

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Donald W. Del Core, Sr.  
4 Driscoll Drive  
Uncasville, CT. 06382-1808

August 13, 1996

Dear Dr. Jackson:

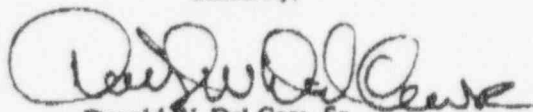
Two important issues have come to my attention and I believe they need your immediate attention. The first deals with public meetings between the NRC staff and NU being held at Rockville, MD. The second deals with Mr. William Russell of your staff allowing NU to pick the members of an Independent Corrective Action Verification Program suggested by you during your recent visit to our area.

I have very deep concerns about the veracity of any program whereby the licensee tasked with verifying corrective action gets to select the "INDEPENDENT" party to accomplish the verification! Clearly from information I have been supplied with, the selection process rules established by Mr. Russell were not clearly defined. The process seemed to be a bit rushed to say the least. The question of use of a particular contractors for use on Millstone Unit # 3, seemed to run along the lines of whether or not the particular contractor was used for Unit # 3 before. The fact that they may have been used by NU before in any capacity seems to be a very important issue to the independence of any verification. While I welcome your suggestion of an independent verification, the veracity of the program is already in question.

Additionally, what possible good is accomplished by having a public meeting between NU and the NRC staff on an issue that is so important to the restart process, in Rockville, MD. Why would anyone schedule any meeting regarding public health and safety away from the area involved? Again if what the NRC and NU are trying to accomplish is reducing public trust, they are doing a good job of it. I believe you and your staff may have missed the point of our public meeting last week. These two issues seem to point out a continued arrogance on the part of your staff, and NU, with regard to our public involvement.

Dr. Jackson you seemed very sincere about your intentions last week, please don't erode the early public trust you have gained, by allowing your staff to continue on the very path that got us to where we are today. Thank you very much in advance for your attention in this matter of deep concern to me.

Sincerely,



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# Millstone plants will get review for safety

## Inspection team to assess problems

By PAUL CHOMIERE  
Day Staff Writer

**Rockville, Md.** — Before they can restart, the Millstone nuclear plants in Waterford will undergo a level of scrutiny not seen since the nuclear industry was rocked by the accident at Three Mile Island in 1979.

Representatives of Northeast Utilities and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission met at the agency's headquarters here Monday to discuss the appointment of an independent verification team that will be responsible for verifying that the serious problems at the three Millstone Nuclear Power Station plants are addressed.

NU officials said they would not object to the appointment of the team.

William Russell, director of nuclear reactor regulation for the NRC, said independent verification teams were used in the wake of the Three Mile Island accident to ensure that new plants met design regulations developed from the lessons learned at Three Mile Island.

The independent review process is being resurrected to make sure Millstone will not reopen until it can operate safely. It is the first time the process has been

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■ The NRC has asked Northeast Utilities for more information to determine whether the license of its Connecticut Yankee nuclear plant should be suspended, modified or revoked. **B5**

## Millstone will get safety review

**From A1**  
...**needed for the restart of a problem**  
...**plant.**

"This is very different," said Russell. "It's unique in this case."

At the meeting, representatives of NU agreed to support the use of an independent review team. Restart plans also will have to be reviewed by the NRC.

The NRC has been criticized for not cracking down sooner on Millstone. In January the agency placed the three Millstone nuclear reactors on its list of problem plants. But the action came only after several years of well-documented problems.

"These problems are largely regulatory in nature — involving both widespread failures to follow procedural guidelines and a failure to document design changes made to the plants over the years. This breakdown in regulatory compliance resulted in a reduced margin of safety at the Millstone reactors," said James M. Taylor, executive director for nuclear operations at the NRC.

Taylor said NRC inspectors can-

not be expected to review all plant designs because they are so "complex and voluminous." It is ultimately up to the operator of a nuclear plant to make sure it is run properly. NU's failure to do so was a "breach of the confidence" the NRC placed in the company, said Taylor.

The representatives of NU appeared contrite at the meeting, asking for only a couple of technical clarifications and admitting their mistakes. Robert Busch, president of the Energy Resources Group, said the company will submit a written commitment to the NRC today concerning the independent review team process.

The consultants that will conduct the review will be selected by Northeast Utilities, but must be approved by the NRC. Nuclear consultants who are working for, or have worked for the Millstone plants in the past, will not be eligible. The state will be invited to appoint an observer to serve on the review team.

Russell said he was confident those selected to review whether

Millstone has corrected its problems will do a fair and impartial job.

Northeast Utilities wants to get its newest and largest plant, Millstone 3, back in operation first. With hundreds of procedural and design problems to be corrected, company officials declined to speculate as to when the plant may receive approval to restart. It could be a year or more before Millstone units 1 and 2 go back on line.

NRC Chairwoman Shirley Ann Jackson first announced the plans for a third-party inspection team during a visit to Waterford last week. Jackson said the agency was taking the unusual step because of a lack of public confidence both in Northeast Utilities and the regulatory agency itself.

Russell noted that NU has produced several plans over the years intended to improve plant performance, none of them adequate.

This time, he said, the agency will "focus on end results, completed product," not "management plans, reorganizations and promises."