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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 13, 1997

Mr. John Paul Cowan
Millstone Unit 3
Recovery Officer
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385-0128

Dear Mr. Cowan:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your December 18, 1996, letter proposing the selection of a contractor and independent verification team for the conduct of the Independent Corrective Action Verification Program (ICAVP). We have scheduled a meeting on February 5, 1997, to discuss your proposal and the selection process.

We have performed a preliminary review of your proposal. On the basis of the information in your submittal, Sargent and Lundy has the technical expertise and experience to conduct this complex, multi-disciplinary review at Millstone Unit 3. Therefore, the emphasis of our review will be on the financial and technical independence of Sargent and Lundy. Subsequently, NRC will review the technical qualifications and independence of the individual team members.

We request that the following issues be discussed at the February 5 meeting:

1. How was the financial and organizational independence of Sargent and Lundy from NU and NU's design contractors verified? What criteria were used to establish independence and what information was reviewed?
2. What are the details of the previous work performed by Sargent and Lundy at Millstone Unit 3? How will the program audit plan compensate for those specific technical areas where Sargent and Lundy has performed previous work?
3. Will you restrict future work which Sargent and Lundy may seek to perform?

In addition to the above organizational issues, we also request that the following ICAVP process issues be discussed:

4. What action will you take to address the lack of a stated position from the contractor regarding substitution of project team members should that become necessary?
5. What process is used at Sargent and Lundy to handle differing professional opinions among their staff?

Based on our preliminary review of the resumes in your proposal, it appears that, in general, the engineering disciplines needed for the review are being provided. However, during the February 5 meeting, we request that you discuss the general qualifications of the review team and the overall distribution of the engineering disciplines necessary to perform the ICAVP. In addition, we request that you provide an outline of the review team's organizational structure and staffing so that we can better understand the role of each individual proposed for the team.

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Mr. J. Cowan

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We intend to review each resume in detail and conduct interviews of each proposed member at a later date. The resume review and interviews will be conducted concurrent with our review of the proposed audit plan and team structure. This approach is necessary so that we can evaluate the adequacy of each team member's expertise and experience, with an understanding of the specific tasks they will perform in the review.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

William D. Travers, Director
Special Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-423

cc: See next page

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** See previous concurrence.

Northeast Utilities Service Company

Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 3

cc:

Lillian M. Cuoco, Esq.
Senior Nuclear Counsel
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Mr. Kevin T. A. McCarthy, Director
Monitoring and Radiation Division
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Mr. Allan Johanson, Assistant Director
Office of Policy and Management
Policy Development and Planning Division
80 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Regional Administrator
Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

First Selectmen
Town of Waterford
Hall of Records
200 Boston Post Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. Wayne D. Lanning
Deputy Director for Inspections
Millstone Nuclear Power Station
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 513
Niantic, CT 06357

M. H. Brothers, Nuclear Unit Director
Millstone Unit No. 3
Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

Burlington Electric Department
c/o Robert E. Fletcher, Esq.
271 South Union Street
Burlington, VT 05402

Mr. M. R. Scully, Executive Director
Connecticut Municipal Electric
Energy Cooperative
30 Stott Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360

Mr. William D. Meinert
Nuclear Engineer
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale
Electric Company
P.O. Box 426
Ludlow, MA 01056

Joseph R. Egan, Esq.
Egan & Associates, P.C.
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Mr. F. C. Rothen
Vice President - Work Services
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. Ernest C. Hadley, Esq.
1040 B Main Street
P.O. Box 549
West Wareham, MA 02576

Mr. John Buckingham
Department of Public Utility Control
Electric Unit
10 Liberty Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Mr. James S. Robinson
Manager, Nuclear Investments and
Administration
New England Power Company
25 Research Drive
Westborough, MA 01582

Mr. T. C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

Northeast Utilities Service Company

Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 3

cc:

Mr. D. M. Goebel
Vice President - Nuclear Oversight
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. J. K. Thayer
Recovery Officer, Nuclear Engineering
and Support
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

Deborah Katz, President
Citizens Awareness Network
P.O. Box 83
Shelburne Falls, MA 03170

State Representative Terry Concannon
Co-Chairman, Nuclear Energy
Advisory Council
Legislative Office Building, Room 4035
Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Mr. Evan W. Wollacott
Co-Chairman, Nuclear Energy
Advisory Council
128 Terry's Plain Road
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070