

**NORTHEAST UTILITIES**

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

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April 16, 1990

Docket No. 50-423  
B13498

Re: NPF-49 Amendment 47

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

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3  
Amendment #47 to the Operating License NPF-49  
Hydrogen Recombiners (TAC No. 75393)

By letter dated March 2, 1990,<sup>(1)</sup> the NRC issued Amendment #47 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-49 for Millstone Unit No. 3 in response to Northeast Nuclear Energy Company's (NNECO's) applications dated November 2, and December 1, 1989. Specifically, the amendment modifies Technical Specification 3.6.4.1, "Hydrogen Monitors," and Technical Specification 3.3.3.6, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation," to eliminate inconsistencies concerning Limiting Conditions for Operation associated with hydrogen monitors. The amendment also modifies Technical Specification 4.6.4.2.b.4, "Electric Hydrogen Recombiners," to provide variable acceptance criteria for flow testing.

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification regarding "the lowest flow acceptance criterion" for hydrogen recombiners included in the NRC Safety Evaluation Report<sup>(2)</sup> (SER) based on our submittals dated December 1, 1989<sup>(3)</sup> and January 19, 1990.<sup>(4)</sup> Specifically, the second paragraph of Page 3 of the

- (1) D. H. Jaffe letter to E. J. Mroczka, Millstone Unit 3--Issuance of Amendment, dated March 2, 1990.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) E. J. Mroczka letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Proposed Revision to Technical Specifications--Hydrogen Recombiners, dated December 1, 1989.
- (4) E. J. Mroczka letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Proposed Revision to Technical Specifications--Hydrogen Recombiners, dated January 19, 1990.

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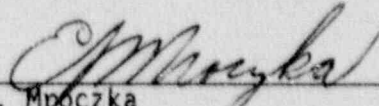
NRC SER states "The lowest flow acceptance criterion, however, would be limited to approximately 51 scfm since the lowest containment pressure is limited to 10.6 psia by TS 3.6.4.1 [3.6.1.4] as indicated in the licensee's letter dated January 19, 1990." It is noted that the minimum containment pressure of 10.6 psia reflects an assumed relative humidity of 100% inside containment. However, a pressure lower than 10.6 psia is allowed by Technical Specification 3.6.1.4 if the containment atmosphere contains less moisture. A minimum acceptable containment pressure with zero percent relative humidity would be 8.9 psia. The acceptance criterion for the hydrogen recombiner flow rate at this pressure would be approximately 42 scfm per Figure 3.6-2 of Technical Specification Section 3.6-2. It is noted that the containment pressure shown on Figure 3.6-2 is the total pressure measured by a gauge. The total pressure is made up of the air partial pressure and the water vapor pressure in the containment atmosphere. A higher concentration of water vapor inside containment will increase the measured pressure and revise the minimum acceptable hydrogen recombiner flow rate.

In addition, NNECO would like to bring to your attention two minor typographical errors in the SER. On page 2, the next to the last paragraph states that the minimum acceptable hydrogen recombiner flow rate per Technical Specification 4.6.4.2.b.4 is 40 scfm. The present (prior to this amendment) limit is actually 50 scfm. On page 3 of the SER, the second paragraph identifies Section 3.6.4.1 as the Technical Specification section which limits containment pressure. The correct Technical Specification Section is 3.6.1.4.

It is noted that the above clarification is provided to correct the record on the docket. If you have any questions, please contact our licensing representative directly.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

  
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E. J. Mroczka  
Senior Vice President

cc: T. T. Martin, Region I Administrator  
D. H. Jaffe, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3  
W. J. Raymond, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3