

March 8, 2000

Ms. Terry Concannon
Co-Chair for NEAC
41 South Buckboard Lane
Marlborough, Connecticut 06447

Dear Ms. Concannon:

I am writing this letter to correct the record and ensure that any misunderstandings left by my staff at the February 17, 2000, joint public meeting are appropriately addressed. The joint public meeting at the Waterford Town Hall sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (NEAC) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) had as a primary purpose the discussion of the Millstone Employee Concerns and Safety Conscious Work Environment Programs. Before I do so, however, I would like to thank you for supporting the joint meeting format in which the NEAC and NRC can participate. This format, used twice, has been helpful in building public confidence and in improving efficiency.

During a discussion of the timeliness of NRC investigations of wrongdoing, Mr. James Linville of my staff said that he was not aware of any instances where the statute of limitations had impacted the ability of the NRC to complete an action during his 20- year NRC career. Mr. Linville was subsequently questioned by Mr. Paul Blanch. Mr. Blanch stated that he was aware of some instances in which the statute of limitations had expired. Mr. Blanch was correct. There have been a couple of instances where the statute of limitations has expired before the NRC completed its action. Mr. Linville has subsequently indicated to me that his intent was not to make an absolute statement since he does not have specific knowledge of all NRC investigations. Rather, his intent was to indicate that the statute of limitations does not often impact completion of NRC actions based on the sample of cases with which he has been involved over the years. On behalf of myself and Mr. Linville, I apologize for any misunderstanding that his comment may have caused. I have personally discussed with Mr. Linville, and other members of my staff, the point that we need to carefully qualify what we say and that accuracy requires we not speak about areas beyond what our experience and knowledge permit us to do. I have reinforced the point that it is both acceptable and appropriate to say "I don't know," and offer to follow-up by checking with staff knowledgeable in the area questioned.

While there may have been only a few cases where the statute of limitations has been a factor, I assure you that the NRC will continue making every effort to disposition allegations and investigations of potential wrongdoing in a timely manner. The staff agrees with the concerns raised by the Committee in this regard.

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Once again, I would like to thank you and the NEAC members for your continuing interest and support in ensuring the safety of nuclear activities at the Millstone plants. If you have any further questions or concerns on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 05000336; 05000423
License Nos. DPR-65, NPF-49

cc:

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