

50-336/423



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 9, 1999

Harriet La Barre  
P.O. Box 276  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Dear Ms. La Barre:

Thank you for your recent letter to Chairman Dicus expressing concern about the Millstone nuclear power plants which has been referred to me for response.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been concerned about the performance of the Millstone plants for some time. In 1996, we issued two orders requiring actions by Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) to address our concerns. One order required NNECO to contract for an independent verification that the Millstone units were in compliance with their licensing bases before restart. A separate order directed NNECO to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for handling safety concerns raised by its employees and for ensuring an environment free from retaliation and discrimination.

In March of this year, the NRC was satisfied that NNECO's employee concerns program was acceptable in creating a safety-conscious work environment. Thus, the NRC considers that the terms of this order have been satisfied; and, in a March 11, 1999, letter to the licensee, the NRC stated that no further action was necessary in accordance with the order. A separate order that required NNECO to provide independent verification that the Millstone units conform to their licensing bases, also was completed to the satisfaction of the NRC on April 28, 1999.

In addition to closing these orders, before the Commission authorized restart of Millstone Unit 2, we concluded, among other things, that NNECO had made satisfactory improvements to operate the plant safely and that no significant safety problems remained.

On April 14, 1999, the licensee, Parsons Power Group, Inc., and the NRC staff briefed the Commission on the readiness of Millstone Unit 2 to restart. Members of the public, including residents of Long Island, had the opportunity to address the Commission directly. The NRC concluded on April 29, 1999, that restart of Millstone 2 was acceptable. I assure you that the decision authorizing the restart of Millstone Unit 2 was made only when the NRC was satisfied that the plant conformed to its licensing bases, that an adequate corrective action program was established, and that the licensee had demonstrated its ability to begin power operation. Through extensive and concentrated inspections spanning more than 2 years, the NRC has verified that Unit 2 is in compliance with the conditions of its license and NRC's regulations. In addition, the results of NRC's inspections of NNECO's current programs and NNECO's corrective actions for historical weaknesses that led to the extended shutdown provide assurance that the Millstone units will be operated safely and in accordance with all regulatory requirements and its license.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 9, 1999

Mary Boylan  
37 Robeson Blvd.  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

Dear Ms. Boylan:

Thank you for your recent letters to Chairman Dicus and Dr. William D. Travers expressing concern about the Millstone nuclear power plants which have been referred to me for response.

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December 9, 1999

Abigail Vogel  
P.O. Box 17  
Wainscott, NY 11975

Dear Ms. Vogel:

Thank you for your recent letters to Chairman Dicus and Dr. William D. Travers expressing concern about the Millstone nuclear power plants which have been referred to me for response.

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December 9, 1999

Hadley Vogel  
P.O. Box 17  
Wainscott, NY 11975

Dear Hadley Vogel:

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December 9, 1999

Hannah Vogel  
P.O. Box 17  
Wainscott, NY 11975

Dear Ms. Vogel:

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December 9, 1999

Saul Vogel  
P.O. Box 17  
Wainscott, NY 11975

Dear Mr. Vogel:

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Harriet La Barre

- 2 -

I appreciate your bringing your concerns to the attention of the NRC. The types of issues you raised about Millstone have been addressed in previous correspondence to Congressman Michael P. Forbes (enclosed).

With respect to the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), the bases for the Commission's policy in response to requests to expand the 10-mile EPZ can be found in the February 16, 1990, Federal Register notice (55 FR 5603) denying a petition for rulemaking and in a decision regarding emergency planning in support of issuance of the operating license for Shoreham Nuclear Power Station (26 NRC 383 (1987), CLI-87-12). These references are available through the NRC Public Document Room, e-mail "PDR@nrc.gov," or 1-800-397-4209. There is a minimal charge of \$0.08 per page of printed material. The Federal Register notice is 12 pages and the CLI-87-12 is 17 pages.

The NRC continues to monitor the performance of Millstone to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected. The NRC is committed to the level of regulatory oversight needed to carry out this mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elinor G. Adensam".

Elinor G. Adensam, Director  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

Addressee

- 2 -

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Elinor G. Adensam, Director  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

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