

November 18, 1999

Mr. R. P. Necci, Vice President
Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Affairs
c/o Mr. D. A. Smith, Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, Connecticut 06385

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-336/99-10 AND 50-423/99-10

Dear Mr. Necci:

This refers to the NRC Engineering Team Inspection that was conducted at the Millstone Nuclear Generating Station, from September 7-10, 1999, September 20-24, 1999, and October 21-22, 1999. The overall objective of the inspection was to evaluate engineering support to safe plant operation. The inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. The areas examined during this inspection included engineering performance in plant modifications, technical issue identification and resolution, and safety evaluations. At the conclusion of the inspection, the preliminary inspection findings were discussed with members of your staff.

Overall, we found that engineering provided good support to plant operations and maintenance. We noted the plant modifications were properly designed and implemented, and the modification documents were of good quality. In general, the completed safety evaluations were comprehensive and thorough. We also determined that engineering was effective in identifying and properly resolving technical issues.

Based on the results of our inspection, we have determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred regarding corrective actions for identified problems that were not always timely or effective. Our inspection determined that your Independent Safety Evaluation Group reviews, Engineering Oversight Assessments, and Engineering Self-Assessments identified instances where previously identified deficiencies had either not been corrected, or were not corrected in a timely manner. A specific example was the identified deficiency associated with the training documentation of engineering personnel that was not corrected in a timely manner to prevent a recurrence of the problem. This violation is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. This NCV is described in the subject inspection report. You do not need to respond to the violation, but you may contest the violation or severity level. If you so choose, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I; the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Millstone facility.

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Mr. R. P. Necci

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Lawrence T. Doerflein, Chief
Engineering Programs Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-423

cc w/encl:

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Mr. R. P. Necci

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