

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 13, 1984

Docket No. 50-423
F0448A

Dr. Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator
Region 1
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

Reference: (1) W. G. Counsil to T. E. Murley, B10970, dated December 6, 1983.

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies in Design and Construction:
Potential Defective Springs on Pacific Scientific Mechanical Snubbers (SD-46)

In an October 18, 1983 telephone conversation between your Mr. J. Robertson and our Mr. R. E. Lefebvre, 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 broken and cracked tangs on capstan springs used on Pacific Scientific size 1 and 3 mechanical snubbers.

A site review by our architect-engineer, Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, identified 181 units with potential spring deficiencies which were returned to the vendor for inspection. Of the 181 units inspected, 86 had microcrack indications in their springs which were subsequently replaced.

The vendor has performed testing on snubbers with microcrack indications and has concluded that these snubbers would have performed their safety function for the 40-year design life. Based on this testing, NNECO concludes that if the cracked springs had gone undetected, the safety function of the Category I systems associated with these snubbers would not have been compromised. Therefore, this topic is not considered to be a significant deficiency with respect to 10CFR50.55(e).

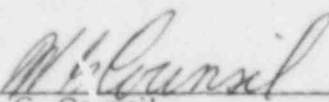
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As such, we consider this to be our final report on SD-46. Based on a February 3, 1984 telephone conversation between your Mr. T. Elsasser and our Ms. P. Capello-Bandzes, and a March 30, 1984 conversation between your Mr. T. Rebelowski and our Mr. R. E. Lefebvre, this report is being provided to you by April 16, 1984. We trust that the above information satisfactorily responds to your concerns.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council
Senior Vice President

cc: Mr. R. C. DeYoung, Director
Division of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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