



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 16, 1996

Distribution:

JTaylor  
JMilhoan  
HThompson  
JBlaha  
FMiraglia, NRR  
HMiller, RI  
RBangart, SP  
GImbro, NRR  
G960828  
EDO r/f

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Terry Concannon  
Mr. Evan W. Woollacott  
Co-Chairs  
Nuclear Energy Advisory Council  
Room 4035  
Legislative Office Building  
Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Ms. Concannon and Mr. Woollacott:

I am responding to your letter of October 22, 1996, about the Independent Corrective Action Verification Program (ICAVP) imposed at Millstone by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) order of August 14, 1996. In your letter, you expressed concerns about three aspects of the ICAVP: team selection, the participation of the NRC, and the scope of the review.

The Commission agrees on the importance of a thorough and independent ICAVP process. In order to ensure that this goal is achieved, the August 14 Confirmatory Order and the NRC's oversight activities at Millstone have been structured to provide for both close scrutiny by the NRC and public openness. For example, the August 14 Confirmatory Order directed the licensee to obtain the services of an organization and individuals who are independent of the licensee and its design contractors to form the ICAVP team.

The NRC will oversee closely the ICAVP process to ensure the quality and independence of the reviews and will review and approve the organization and the individual members selected for the ICAVP team. The factors that the NRC will consider in evaluating the independence of each team member will include, but not be limited to, whether the individual has been involved in design reviews for the licensee and whether the individual has any financial interest in Northeast Utilities. The NRC also will evaluate and approve the ICAVP team's review plan before it is implemented. The ICAVP team concurrently will report its findings to the NRC and the licensee and will be required to comment on the licensee's proposed resolution of the team's findings. To further ensure independence, the ICAVP team will conduct its reviews, to the extent feasible, in the contractor's offices and not at the Millstone site. A protocol being developed by the NRC will control contact between the ICAVP team and the licensee. The NRC staff is preparing a plan for oversight of the ICAVP, including a plan for system selection that will propose: (1) an appropriate sampling methodology, (2) a process to evaluate findings, and (3) measures to ensure an unbiased review. The staff will submit this plan to the Commission before it is implemented.

The ICAVP and all NRC activities relating to the Millstone oversight process will continue to be open processes. The Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (NEAC) and the State of Connecticut have been invited to observe implementation of the ICAVP at the Millstone site. The individuals you have

[Originated By: G. Imbro, NRR]

9612240088 961216  
PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

designated as observers will be kept apprised of the NRC's oversight of the ICAVP activities. The findings of the ICAVP team will be made available to members of the NEAC and the public. We also understand that the NEAC has formed a subcommittee, which includes members of the public, to review the ICAVP contractor proposed by the utility. The NRC will make the final decision regarding the suitability of the contractor organization and individuals selected to conduct the ICAVP. However, any comments or observations by the NEAC subcommittee will be taken into consideration.

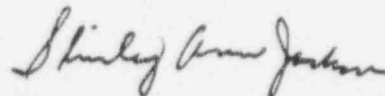
The NRC plans to continue to meet periodically with the public on the status of the ICAVP, thereby providing a forum for public comment. For example, on September 24, 1996, the NRC staff met publicly with the licensee at the Millstone site and then met directly with the public that evening at the Waterford Town Hall to discuss the ICAVP. The NRC staff also met publicly with the NEAC on the evening of October 10, 1996, regarding the ICAVP. Additional public sessions will be scheduled as warranted.

In addition to requiring an ICAVP, the NRC recently issued an order requiring Northeast Utilities to prepare and submit a plan addressing employee concerns. The order also requires the utility to form a second independent organization to oversee and report on implementation of that plan.

To focus additional regulatory attention on activities at Millstone, including the ICAVP, the NRC has established a Special Projects Office within its Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This new office is being managed by Dr. William D. Travers. In addition to licensing and inspection activities, the Special Projects Office will be responsible for (1) oversight of the ICAVP, (2) oversight of corrective actions by Northeast Utilities related to safety issues involving employee concerns, and (3) inspections necessary to implement NRC's oversight of the plant's restart activities.

