

# NORTHEAST UTILITIES



THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY  
HOLYOKE WATER POWER COMPANY  
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY  
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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March 20, 1986

Docket No. 50-423  
A05358

Dr. Thomas E. Murley  
Regional Administrator  
Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3  
IE Bulletin 85-01  
Steam Binding of Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps

In an October 29, 1985 letter, (1) IE Bulletin 85-01, Steam Binding of Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps, was transmitted to selected operating licensees and construction permit holders. This bulletin identifies actions to be taken to prevent inoperability of auxiliary feedwater (AFW) pumps as a result of steam binding.

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company hereby provides the actions taken for Items 1, 2, and 3 of this bulletin at Millstone Unit No. 3.

1. Develop procedures for monitoring fluid conditions within the AFW system on a regular basis during times when the system is required to be operable. This monitoring should ensure that fluid temperature at the AFW pump discharge is maintained at about ambient temperature. Monitoring of fluid conditions, if used as the primary basis for precluding steam binding, is recommended for each shift.

This item is not intended to require elaborate instrumentation. A simple means of monitoring temperature, such as touching the pipe, is a satisfactory approach.

#### Response

Temperature detectors with computer inputs and alarms are installed in the discharge piping of each of the three AFW pumps to detect back leakage from the main feedwater system.

(1) IE Bulletin 85-01, "Steam Binding of Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps," dated October 29, 1985.

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A change has been made to the Plant Equipment Operator Logs which provides for checks of the discharge piping on the AFW pumps, by touch, for ambient temperature conditions once each shift. If conditions are found above ambient, the Plant Equipment Operator is directed to notify the Shift Supervisor.

2. Develop procedures for recognizing steam binding and for restoring the AFW system to operable status, should steam binding occur.

Response

A change has been initiated to Operating Procedure OP 3322, "Auxiliary Feedwater System," that adds a section titled "Steam Binding of Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps." This section addresses actions the Shift Supervisor must perform when notified by the Plant Equipment Operator that the temperature of discharge piping of the AFW pumps is above ambient. The requirements of this section ensure continued operability of the pumps and prevent steam binding.

3. Procedural controls should remain in effect until completion of hardware modification to substantially reduce the likelihood of steam binding or until superseded by action implemented as a result of Generic Issue 93.

Response

Procedural controls will remain in effect unless superseded by action implemented as a result of the resolution of Generic Issue 93.

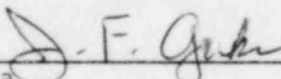
IE Information Notice No. 84-06 addressed the same subject. A review conducted at that time concluded that no design changes were required at Millstone Unit No. 3 to prevent the steam binding condition.

The above procedure changes were implemented March 18, 1986.

We trust you find this information satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

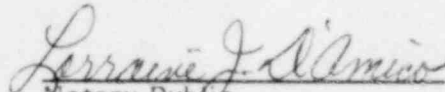
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

  
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J. F. Opeka  
Senior Vice President

cc: Document Control Center  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

STATE OF CONNECTICUT    )  
                                  ) ss. Berlin  
COUNTY OF HARTFORD    )

Then personally appeared before me J. F. Opeka, who being duly sworn, did state that he is Senior Vice President of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, a Licensee herein, that he is authorized to execute and file the foregoing information in the name and on behalf of the Licensees herein and that the statements contained in said information are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 31, 1988