UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-423

MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.80, by issuance of an Order, of the transfer of control of Facility Operating License No. NPF-49, to the extent held by Central Maine Power Company (CMP), which holds a partial ownership interest in the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, located in New London County, Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would consent to the transfer of control of the license, to the extent effected by a proposed restructuring of CMP. Under the restructuring, CMP would become a wholly owned subsidiary of a newly created holding company but would continue to hold a partial ownership interest in Millstone Unit 3. No direct transfer of the license would occur. Northeast Nuclear Energy Company would continue to be the licensed operator for Millstone Unit 3, and is not involved in the proposed transaction. The proposed action is in accordance with the submittal, dated March 4, 1998, from Central Maine Power Company, by and through its counsel, Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius.

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The proposed action is needed, to the extent the proposed restructuring of CMP will effect a transfer of control of the license as held by CMP, to permit the restructuring to occur. CMP has stated that the proposed restructuring will provide long-term advantages through increased management and financial flexibility that will better position CMP and its existing nonutility subsidiaries to compete effectively in a changing commercial and regulatory environment. CMP has also stated that this structure will also serve to insulate CMP's utility business from business risks associated with the activities of the nonutility subsidiaries and be consistent with the corporate structure used by many other utilities in the United States.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed corporate restructuring and concludes that there will be no physical or operational changes to Millstone Unit 3. The corporate restructuring will not affect the qualifications or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate or maintain the facility, as Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, which is not involved in the proposed restructuring of CMP, will continue to be exclusively responsible for the operation and maintenance of Millstone Unit 3.

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed action and has determined that the probability or consequences of accidents will not be increased by the proposed action, and that post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined. Further, the Commission has determined that the proposed action will not affect routine radiological exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

As an alternative to the proposed requested action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Millstone Unit 3, dated December 1984.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 20, 1998, the staff consulted with the Connecticut State Official, Kevin T. A. McCarthy, of the Monitoring and Radiation Division, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State Official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the application dated March 4, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room

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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of April 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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