

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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December 9, 1983

Docket No. 50-423
F0429A

Dr. Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator
Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies
In Design and Construction:
Seismic Duct Welds Potentially Underdesigned (SD-47)

In a November 9, 1983 telephone conversation between your Mr. T. Elsasser and our Mr. R. W. Vogel, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) reported a potential significant deficiency in the construction of Millstone Unit No. 3 as required by 10CFR50.55(e). The potential significant deficiency involves duct weld joints which may be underdesigned with respect to seismic requirements. This was the result of inconsistent interpretation of weld symbols between the duct fabricator and the architect-engineer, that resulted in partial penetration welds rather than full penetration welds which was expected by the duct design.

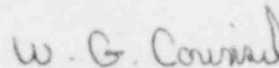
Our architect-engineer, Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, is in the process of reevaluating the seismic loading requirements on the ducts to determine the acceptability of partial penetration weld joints. Initial inspection of the duct sections with partial penetration welds that have been installed and inspected reveals that the majority of them are acceptable. Most of the remaining duct sections which have not yet been installed will be reworked prior to their installation.

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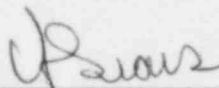
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As such, we are not able to provide you with a final report at this time. However, we will provide you with an update on this matter on or before March 9, 1984.

Very truly yours,



W. G. Cousins
Senior Vice President



By: C. F. Sears
Vice President Nuclear and
Environmental Engineering

cc: Mr. R. C. DeYoung, Director
Division of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Phillips Building
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20014