



**North  
Atlantic**

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The Northeast Utilities System

October 8, 1998

Docket No. 50-443

NYN-98116

Ref.: ACR 98-2674  
AR#98017987

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Seabrook Station  
Special Report  
Meteorological Monitoring Instrumentation Channel Inoperable  
For a Period Greater than 7 Days

Enclosed is a Special Report for an event that was identified at Seabrook Station on September 28, 1998. This event is being reported pursuant to the requirements of Seabrook Station Technical Specification 6.8.2 and section TR22-3.3.3.4 of the Technical Requirements Manual.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Terry L. Harpster, Director of Licensing Services at (603) 773-7765.

Very truly yours,

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORP.

Ted C. Feigenbaum  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer

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cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator  
W. T. Harrison, NRC Project Manager, Project Directorate 1-3  
R. K. Lorson, NRC Senior Resident Inspector

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ENCLOSURE TO NYN-98116

## SPECIAL REPORT

### METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION CHANNEL INOPERABLE FOR A PERIOD GREATER THAN 7 DAYS

The Seabrook Station Technical Requirements Manual section TR22-3.3.3.4 requires that the meteorological monitoring instrumentation for wind speed, wind direction and air temperature be operable at all times to ensure that sufficient meteorological data are available for estimating potential radiation doses to the public as a result of routine or accidental releases of radioactive material to the atmosphere. The action statement for TR22-3.3.3.4 specifies that with one or more required meteorological monitoring channels inoperable for more than 7 days; prepare and submit a Special Report to the Commission pursuant to Technical Specification 6.8.2 within the next 10 days outlining the cause of the malfunction and the plans for restoring the channel(s) to operable status. This Special Report is being forwarded to the NRC to meet these requirements.

TR22-3.3.3.4 requires that there be a minimum of one lower level (nominal elevation 43 ft.) and one upper level (nominal elevation 209 ft.) wind direction instruments operable. Contrary to this requirement, on September 28, 1998, it was determined that the lower and upper level wind direction instruments located on the meteorological tower were not calibrated in a manner which verified all of the system performance specifications identified in the Updated Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Table 2.3-37. Specifically, the wind direction instruments were not calibrated to verify that the starting speed was less than 1.0 miles per hour (mph) as identified on UFSAR Table 2.3-37. The starting speed can be defined as the required wind speed at which the wind direction instrument will move in response to a change in wind direction over a short period of time. The other operational parameters meet the requirements of TR22-3.3.3.4.

The cause of this event was a failure of a vendor to follow standard industry practice for the calibration of instrumentation. The subject meteorological tower instruments are calibrated by an off-site vendor. The North Atlantic purchase order was written with the intent that the vendor would calibrate the subject instruments to the manufacturer's specifications, which if performed, would have met the requirements of UFSAR Table 2.3-37. A contributing cause of this event was that the North Atlantic purchase order did not clearly identify that the instruments be calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

There were no adverse safety consequences as a result of this event. North Atlantic has recalibrated the instruments (including the requirement to verify wind speed). The recalibrated instruments were installed on the meteorological tower on October 3, 1998 and are operable.