

# NORTHEAST UTILITIES



THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
THE HARTFORD ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY  
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY  
HOLYOKE WATER POWER COMPANY  
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY  
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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July 13, 1979

Docket No. 50-336

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director  
Region I  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

References: (1) B. H. Grier letter to W. G. Council dated June 25, 1979,  
transmitting I&E Bulletin #79-13.  
(2) W. G. Council letter to R. Reid dated June 18, 1979.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2  
Feedwater System Piping

In Reference (1), the NRC Staff summarized relevant industry experience regarding examination of feedwater piping welds, and requested action of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) to address the postulated increased likelihood of a feedwater line break.

Specifically, Item 5.a of Reference (1) requested a response on three items within twenty (20) days. Accordingly, the following information is provided.

a. "Your schedule for inspection if required by Item 1."

In accordance with the Reference (1) request, NNECO is preparing to perform the examination within the 90-day period. Plant shutdown is tentatively scheduled for September 1, 1979, subject to change based upon such considerations as system-wide reserve generating capacity and plant status during the period between the date of this letter and the scheduled inspection.

b. "The adequacy of your operating and emergency procedures to recognize and respond to a feedwater line break accident."

Emergency procedure 2509, Steam Line Rupture, discusses and provides procedure guidance for feedwater line breaks, as well as steam line breaks, as to their location, either upstream or downstream of their respective isolation valves, and requires the same response for similarly located failures on either line.

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The specific provisions of the procedure include:

- (1) Isolation of the break, if possible,
- (2) Termination of feedwater flow through the break to minimize the cooldown rate and associated reactivity increase, and
- (3) Retention of a sub-critical condition via emergency boration flowpaths.

NNECO's review has concluded that the existing procedures are adequate to recognize and respond to a feedwater line break. They remain, of course, available for NRC Staff review on-site.


c. "The methods and sensitivity of detection of feedwater leaks in containment."

Detection of small feedwater leaks would be accomplished with equipment which is also utilized for reactor coolant system leakage determination. The instrumentation available is containment sump level, containment low range pressure, temperature and dew point. All four of these indications are monitored in the control room. If these parameters indicate an increase in high temperature fluid leakage, a containment inspection would determine the source. The sensitivity of these devices was indicated recently when a 1.4 gallon per minute reactor coolant system leak was reflected in all of the above-mentioned parameters. Detection of large feedwater leaks is covered by the symptoms indicated in the above-referenced emergency procedure 2509.

A report of the results of the examinations is scheduled to be provided within 30 days of completion of the inspection. As documented in Reference (2), NNECO's conclusion that Millstone Unit No. 2 can continue to operate safely in accordance with the provisions of DPR-65 remains unchanged.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council  
Vice President