

Ms. Jo-Anna Melrose Wandel
P.O. Box 742
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Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chair
Commissioners. Diaz, Dicus, McGaffigan
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

January 12, 1999

Dear Dr. Jackson,

There is mounting concern in Eastern Suffolk County, Long Island pertaining to our health and safety in regard to the close proximity of the Millstone #3 Nuclear Power Plant, in Waterford Conn. Owned and operated by Northeast Utilities. Situated a mere 11-15 miles from the Millstone #3 reactor, we are in need of the same monitoring of our environment that similar locations within the state of Conn. enjoy. Monitoring must reach greater distances as the reality of the danger of these emissions unfolds. As I am sure you are well abreast of all of this I won't linger, but dash off this letter to you to bring you information about a more immediate problem at Millstone #3.

To add to the numerous other brake downs, failures, and alarms of the past five months, since Northeast Utilities was permitted to restart the #3 Reactor despite the fact that not all issues of safety of operation had been resolved, the news of the day is yet another malfunction.

As reported by Northeast Utilities to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on 01/05/1999.

Millstone #3 Nuclear Reactor leaked a conservative estimate of 840 gallons of waste water, radioactive with trace amounts of tritium into Niantic Bay .

*Please read attached event text.

This is about the seventh event taken place since the reopening of Millstone # 3 in July. We on the Eastern End of Long Island have been active in the effort towards attaining monitoring provisions for measuring airborne radiological discharges reaching the North and South forks from Millstone # 3. Now we have to consider Long Island Sound having been imposed upon by radioactive waste water. So what shall we ask for now? Monitoring of the sea as well?

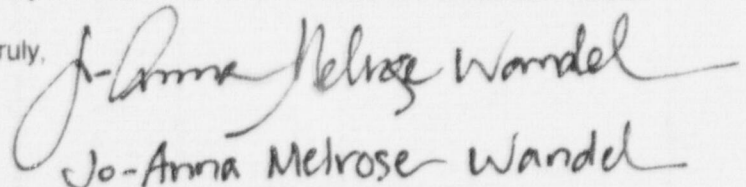
This is a reactor that has received the largest fine ever imposed by the N.R.C., and yet somehow, was granted permission to restart in July 1998; despite the fact that not all issues of safety of operation had been resolved. Since the restart of the reactor, there have been serious problems at hand, and yet this facility is still operational.

The citizens of Eastern Long Island, 11-15 miles across the Sound from Millstone #3, are at the mercy of Northeast Utilities, a utility based in Conn., not required to regard the effects of it's fallout on the population of New York. Although clearly within the radius considered for evacuation as designed by the N.R.C. Now we all acknowledge the impossibility of a realistic evacuation plan for Eastern Suffolk, should one exist; no such evacuation plan even exists. Again, not the responsibility of Northeast Utilities.

What can be said or done to implore the necessity to shut down this dangerous reactor before the inevitable bottom line; a larger release of radioactive material? Or Meltdown?? The N.R.C. must be held more accountable for the safety of operation of this Millstone # 3 Nuclear Reactor.

There needs to be an appointment of a public advocate to the now empty seat on the N.R.C. The behavior of the N.R.C. toward Northeast Utilities and the Millstone # 3 Reactor in particular, has shown the N.R.C.'s disregard of the public it is designed to protect. To appoint a public advocate would evolve to a policy more responsive to public sentiment, and public safety. This request shadowed only by the request of the people to have the Millstone # 3 Reactor shut down altogether. Remember no matter what politic may be saying that these emissions are within "safe levels", there are no "safe levels" of exposure to radioactive materials that remain deadly radioactive for ions.....Millstone # 3 Nuclear Reactor must be SHUT DOWN. Thank-you for your time.

Yours Truly,


Jo-Anna Melrose Wandel

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PDR ADOCK 05000336
H PDR

Power Reactor | Event Number: 35219

FACILITY: MILLSTONE REGION: 1 NOTIFICATION DATE: 01/05/1999
UNIT: [] [] [3] STATE: CT NOTIFICATION TIME: 16:15[EST]
RXTYPE: [1] GE-3, [2] CE, [3] W-4-LP EVENT DATE: 01/05/1999
EVENT TIME: 16:13[EST]
NRC NOTIFIED BY: BOB SMITH LAST UPDATE DATE: 01/05/1999
HQ OPS OFFICER: DICK JOLLIFFE

EMERGENCY CLASS: N/A PERSON ORGANIZATION
WILLIAM COOK R1
10 CFR SECTION: SUSAN SHANKMAN, EO NMSS
APRE 50.72(b)(2)(vi) OFFSITE NOTIFICATION FEMA, DOE, USDA, HHS FAX
EPA, DOT/NAT RES CTR FAX

UNIT	SCRAM CODE	RX CRIT	INIT PWRI	INIT RX MODE	CURR PWRI	CURR RX MODE
13	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

EVENT TEXT

- Connecticut notified that 840 gallons of waste water containing trace amounts of tritium leaked into Niantic Bay -

At 0200 on 01/04/99, a leak in a heater loop for the Unit 3 'A' waste test tank (WTT) was discovered. Waste water in the WTT contained radioactivity and boric acid. The leak (approximately 1 - 2 gallons per minute) was isolated. Initial indications were that this waste water was contained within the yard drain system. Upon subsequent investigations, it was determined that, conservatively estimated, 840 gallons of liquid (4% of tank volume) leaked from the WTT. A berm surrounding the tank had been installed due to a prior leak but did not contain this leak. Sampling performed at discharge serial number DSN-006 taken after the event indicated the presence of tritium.

Based on the above, it is believed that waste water from this leak flowed to a nearby yard drain and then discharged to Niantic Bay via DSN-006. The waste water from this leak contained radioactivity which is not addressed in the Millstone NPDES permit at DSN-006 nor are the WTTs listed as a source of waste water for DSN-006. Additionally, upon subsequent surveys of the storm drain system, tritium was detected at the DSN-006 sample point. As a result, this event was reported by the licensee to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Spills Division and Permitting Division and local officials.

The licensee plans to inform the NRC resident inspector.