

**Northeast
Nuclear Energy**

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The Northeast Utilities System

JUN 23 1997

Docket No. 50-423
B16339

Re: GL 95-07

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Millstone Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 3
Update to Response to Request for Additional
Information Question 3 - Generic Letter 95-07
Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of
Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves**

In a letter dated February 13, 1996, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) provided the 180 Day response to Generic Letter (GL) 95-07 for Millstone Unit No. 3. The response reported that gate valve 3SIL*MV8840, Residual Heat Removal (RHR) pump discharge to hot leg penetration, was not susceptible to pressure locking/thermal binding (PLTB). This classification was based upon a determination that the valve did not perform a safety related opening stroke. In Modes 1 - 4, 3SIL*MV8840 functions as a containment boundary valve and is normally closed with power to the valve removed.

In a letter dated July 10, 1996, the NRC Staff requested additional information regarding NNECO's response to GL 95-07. Question 3 of the information request stated that 3SIL*MV8840 appeared to be susceptible to depressurization induced pressure locking during a design basis event. NNECO's response, dated August 22, 1996, stated that 3SIL*MV8840 performs a safety-related opening stroke during performance of Operating Procedure (OP) 3270A, "Reduced Inventory Operation, Mode 5 IPTE (Infrequently Performed Test or Evolution)" for mid-loop operation. NNECO committed to evaluate and resolve the issue of potential pressure locking of 3SIL*MV8840 prior to plant startup.

Subsequent review has confirmed the design basis function of 3SIL*MV8840 is to remain closed during design basis events. Because 3SIL*MV8840 does not perform a safety related open function in response to design basis events, pressure locking and thermal binding evaluations per GL 95-07 are not applicable.

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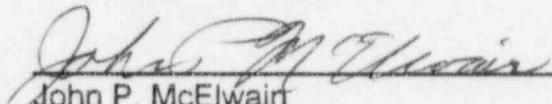
During post cooldown, 3SIL*MV8840 is susceptible to potential pressure locking conditions. As discussed above, this valve has no active post accident function. Post cooldown, in Modes 5, 6 or 0, 3SIL*MV8840 is opened for stroke time/position indication testing, and may also be opened for Reactor Coolant System (RCS) makeup while in Reduced Inventory Operation (RIO). Our commitment to GL 88-17 requires that a minimum of two available or operable flowpaths for adding inventory to the RCS be provided in the case of loss of shutdown cooling capability and/or loss of RCS inventory during reduced inventory operation. OP 3270A provides a choice of five flowpaths from which a minimum of two must be available prior to entering reduced inventory operation. Potential use of this valve for RCS makeup while in reduced inventory operation is not a safety related function in response to a design basis event. However, because of the potential existence of pressure locking conditions, OP 3270A has been revised to ensure 3SIL*MV8840 is stroked prior to entering RIO if use of the valve is credited as an available make-up path.

Our commitments are provided in Attachment 1.

Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact Mr. David A. Smith at (860) 437-5840.

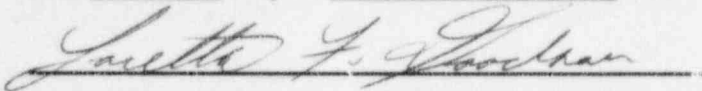
Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY


John P. McElwain
Millstone Unit No. 1 Recovery Officer

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this June day of 23, 1997



Date Commission expires Nov. 30, 2001

cc: H. J. Miller, Region I Administrator
W. D. Travers, PhD., Director, Special Projects Office
J. W. Andersen, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
A. C. Cerne, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit No. 3

Attachment 1

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3

NNECO's Commitments In Update to Response
to Request for Additional Information Question 3
Generic Letter 95-07 Pressure Locking and
Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves

June 1997

Enclosure
List of Regulatory Commitments

The following table identifies those actions committed to by NNECO in this document. Please notify the Manager - Nuclear Licensing at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 3 of any questions regarding this document or any associated regulatory commitments.

Number	Commitment	Due
None		