

AUG 24 1988

Docket No. 50-423

License No. NPF-49
EA No. 88-177

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
ATTN: Mr. E. J. Mrocza
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Engineering and Operations Group
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Gentlemen:

Subject: EQ Inspection Report No. 50-423/88-04

This letter refers to the equipment qualification inspection conducted on March 14-18, 1988 at the Millstone Power Station, Unit 3. The inspection report (NRC No. 50-423/88-04) was sent to you on July 6, 1988.

Based on the results of that inspection it appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements, as set forth in the Notice of Violation, enclosed herewith as Appendix A. At the time of the inspection, two items (50-423/88-04-05 and 50-423/88-04-07) were identified as potential enforcement items. Based on subsequent information furnished by you at the Enforcement Conference, July 20, 1988, the NRC has categorized these as violations in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (Enforcement Policy). Our determination considered that the unqualifiable Litton-Veam connectors were only associated with position indication functions for containment isolation valves that were in different safety systems. In addition, we noted that you appropriately placed administrative controls over the valves and that the valves were closed, thus, minimizing any safety significance. One potential violation discussed at the enforcement conference (50-423/88-04-02) relating to the qualification of GA HRRM cable has been reclassified to an unresolved item based on information provided at the conference.

You are required to respond to this letter. In preparing your response, you should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
WILLIAM V. JOHNSTON

William V. Johnston, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: Notice of Violation, Appendix A

cc w/encl:

W. D. Romberg, Vice President, Nuclear Operations
D. O. Nordquist, Director of Quality Services
R. M. Kacich, Manager, Generation Facilities Licensing
S. E. Scace, Station Superintendent
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Senior Resident Inspector
State of Connecticut

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl)
DRP Section Chief
S. Pindale, RI, Beaver Valley
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R. Ferguson, LPM, NRR
R. Lores, DRSS

cja
RI:DRS
Paolino/kl/rw

8/18/88

cja
RI:DRS
Anderson

8/18/88

WVJ
RI:DRS
Johnston

8/18/88

DRS for
RI:ED
Holody

8/22/88

me/wtr
RI:RA
Russell

8/22/88

Steve Alexander cja
for VP by phone
Potapovs
8/18/88

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APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3

Docket No. 50-423
License No. NPF-49

As a result of the equipment qualification inspection on March 14-18, 1988, and in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, the following violation was identified:

10 CFR 50.49, paragraph (f) requires that each item of electrical equipment important to safety be qualified.

Contrary to the above, on March 18, 1988 NRC inspectors identified Litton-Veam connectors in safety related systems whose qualification had not been adequately established for use in a harsh environment. Forty three Litton-Veam connectors were identified for which a definitive long-term (i.e., 40 years) qualified life could not be determined with available test results. However, sufficient test information was available for un-aged connectors to demonstrate that these connectors would perform their intended function for the near term until the June 1989 scheduled refueling outage, at which time the licensee has committed to replace these connectors.

Contrary to the above, on March 18, 1988 NRC inspectors identified Litton-Veam connectors installed in safety related systems that did not include the protective Raychem Heat Shrink Tubing specified in procedure No. VAP-241. Two cases (four connectors), involving position indication for two containment isolation valves, were found that were required to remain functional to mitigate the event causing the local harsh environment.

These items are a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company is hereby required to submit to this office within thirty days of the date of the letter which transmitted this Notice, a written statement or explanation in reply, including: (1) the corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved; (2) corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further violations; and (3) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending this response time.

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