

Northeast
Utilities System

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May 1, 1995

Docket No. 50-423
B15162

Re: 10CFR50.90

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

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Proposed Revision to Technical Specifications
24-Month Fuel Cycle

Pursuant to 10CFR50.90, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) hereby proposes to amend its Operating License, NPF-49, by incorporating the attached proposed changes into the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications.

Background

Millstone Unit No. 3 is presently shut down for refueling. Cycle 6 will begin in June 1995 and be the first full 24-month cycle. The conversion to a 24-month fuel cycle will enable the plant to operate at full power for a longer time between refueling outages. An integrated technical and licensing program has been established to address regulatory requirements resulting from changing to a 24-month fuel cycle for Millstone Unit No. 3. This program addresses fuel-related and nonfuel-related issues and includes consideration of NRC guidance in Generic Letter (GL) 91-04. To take advantage of this longer fuel cycle, NNECO will be proposing to modify the surveillance requirements existing in the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications. Specifically, technical specifications that specify an 18-month surveillance will be changed to state that these surveillances are to be performed at least once each refueling (i.e., 24 months). The proposed changes to the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications are consistent with the guidance contained in Generic Letter (GL) 91-04.

The amendment request included in this letter represents the first of a group of submittals to support the 24-month fuel cycle surveillance extensions for Millstone Unit No. 3. We expect to submit license amendment requests at regular intervals, with the last request to be submitted in July 1995.

ADD

This submittal is considered a cost beneficial licensing action by NNECO. Implementation of a 24-month fuel cycle would save in excess of the \$100,000 guideline identified by the NRC Staff with no reduction in public health and safety.

Discussion

This submittal modifies the frequency of several surveillance requirements of the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications. These surveillance requirements pertain to:

- Flow Paths — Operating
- Position Indication System
- Rod Drop Time
- Seismic Monitoring System
- Loose Part Detection System
- Quench Spray System
- Containment Recirculation Spray System
- Containment Isolation Valves

In addition, the submittal modifies the surveillance interval notation in Table 1.1 of the Millstone Unit No. 3 Technical Specifications to include the term "REFUELING INTERVAL - R." In the near future, NNECO will be proposing additional technical specification changes to facilitate for conversion to 24-month fuel cycles.

In support of this license amendment request, the following information is provided:

- Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 forward the marked-up technical specification pages and retyped technical specification pages and reflects the currently issued version of technical specifications.
- Attachment 3 describes the proposed technical specification changes.
- Attachment 4 provides a safety assessment and significant hazards consideration (SHC) evaluation for the changes. NNECO has reviewed the proposed technical specification changes in accordance with 10CFR50.92 and has determined that the changes do not involve an SHC. The basis for this determination is discussed in Attachment 4.

Moreover, the Commission has provided guidance concerning the application of standards in 10CFR50.92 by providing certain examples (March 6, 1986, 51 FR 7751) of amendments that are

considered not likely to involve an SHC. The proposed changes contained in Attachment 2 and described in Attachment 3 are not enveloped by a specific example. However, it has been demonstrated (i.e., Attachment 4) that the proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the consequences of an accident previously evaluated. Therefore, the proposed changes do not negatively impact the public health or safety.

Environmental Consideration

NNECO has reviewed the proposed license amendment against the criteria of 10CFR51.22 for environmental considerations. The proposed changes do not involve an SHC, do not significantly increase the types and amounts of effluents that may be released off site, nor significantly increase individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures. Based on the foregoing, NNECO concludes that the proposed changes meet the criteria delineated in 10CFR51.22(c)(9) for a categorical exclusion from the requirements of an environmental impact statement.

Nuclear Safety Assessment Board Review

The Nuclear Safety Assessment Board has reviewed this proposed amendment request and concurs with the above determination.

State Notification

In accordance with 10CFR50.91(b), we are providing the State of Connecticut with a copy of this proposed amendment request to ensure their awareness of this request.

Schedule Required for NRC Approval

As stated earlier, the remaining amendment requests will be submitted at regular intervals, with the last request to be submitted in July 1995. Currently, Cycle 6 operation (i.e., the start of the 24-month fuel cycle) is scheduled to begin in June 1995. It is our objective to obtain NRC approval of all the amendment requests related to the 24-month fuel cycle by September 1996. NNECO requests that the license amendment be effective upon issuance with implementation within 90 days.

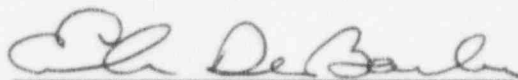
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If the NRC Staff should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. R. G. Joshi at (203) 440-2080.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

FOR: J. F. Opeka
Executive Vice President



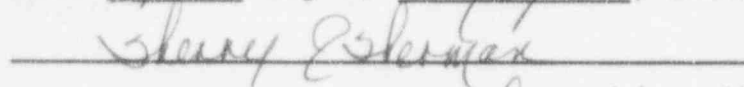
BY: E. A. DeBarba
Vice President

cc: T. T. Martin, Region I Administrator
V. L. Rooney, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
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Nos. 1, 2, and 3

Mr. Kevin T.A. McCarthy, Director
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Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
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Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 1st day of May, 1995



Date Commission Expires: Aug 31, 1998