

April 6, 1988

Docket No.: 50-245

Mr. Edward J. Mroczka
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Dear Mr. Mroczka:

Re: Snubber Visual Inspection Interval - Millstone Nuclear Power Station,
Unit No. 1

By letter dated March 14, 1988 Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) reported that, during a November 16, 1987 drywell entry, it was noticed that one of the hydraulic snubbers was leaking fluid and its reservoir level was low (this event was also reported in Licensee Event Report 87-043-00 on December 16, 1987). As a result of this finding, NNECO stated that a visual inspection of all safety-related snubbers in containment was performed to ensure that this condition did not exist on any of the remaining snubbers. The results of this inspection indicated that a total of two snubbers were found to be low in hydraulic fluid and both failed operability tests and were declared inoperable. The two snubbers were subsequently disassembled and were found to have failed as the result of improper installation of seals.

NNECO, in its March 14, 1988 letter, stated that a reduced inspection interval, based upon Technical Specification acceptance criteria, is not necessary because:

1. The failure was identified as improper installation, not as the result of degradation or aging.
2. All inaccessible safety-related hydraulic snubbers were inspected during the November 1987 shutdown.
3. Corrective actions were taken. Mechanical repairs were completed and maintenance personnel training has been revised.

Thus, NNECO stated that the Technical Specifications do not require a reduced visual inspection interval for snubbers.

The staff has reviewed the information provided in your March 14, 1988 letter and Technical Specification Section 3/4.6 and the associated bases and conclude

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that the currently required inspection interval of 18 months \pm 25% is the proper interval. The circumstances resulting in declaring the two snubbers inoperable do not meet the Technical Specification criteria for reductions to the visual inspection interval.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Michael L. Boyle, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

cc: See next page

Reviewed by
H. Shaw, METB

LA:PDI-4
SNM:RIS
3/30/88

PM:PDI-4
MBoyle *MLB*
4/4/88

D:PDI-4
JStolz
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Mr. Edward J. Mroczka
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company

Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit No. 1

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