



**Northeast
Utilities System**

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March 2, 1994

Bernard M. Fox
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable E. Gail dePlanque
Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Commissioner dePlanque:

I very much appreciate the time you devoted to meeting with me and Bob Busch on Wednesday, February 23. We here at Northeast Utilities are happy to see that substantial progress is being made in returning our facilities to the standard of excellent operations we so very much desire. We recognize full well the serious implications of the Millstone 2 442 valve incident in 1993. We are also aware that in selected areas of plant operations further improvement is absolutely essential. At the same time, we have a sense of optimism about the future. We've seen how achieving the vast majority of our operational excellence goals in 1993 formed the foundation for solid economic performance. There's no doubt that sound, safe and conservative operations is the key to long run economic success.

We also will be working with the Staff in reviewing progress achieved via implementation of our Performance Enhancement Program, which we have been involved in for approximately the past two years. The validation process, which we established at the outset of the program, has been designed to confirm that the intended effects of each individual Action Plan are being achieved. Where identified, appropriate adjustments are being made, and the program is maturing to the point where we believe that a more complete review by the NRC Millstone Assessment Panel can be conducted in the near future. We currently plan to eliminate PEP as a stand-alone program by the end of 1994, and include the remaining PEP Action Plans as components of the 1995 Business Plan.

Once again, thank you for your attention and hospitality.

Very truly yours,

cc: R. E. Busch

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