



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 20, 1998

Mr. Martin L. Bowling
Recovery Officer - Millstone Unit 2
c/o Mr. Harry Miller
Director - Regulatory Affairs
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE CONCERNS PROGRAM AND SAFETY-CONSCIOUS WORK
ENVIRONMENT EVALUATION AT MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
(EVALUATION REPORT NOS. 50-245/97-212, 50-336/97-212, 50-423/97-212)

Dear Mr. Bowling:

During the period from December 8 to December 12, 1997, and January 5 to January 9, 1998, a team from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Special Projects Office, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, in accordance with guidelines outlined in SECY-97-003, "Millstone Restart Review Process," performed an evaluation of the Employee Concerns Program (ECP) and Safety-Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) at Millstone. Information obtained during NRC's onsite monitoring of ECP and SCWE activities, information presented at periodic meetings between Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO), Little Harbor Consultants (LHC), and the NRC, and the staff's review of NNECO-documented material were also used for input to the evaluation. This evaluation was a part of NRC's ongoing effort to assess the effectiveness of your programs which will also play an important part in the NRC's consideration for restart at Millstone.

Generally, the team found that the ECP was well established, that NNECO had significantly improved the ECP since the beginning of 1997, and that the ECP was functioning effectively. The team also noted significant progress in NNECO's efforts to enhance an SCWE. Two weaknesses in the SCWE area required attention. One weakness involved NNECO's documentation supporting the implementation and closeout of actions for resolution of issues in identified organizational focus areas. The second weakness involved NNECO's development of plans to maintain the SCWE infrastructure beyond restart of the Millstone units into a self-sustaining entity. Subsequent to this evaluation, on March 31, 1998, NNECO submitted its letter on readiness for restart regarding SCWE which contained discussion and action plans for maintaining organizational support for ECP and SCWE activities in the near and longer term. Also, on April 7, 1998, during the periodic three-way meeting with LHC and NNECO, additional information was gained on the status of NNECO's focus-area plans and documentation.

While onsite for its evaluation, the team also evaluated the effectiveness of the independent, third-party, oversight program organization, LHC, and LHC's oversight of the Millstone ECP and SCWE. The results of this evaluation are discussed in a separate report (Evaluation Report No. 98-210).

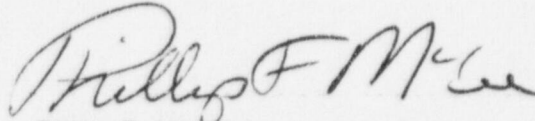
Mr. M.L. Bowling

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In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed evaluation report, please contact Ms. Helen N. Pastis at 301- 415-1261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phillip F. McKee".

Phillip F. McKee
Deputy Director for Licensing
Special Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-245, 50-336, and 50-423

Enclosure: Evaluation Report 97-212

cc w/encs: See next page

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Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

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