

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 21, 1993

Docket No. 50-423
B14449

Re: 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i)

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

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Request to Use Alternative to ASME Code Section XI

On April 6, 1993, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) identified a leak in the two-inch copper-nickel piping in the CCE*E1A heat exchanger at Millstone Unit No. 3. This portion of the system was isolated, and in accordance with the guidance provided in Generic Letter 90-05, an ASME Section XI code repair was performed.

Upon completion of the repair, Section XI requires an elevated pressure test to be performed. During the upcoming refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin July 31, 1993, this piping is scheduled to be replaced. The purpose of this letter is to request the use of an alternative to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, requirements pursuant to 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Specifically, NNECO requests approval to use the provisions of Code Case N-416 entitled, "Alternative Rules for Hydrostatic Testing of Repairs or Replacement of Class 2 Piping," following a code repair/replacement to a portion of the Class 3 service water piping. The subject piping is a two-inch, 0.156-inch wall copper-nickel crossover between two passes in the CCE*E1A heat exchanger.

NNECO has repaired the subject leak and performed an in-service leak test and a radiographic examination of the installation field welds to ensure structural integrity of the brazed joints. To provide additional assurance of the integrity of this portion of piping, NNECO performed a hydrostatic test of all shop welds. NNECO has determined that this alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety for this portion of the Class 3 service water piping. This alternative approach has been discussed with the Resident Inspector and NRR Staff. As previously stated, this piping will be modified during the 1993 refueling outage, at which time the system will receive the appropriate elevated pressure test.

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The resident inspector at Millstone Unit No. 3 has been informed of this alternative, and as has been our practice, we will keep the NRC Staff fully informed of all future repairs.

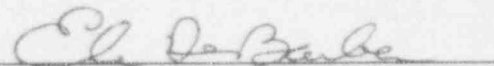
Please contact us if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

FOR: J. F. Opeka
Executive Vice President

BY:


E. A. DeBarba
Vice President

cc: T. T. Martin, Region I Administrator
V. L. Rooney, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
P. D. Swetland, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2,
and 3