



Northeast
Nuclear Energy

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The Northeast Utilities System

November 19, 1998

Docket No. 50-423
B17551

Re: 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B)

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Millstone Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 3
Licensee Event Report 98-042-00
"Licensing and Design Basis Review of the Loose Parts Monitoring System
Identifies That The Technical Specification Definition of Analog Channel
Operational Test Is Not Met"

This letter forwards Licensee Event Report (LER) 98-042-00 (Attachment 2), documenting a condition that was determined reportable at Millstone Unit No. 3 on October 20, 1998. This LER is submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B).

On September 9, 1998, a Special Report (letter B17436) was submitted as required by TS 3.3.3.8, "Loose-Part Detection System," outlining identified problems and plan's for restoring the system to OPERABLE status. This letter supplements that Special Report. Further investigation into the design and licensing basis of the Loose-Parts Monitoring (LPM) System has resulted in the conclusion that the system will be unable to be restored to OPERABLE status until completion of testing following startup from the sixth refueling outage (RF06). The LPM System will be restored to OPERABLE status, no later than 90 days after startup from RF06, following completion of system testing at 100 percent power. A detailed plan is being developed to restore the capability of the LPM System consistent with the licensing basis. The system, while inoperable, is still available and capable of determining that a loose-part exists if the need arose, what is in question is the exact sensitivity and calibration characteristics of the system in response to a loose-part.

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Northeast Nuclear Energy Company's (NNECO) commitments in response to this event are contained within Attachment 1 to this letter.

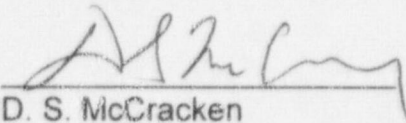
Should you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. David A. Smith at (860) 437-5840.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

FOR: M. H. Brothers
Vice President - Operations

BY:



D. S. McCracken
Assistant Unit Director - Millstone Unit 3

Attachment: 1) NNECO's commitments in response to LER 98-042-00
2) LER 98-042-00

cc: H. J. Miller, Region I Administrator
A. C. Cerne, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit No. 3
J. W. Andersen, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
E. V. Imbro, Director, Millstone ICAVP Inspections
Corrective Action Group Files (CR M3-98-4503)

RAL:rl

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Attachment 1

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
NNECO's Commitments In Response To
LER 98-042-00

November 1998

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
B17551-01	The LPM System will be restored to OPERABLE status, no later than 90 days after startup from RF06, following completion of system testing at 100 percent power.	No later than 90 days after startup from RF06, following completion of system testing at 100 percent power.
B17551-02	Revise the Loose Parts Monitoring Analog Channel Operational Test (ACOT) and Channel Calibration procedures to verify the range and accuracy of the setpoints.	Before the sixth refueling outage.
B17551-03	Identify and review Instrumentation and Control ACOT and Channel Calibration TS surveillance procedures (with the exception of Reactor Trip System Instrumentation and Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation functions) for conformance to the ACOT and Channel Calibration definitions in the Technical Specifications.	December 14, 1999

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Attachment 2

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
NNECO's Submittal of
LER 98-042-00

November 1998