



**Northeast
Nuclear Energy**

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The Northeast Utilities System

SEP 9 1998

Docket No. 50-423
B17436

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Millstone Nuclear Power Station Unit 3
Special Report - Loose Part Detection System

This special report is being submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.8, "Loose Part Detection System," ACTION a. The Technical Specification Action Statement requires a Special Report be submitted to the NRC within the next 10 days following one or more channels of the Loose Part Detection System being declared inoperable for more than 30 days while in Mode 1 (Power Operation) or Mode 2 (Startup), outlining the cause of the malfunction and the plans for restoring the channel(s) to operable status.

On August 9, 1998, at 1427 hours with the plant in Mode 1 (Power Operation) the Loose Parts Detection System (LPM) was declared inoperable. This action was based on a series of events including LPM Peak Alarms without the Main Board Alarm locked-in, and previously recorded events that were attributable to system noise.

The apparent cause of the noise was the power supply units to the signal conditioning unit for the LPM. The power supply units have been replaced and presently the reliability of the LPM is being evaluated with the new power supply units installed. During troubleshooting attenuation of the input signal was identified. While the attenuation is part of the design of the LPM for filtering noise out of the system, further review of its acceptability will be completed prior to returning the LPM to an operable status.

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This condition is being dispositioned in accordance with the Millstone Station Corrective Action Program. After completion of system troubleshooting and satisfactory post maintenance surveillance, a two week monitoring period of the Loose Parts Monitoring System will be performed. During this period of observation the LPM system will remain inoperable, but will be available for monitoring of loose parts. The LPM system is expected to be returned to Operable status by October 15, 1998, based upon observation of reliable operation during this monitoring period and the acceptability of the attenuation effect on the input signal.

Should there be any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. David Smith at (860) 437-5840.

Very truly yours,
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

BY:


M. H. Brothers
Vice President - Operations

Attachments: 1) NNECO's commitments in response to this letter.

cc: H. J. Miller, Region I Administrator
J. W. Andersen, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
A. C. Cerne, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit No. 3
E. V. Imbro, Director, Millstone ICAVP Inspections
Corrective Action Group Files (CR M3-98-3549)

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Attachment 1

Millstone Nuclear Station Unit No. 3
NNECO's Commitments In Response To
Special Report - Loose Part Detection System

September 1998

Enclosure
List of Regulatory Commitments

The following table identifies those actions committed to by NNECO in this document. Please notify the Manager - Regulatory Compliance at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 3 of any questions regarding this document or any associated regulatory commitments.

Number	Commitment	Due
NA	None	NA