The Commission appreciates the comments and concerns expressed in your recent letter. We believe that the current ICAVP process as detailed in the August 14 order, combined with other activities regarding public openness, is sufficient to ensure an independent process. The Commission is committed to ensuring that the activities at Millstone, including the ICAVP and NRC's regulatory oversight programs, are conducted in a thorough and open manner. To that end, the Commission plans to meet publicly with Northeast Utilities on a quarterly basis, with the first meeting scheduled in January. The NRC staff will continue to keep you apprised of developments concerning Millstone. If you have any further comments, questions, or concerns, please contact Dr. Travers at (301) 415-8500.

Sincerely,



Shirley Ann Jackson

Green Ticket EDO#96798

Dated: 12/16/96

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Docket File (w/original incoming)

PUBLIC (w/incoming)

PD1-3 Reading (w/incoming)

SECY #CRC-96-1115

EDO #GT960828

EDO Reading

JTaylor

JMilhoan

HThompson

JBlaha

JAndersen

DMcDonald

VRooney

SDembek

HMiller, RI

JLieberman, OE

FMiraglia/ATHadani

NRR Mail Room (EDO #GT96798 w/incoming) (O-12G18)

RZimmerman

WTravers

OGC

OPA

OCA

BSheron

TMartin

WTravers

EImbro

PMckee

LPlisco

JDurr, RI

WLanning, RI

ACerne, RI

DEFOI/1

**NRC FILE CENTER COPY**

96-172

240005

*J. Embro*

**ACTION**

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 11/14/96

EDO CONTROL: G960828

DOC DT: 10/22/96

FINAL REPLY:

Terry Concannon & Evan W. Woollacott  
State of Connecticut

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 96-1115

Miraglia

DESC:

INDEPENDENT CORRECTIVE ACTION VERIFICATION PROGRAM  
(ICAVP)

ROUTING:

Taylor  
Milhoan  
Thompson  
Blaha  
Bangart, SP  
HMiller, RI

DATE: 11/01/96

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Miraglia

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. GT96737.  
Put EDO and Chairman on for concurrence.  
Chairman's Office to review response prior  
to dispatch.

NRR RECEIVED:  
NRR ACTION:

NOVEMBER 1, 1996  
SPO: TRAVERS

NRR ROUTING:

MIRAGLIA  
THADANI  
ZIMMERMAN  
SHERON  
MARTIN  
BOHRER

**ACTION**  
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
BY *[Signature]* 12, '96

*J. Embro*

**ACTION**

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: Terry Concannon & Evan W. Woollacott  
State of Connecticut

DUE: 11/14/96

EDO CONTROL: G960828  
DOC DT: 10/22/96  
FINAL REPLY:

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 96-1115

Miraglia

DESC:

INDEPENDENT CORRECTIVE ACTION VERIFICATION PROGRAM  
(ICAVP)

ROUTING:

Taylor  
Milhoan  
Thompson  
Blaha  
Bangart, SP  
HMiller, RI

DATE: 11/01/96

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Miraglia

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. GT96737.  
Put EDO and Chairman on for concurrence.  
Chairman's Office to review response prior  
to dispatch.

NRR RECEIVED:  
NRR ACTION:

NOVEMBER 1, 1996  
SPO: TRAVERS

NRR ROUTING:

MIRAGLIA  
THADANI  
ZIMMERMAN  
SHERON  
MARTIN  
BOHRER

**ACTION**  
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
BY *[Signature]* 12, '96

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-96-1115 LOGGING DATE: Oct 31 96  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: EVAN WOOLLACOTT  
AFFILIATION: CONNECTICUT  
ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON  
LETTER DATE: Oct 22 96 FILE CODE:  
SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT CORRECTIVE ACTION VERIFICATION PROGRAM  
(ICAVP)  
ACTION: Direct Reply  
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, COMRS  
SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK  
CONSTITUENT:  
NOTES: CHAIRMAN SHOULD REVIEW RESPONSE PRIOR TO DISPATCH  
(OCM #5848)  
DATE DUE: 11/14/96  
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:  
AFFILIATION: