

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 17, 1985

Docket No. 50-423

F0723A

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

Dear Dr. Murley:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Reporting of Potential Significant Deficiencies
in Accordance with 10CFR50.55(e):
Cooper and Turner Load Indicating Washers (SD-76)

In a March 18, 1985 telephone conversation between your Mr. T. Rebelowski and our Mr. R. B. Roy, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) reported a potential significant deficiency in the construction of Millstone Unit No. 3 in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e). The potential significant deficiency involves load indicating washers (LIW) supplied by Cooper and Turner, Inc.

During the recent Construction Appraisal Team (CAT) inspection at Millstone Unit 3, a small sampling of LIW had preloads out of compliance with their design values. This may have been due to improper heat treating of the washers. LIW are used to verify the preload on bolts used in structural connections. A deficiency in these LIW could result in inadequate bolt preloading which could compromise the integrity of the structural connection.

When this potential significant deficiency was originally discussed with Cooper and Turner, they indicated that the washers may be counterfeit. However, the authenticity of the Cooper and Turner washers has subsequently been verified.

NNECO has conducted laboratory testing of the uninstalled LIW. In addition, field tests have been conducted on the structural connections utilizing LIW at Millstone Unit No. 3. In both cases, there were no significant problems revealed with the washers.

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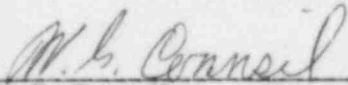
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Although we are confident in the integrity of the structural connections at Millstone Unit No. 3, we are still investigating the Cooper and Turner claim that some of their LIW may have been improperly heat treated after leaving their facility.

As such, we are not able to provide a final report at this time. We will provide an update on this matter by May 16, 1985.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



W. G. Council
Senior Vice President

cc: Mr. J. M. Taylor, Director
Division of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555