



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

November 1, 1996

PDR
50-245
50-336
50-423

The Honorable Sam Gejdenson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gejdenson:

Thank you for your letter of October 9, 1996, regarding the Independent Corrective Action Verification Program (ICAVP) imposed at the Millstone Nuclear Plant by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Order of August 14, 1996. The NRC staff issued the order, which requires that the ICAVP be performed and completed for each unit to the satisfaction of the NRC prior to the unit's restart, in light of numerous configuration (design) control failures, failures to implement corrective actions for known problems, failures to implement quality assurance requirements, and failures to comply with the terms and conditions of the operating licenses for all three Millstone plants.

The Commission shares your view that the ICAVP should be an open process. As you noted, representatives from the State of Connecticut and its Nuclear Energy Advisory Council will observe ICAVP implementation at the Millstone site. The Council has designated two of its members as observers and has named two alternates. These individuals will be kept apprised of NRC oversight activities so that they can participate in the ICAVP process. ICAVP team findings will be made available to members of the Council and the public.

Furthermore, it is our intention 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, members of 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 Council on the evening of October 10, 1996, regarding the ICAVP. Additional public sessions will be scheduled as warranted by developments.

In addition to the 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 the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This new office will be 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

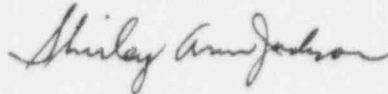
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safety issues involving employee concerns, and (3) inspections necessary to implement NRC oversight of the plant's restart activities. The Special Projects Office will also have responsibility for regulatory activities at the Haddam Neck plant unless Northeast Utilities decides to permanently shut down the plant.

The Commission appreciates your comments. We are committed to ensuring that the ICAVP is conducted in a thorough and open manner. The NRC staff will continue to keep you apprised of developments concerning Millstone and Haddam Neck. If you have any further comments, questions, or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirley Ann Jackson".

Shirley Ann Jackson