



Northeast
Utilities System

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January 22, 1997

Docket Nos. 50-245
50-336
50-423
B16188

F. J. Miraglia, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3
Response to Order dated October 24, 1996

By Order dated October 24, 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission required, among other things, that Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO), within 60 days, develop, submit for NRC review and begin to implement a comprehensive plan for (a) reviewing and dispositioning safety issues raised by employees and (b) ensuring that employees who raise safety concerns are not subject to discrimination. The plan is required to address the root causes of past performance failures as described in NU's July 12, 1996, *Report of the Fundamental Cause Assessment Team* and the NRC's September 1996 report of *Millstone Independent Review Group*, with the objective of meeting a goal of achieving a safety-conscious environment.

Since the issuance of the Order, NU has been engaged in developing a comprehensive plan to address the issues identified regarding our workplace environment and management oversight of these matters, as well as to respond to the NRC's Order. Our letter dated December 20, 1996, noted that an Employee Concerns Task Force (ECTF) had been formed to develop the comprehensive plan and requested an additional 30 days to finalize their work.

The ECTF has since submitted a report containing their recommendations for a comprehensive plan to NU senior management. We are now evaluating these recommendations.

In our response dated November 13, 1996, consenting to the Order, we noted that the Order provides that for good cause the schedule may be altered by the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. In order to provide sufficient time to

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perform, in a deliberate manner, our evaluation of the comprehensive plan recommended by the ECTF, NNECO requests an extension to submit and begin implementation of the comprehensive plan to no later than February 4, 1997.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Very truly yours

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



David M. Goebel
Vice President, Nuclear Oversight

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