

Paul M. Blanch
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Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Diaz,

I thank you for rearranging your busy schedule in order to meet with me on November 14, 1997. As I stated when we met, I am primarily concerned about nuclear safety issues and the safety of the people who operate nuclear power plants.

I summarize several of the topics we discussed last month. Millstone and the nuclear industry in general are making significant progress in these areas. The NRC has an important role in ensuring that this progress continues.

- ◆ Millstone has taken important steps forward in establishing and reinforcing a Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE). While a few problem areas remain, Millstone has investigated allegations of harassment and discrimination objectively and straightforwardly. The difference between the past and the present is the will to address the problems. Management is actively working to restore both employee and public confidence and address issues openly and honestly. The presence of an independent party (Little Harbor Consultants) has bolstered the effectiveness of the Employee Concerns Program and elevated the organization's attentiveness to SCWE issues.
- ◆ The Configuration Management Program, as confirmed by the ICAVP, is producing more complete documentation and has improved confidence that Millstone will maintain and adhere to the licensing and design bases for the three units. Ultimately, these efforts should result in greater operating efficiency and improved awareness of safety in the plants.
- ◆ The NRC must continue to take steps to improve its public image. It is not enough that nuclear licensees strive to rebuild public confidence; the regulatory agencies play a critical role in establishing a climate of trust. The NRC workshop I attended on December 11, 1997, was a positive step. As we discussed last month, inviting the Connecticut state legislature-created Nuclear Energy Advisory to the next Commission meeting is one example of a step which would demonstrate the NRC's recognition of this fact.

Again, I express my appreciation for talking with me. I look forward to seeing you when you have an opportunity to visit Millstone.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Blanch

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B/2