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May 17, 1988

Docket No. 50-423
B12912

Re: 10CFR50.49

Dr. William V. Johnston
Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Qualification of Certain Litton Veam Connectors

On March 21, 1988, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) participated in a meeting with the NRC Region I Staff to discuss the qualification of Litton Veam connectors used in various protection and instrumentation systems at Millstone Unit No. 3 and subject to the requirements of 10CFR50.49. During the previous week, concerns regarding these connectors were raised by the NRC Staff, during the conduct of an audit of the environmental qualification program for Millstone Unit No. 3.

In a letter dated April 4, 1988,⁽¹⁾ NNECO documented the information provided to the NRC during the March 21, 1988 meeting. Additionally, in response to the NRC Staff request to provide a basis for continued use of the existing connector seals, NNECO proposed to perform pressure testing on specimens equipped with both new and aged seals. The results of these tests would have been evaluated to assure that the seals support operability of the in-service connectors. The test program was committed to be completed by July 30, 1988.

During the recently completed, unscheduled outage at Millstone Unit No. 3, NNECO replaced the silicone washers in the 43 Litton Veam connectors at issue. Due to such replacement, NNECO and Region I personnel discussed on April 29, 1988 the need to complete the previously committed seal test program. It was mutually agreed that performance of the pressure test program was no longer appropriate. The purpose of this submittal is to document that discussion and NNECO's plans to no longer conduct the subject connector seal pressure tests.

The replacement of subject connector seals provides additional assurance that the installed equipment can continue to be considered operable and does not currently present a significant safety concern.

(1) E. J. Mroczka letter to W. V. Johnston, "Qualification of Certain Litton Veam Connectors," dated April 4, 1988.

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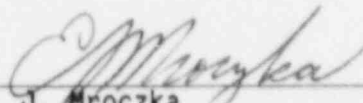
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In addition, our plans to replace appropriate Litton Veam connectors during the next refueling outage will prevent this issue from becoming a significant safety concern for Millstone Unit No. 3.

If you have any questions on this submittal, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



E. J. Mroczka
Senior Vice President

cc: W. T. Russell, Region I Administrator
R. L. Ferguson, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
W. J. Raymond, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3

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