

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 30, 1983

Docket No. 50-423
F0337B

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

- References: (1) W. G. Counsil letter to J. M. Allan, Docket No. 50-423, dated April 8, 1983.
- (2) W. G. Counsil letter to T. E. Murley, Docket No. 50-423, dated July 7, 1983.
- (3) W. G. Counsil letter to T. E. Murley, Docket No. 50-423, dated August 24, 1983.

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies
in Design and Construction:
Interference and Possible Binding of ITT Grinnell
Mechanical Snubbers (SD-34)

In Reference (1), Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) reported a potential significant deficiency in the construction of Millstone Unit No. 3 as required by 10CFR 50.55(e). The potential deficiency involves interference and possible binding of mechanical snubber hardware manufactured by ITT Grinnell prior to April 1980.

Reference (2) provided written confirmation of a June 30, 1983 telephone conversation between our Mrs. P. C. Bandzes and your Mr. T. Elsasser requesting an extension of the due date for providing the necessary follow-up information. Reference (3) provided you with an interim report on this matter. This represents NNECO's final report concerning this issue.

Our architect-engineer, Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, has identified a total of 233 snubber installations which have the potential hardware interference. This has been determined through interface with ITT Grinnell regarding a specific model of snubber hardware and the time of fabrication.

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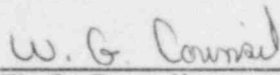
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Stone & Webster Field Quality Control personnel will check for hardware interference using the vendor approved inspection procedure. The hardware inspection will be an additional attribute in the snubber preservice inspection program which has already been established. Any hardware which has an interference will either be replaced or modified as required.

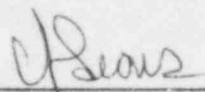
Concerning the safety question, ITT Grinnell has performed extensive testing on what it defines as the worst case hardware interferences. The results indicate that although the drag force during snubber movement may increase, the snubber will not bind during thermal transients and will in fact perform its safety function during dynamic loading. Therefore, NNECO concludes that even if the potential hardware interference went undetected, the increased drag force is insignificant and the condition does not present a safety concern. However, it is NNECO's intent to take corrective action if any interference is identified during the preservice inspection.

This letter constitutes our final report closing out all items related to SD-34. We trust that the above information satisfactorily responds to your concerns.

Very truly yours,
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council
Senior Vice President



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

cc: Mr. R. C. DeYoung, Director
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