

# 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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September 19, 1984

Docket No. 50-423  
F0583A

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

Reference: (1) W. G. Counsil to T. E. Murley, F0570A, dated July 5, 1984.

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3  
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies  
in Design and Construction  
High Energy Line Breaks Outside Containment

In a June 5, 1984 telephone conversation between your Mr. T. Rebelowski and our Mr. R. R. Viviano, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO), reported a potential significant deficiency in the design and construction of Millstone Unit No. 3 as required by 10 CFR 50.55(e). The potential significant deficiency involved two potential safety issues. One of the issues, the number of Reactor Coolants Pumps which need to be operating in Mode 3, was determined not to be a significant deficiency for Millstone Unit No. 3 (see Reference (1)). The other potential safety issue, high energy line breaks outside of containment, required additional review and is the subject of this report.

The safety issue concerns the potential impact of superheated steam on the environmental qualification of equipment outside of containment following a high energy line break. Previous mass/energy release analysis performed for steamline breaks did not account for steam superheating as a result of the uncovering of steam generator tubes. Certain equipment outside of containment may not be qualified for a superheated steam environment.

The Westinghouse Owner's Group has recently developed a program to address this issue. Once the results of this program are available, we will review our plant specific environments to determine if a problem exists for Millstone Unit No. 3.

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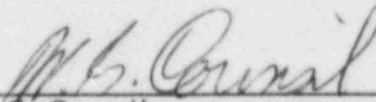
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We will provide you with additional information regarding this issue as it becomes available.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

  
W. G. Counsil  
Senior Vice President

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