berlin, Conn., utility, said Joe Gilliland, an NRC spokesman. Agency officials declined to say whether the report has been turned over to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution.

Anthony Castagno, a spokesman for the utility, said the company hasn't seen the NRC's report and couldn't comment on it until executives have reviewed it.

All three reactors at the **Millstone** plant, at Waterford, Conn., have been ordered closed by the NRC until the company can prove they are safe to operate. Northeast Utilities says it will spend at least \$130 million on replacement power costs through the summer. Some analysts believe the costs could be higher because of a possibly prolonged period before the reactors are restarted and because power shortages could push prices higher.

The findings were first described in detail at a public hearing in Waterford last week by Ernest Hadley, an attorney who represents George Galatis, the engineer at the plant who filed the petition. But Mr. Hadley said he couldn't discuss how he had come to see the findings, and declined to make a copy of them available.

On Wednesday, the NRC official, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Hadley's description of the findings was accurate. Mr. Gilliland, the NRC spokesman, said that the agency is investigating where Mr. Hadley got his information.

The NRC review found that employees at **Millstone** knew they were violating the company's operating guidelines when they moved the entire fuel core of the **Millstone 1** reactor into its cooling pool in one step, rather than moving it in stages. Investigators also found that the company knowingly filed false documents about the procedure to the agency.

In addition, the investigators found, other employees hid the fuel core issues at **Millstone** from managers, and managers failed to ensure they had proper reporting procedures in place. Mr. Hadley didn't identify the employees in his description of the report.

Mr. Gilliland said the agency couldn't officially discuss the report's findings because they will be used in determining whether to fine the utility or to seek criminal charges. Generally, such findings would be released at the time such penalties are announced.

PREVIOUS

NEXT



Copyright © 1996 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

# Mass. AG wants NRC to probe radiation P.1

By AMANDA MILKOVITS  
Democrat Staff Writer

SEABROOK - The Massachusetts attorney general's office wants a thorough federal investigation of a radioactive reading was detected 10 miles from Seabrook Station last November.

Citizens Within a 10-Mile Radius, a Newburyport, Mass., group regularly conducts radiation monitoring around the nuclear power plant.

On Nov. 29, the watchdog group says it found "radiation spikes" in its readings downwind of the plant.

Seabrook Station officials say none of their monitors showed any irregularities that day.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission also said it found nothing wrong at Seabrook Station and sent a letter to the citizens group, which refers to itself as "C-10."

However, Massachusetts state officials say the commission didn't thoroughly document its investigation.

☆ Radiation  
Please turn to Page 22

Top

## Radiation Continued from Page 1

In a letter to the NRC, Assistant Attorney General James R. Milkey stated he was not satisfied with the commission's explanation of what happened at Seabrook Station.

"We are extremely concerned that the public has not been given a full accounting of what occurred on the 29th of November. . . We are concerned that an adequate independent review has not been conducted," Milkey's letter states. "We have been told that in that incident, the NRC accepted the results of the plant's internal review, despite the fact that it appears that the engineer in charge of that review was not even aware of the plant's startup/shutdown bypass venting, a likely source of any release into the environment."

The commission didn't do a thorough job of documenting its investigation, a Massachusetts state nuclear engineer, Jim Muckerheide, said.

Because of Milkey's concerns, an NRC radiation control inspector will return to the power plant on May 29, Muckerheide said.

Even if Seabrook Station is not the cause of the radioactive "spike" C-10 says it recorded, there was nothing documented that he could find to show they did an adequate job, Muckerheide said.

"I can feel confident, but I think it's important to have objective evidence," Muckerheide said.

"We have looked into things and

assured ourselves that there is no correlation with our activities and with what they say they saw," a spokesman for Seabrook Station, Rob Williams, said. "The bottom line is, we did not have any abnormal radiation levels here."

Station officials have not seen the watchdog group's data, "so we have no way of validating their spike down there," Williams said. "We're not questioning the validity of the spike, but we're saying the plant releases wouldn't have created increases even at our site boundaries."

On Nov. 29, station employees were completing a four-week-long refueling, Williams said.

That morning, Williams said, the plant had normal filter ventilations that were being tracked by the plant's computer monitors. Those ventilations produce about 1/10,000th of the radiation a person would receive from natural radiation in the environment, Williams said.

One of the monitors was out of service for 28 minutes due to a transformer failure, Williams said.

Other monitors checking ventilation samples found that radiation levels were well below the licensed limit and even below the limit the plant is required to detect, he said.

"We are allowed to continue ventilation under regulations as long as compensatory actions are provided," Williams said.