

NORTHEAST UTILITIES



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

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December 9, 1992

Docket No. 50-423
B14320

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Temporary Heating Source--Operability of the Charging Pump
Proposed Changes to Technical Specifications--
Temporary Waiver of Compliance

By letter dated November 12, 1992,⁽¹⁾ Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) proposed to amend its operating license, NPF-49, by incorporating changes into the Technical Specifications of Millstone Unit No. 3. NNECO also requested that the NRC Staff process this license amendment on an exigent basis pursuant to 10CFR50.91(a)(6). Exigent authorization was being requested since there existed a possibility that the outside temperature would fall below 17°F before this amendment would be processed given a conventional schedule. It was also noted that with ambient temperatures at or below 17°F without this amendment, the plant will be required to shut down pursuant to Technical Specification 3.0.3. It was also indicated that based on the historical record, our best estimate was that the outside temperature would drop to 17°F or below on or about December 1, although the actual date could have been earlier or later.

Since November 1992 NNECO has been monitoring the outside temperature once a shift. On December 8, based on the local weather forecast for December 8 and 9, 1992, NNECO started monitoring the outside temperature on an hourly basis. Using these data, it was determined that the outside temperature might drop below 17°F during the early morning hours of December 9, 1992. During this timeframe, NNECO kept the NRC Staff informed of actual and projected temperatures throughout the evening of December 8 and the early morning of December 9. On December 9, 1992, at 5:50 a.m. the outside temperature actually dropped below 17°F. As a result, NNECO declared both charging pumps inoperable, entered Technical Specification 3.0.3, and prepared to commence a

- (1) J. F. Opeka letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, Temporary Heating Source--Operability of the Charging Pump Proposed Changes to Technical Specifications," dated November 12, 1992.

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plant shutdown. At the same time, NNECO verbally requested and sought regulatory action by the Staff, by whatever vehicle was most appropriate, to authorize uninterrupted safe plant operation (e.g., authorize a temporary waiver of compliance for the near term to be effective until the subject amendment is issued). On December 9, 1992, at 8:15 a.m. in a conference call with NNECO personnel, the NRC Staff granted a temporary waiver of compliance from the existing technical specification requirement until the proposed amendment is issued by the NRC.

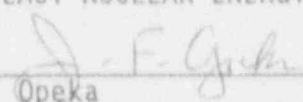
By letter dated November 12, 1992,⁽²⁾ NNECO requested a temporary waiver of compliance from the technical specification requirement related to the charging pump operability definition and provided the justification which demonstrates that continued operation during the duration of the waiver is consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public. The purpose of this letter is to document that the Millstone Unit No. 3 Plant Operations Review Committee has reviewed the above referenced justification, and has concluded that the justification remains applicable for the recent and current conditions. Continued operation during the duration of the verbally authorized waiver is consistent with protecting the health and safety of the public.

We are providing the State of Connecticut with a copy of this letter via facsimile to ensure their awareness of this matter.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY


J. F. Opeka
Executive Vice President

cc: T. T. Martin, Region I Administrator
V. L. Rooney, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
P. D. Swetland, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2,
and 3

Mr. Kevir McCarthy, Director
Radiation Control Unit
Department of Environmental Protection
Hartford, Connecticut 06116

(2) Ibid.