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Subj: Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
(Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3)
Docket No. 50-423-LA-3

Administrative Judges:

At the oral argument in this matter held on Wednesday, July 19, 2000, I discussed Northeast Nuclear Energy Company's current schedule for the spent fuel pool rack project (*see* Tr. 523-526). Attached, for the information of the Licensing Board, is a copy of NNECO's letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff, dated July 26, 2000, on the same topic.

Sincerely,



David A. Repka
Counsel for Northeast Nuclear Energy
Company

Enclosure
cc: Service List

Template = SECY-043

SECY-02



**Northeast
Nuclear Energy**

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The Northeast Utilities System

JL 26 2000

Docket No. 50-423
B18189

Re: 10 CFR 50.90

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

**Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Supplemental Information Related to Implementation of Proposed
Technical Specification Change (TSCR 3-22-98)**

By letter dated March 19, 1999,⁽¹⁾ Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) forwarded proposed changes to the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications in support of a planned increase in the storage capacity of the Millstone Unit No. 3 spent fuel pool. NNECO's application sought approval of several Technical Specification changes necessary to allow an increase in the number of spent fuel assemblies stored in the Millstone Unit No. 3 spent fuel pool. In that submittal NNECO requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of the proposed amendment by June of 2000.

At the present time, NNECO's plan for the next scheduled Millstone Unit No. 3 refueling outage (which will be in early 2001) is based on use of the new racks to support staging of new fuel assemblies for the refueling. Using the new racks for new fuel staging will allow NNECO to optimize the reactor core reload sequence. Accordingly, NNECO's project schedule for new rack installation is proceeding on the plan to have the racks available and authorized by November 1, 2000.

NRC approval of the proposed Technical Specifications governing use of the new racks is not required to support installation activities. Safety evaluations have been prepared in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 to support these activities. These evaluations conclude that the installation can be performed safely and in accordance with the existing NRC approved licensing and design basis for Millstone Unit No. 3. This is largely due to the fact that the racks are being installed into the unused region of the spent fuel pool. Lifting and transit of the racks has been planned such that the racks

⁽¹⁾ R. P. Necci letter to the NRC, "Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3 Proposed Revision to Technical Specification Spent Fuel Pool Rerack (TSCR 3-22 98)," dated March 19, 1999.

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will not traverse over any existing racks or stored fuel assemblies. Additionally, spent fuel located in the existing storage racks has been relocated as necessary to ensure that no adverse consequence arises due to any incidental rack-to-rack contact during the installation process.

NNECO is proceeding with these project activities at its own financial risk. NNECO fully recognizes, however, that use of the new racks for storage of nuclear fuel is prohibited until the NRC approves the pending application and the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications are received and implemented. Therefore, the final design change documentation supporting turnover of the new racks to the operations department, including revisions to existing plant procedures to reflect the new storage racks will not occur until after NRC approval is obtained. This will prevent a new rack location from being specified for storage of either a new or used fuel assembly.

Current project milestones require that the element of the outage plan related to the staging of new fuel be finalized by November 1, 2000, to support the new fuel delivery schedule. NNECO is requesting NRC approval of the proposed Technical Specifications related to use of the racks by October 1, 2000, in order to provide a reasonable period for implementation.

There are no regulatory commitments contained in this letter.

Should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact Mr. David W. Dodson at (860) 447-1791, extension 2346.

Very truly yours,

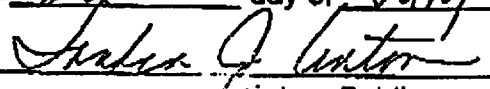
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



Raymond P. Necci
Vice President - Nuclear Technical Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 26th day of July, 2000


Notary Public

Date Commission Expires: _____

SANDRA J. ANTON
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION EXPIRES
MAY 31, 2005

cc: See next page

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**cc: H. J. Miller, Region I Administrator
V. Nerses, NRC Senior Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
A. C. Ceme, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit No. 3**

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