

November 22, 1996

SES-96-GN-049

D10531

Mr. James Grier
Principal Sanitary Engineer
Bureau of Water Management
Permitting, Enforcement, and Remediation Division
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Grier:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station
NPDES Permit No. CT 0003263
Release of "B" Radiation Waste Test Tank Liquid to DSN 006

The following report provides information on an event reported to you by phone on Tuesday, November 19, 1996.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 16, 1996, a Unit 3 Operator discovered a small leak of water, apparently originating from the "B" Radiation Waste Test Tank and discharging into a catch basin. The leak was immediately secured and Unit 3 Chemistry was notified. Samples of water in the catch basin receiving the leakage and in other downstream catch basins, including the NPDES sample point for DSN 006, were subsequently collected and analyzed. Radioactivity was detected in the first catch basin and its contents were collected in a drum and handled as radwaste. Additional sample results, downstream of the first catch basin, indicated no detectable radioactivity. The source of the leak was an instrumentation line fitting that had come loose.

The "B" Radiation Waste Test Tank at the time of the incident contained boric acid at 2,020 mg/l. Boric Acid was detected in downstream catch basins and in the NPDES sample point for DSN 006. A maximum boric acid concentration of 24.6 mg/l was found at 5:10 p.m. on November 16, 1996.

The "B" Radiation Waste Test Tank was about 10% full at the time and contained low levels of radioactivity. There was no change in the tank level during the period when the leak occurred.

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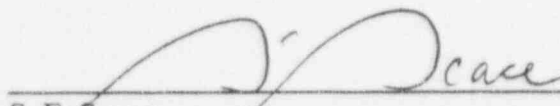
A calculation was performed to determine the maximum amount of boric acid that could have been released. Because "B" Radiation Waste Test Tank level indication did not change, the first measurable indication (1% or 210 gallons) was chosen as a default value. This conservative calculation resulted in an estimate of 1.6 kg of boric acid released during the event. DSN 006 has a boric acid permit limitation of 4.1 kg/day.

This event was not reportable under NRC Reportability criteria because no detectable activity was released offsite.

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Paul Jacobson, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, at (860) 665-3617.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY



S. E. Scace
Director of Nuclear Engineering Programs

cc: Ms. Michelle Dinoia
Bureau of Water Management
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Mr. Michael Harder
Bureau of Water Management
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

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