

March 27, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

FROM: James C. Linville, Chairman **/RA/**
Millstone Assessment Panel

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE ASSESSMENT PANEL MEETING MINUTES

The Millstone Assessment Panel (MAP) convened on February 17, 2000, to perform its quarterly review of Millstone performance and activities. I have attached the minutes from the meeting that summarize the panel's discussions, conclusions and recommendations.

The MAP members discussed future recommendations for 40001 inspections and the staff's commitments to the Commission with respect to the safety conscious work environment (SCWE) and employee concerns program (ECP) areas. The MAP members reached a consensus that a recommendation should be made to NRC senior management to return Millstone to normal oversight of the SCWE and ECP programs based on improved licensee's performance. The MAP believed that future monitoring of the SCWE and ECP programs should be performed through reviews of LHC activities and reports, and allegations received by the NRC.

The MAP members discussed returning Units 2 and 3 to normal regulatory oversight, from Agency Focus and Regional Focus plants, respectively. The MAP members reached a consensus that a recommendation should be made to NRC senior management there were adequate bases for returning both plants to normal oversight.

Attachment: February 17, 2000 MAP Meeting Minutes

Hubert J. Miller

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ATTACHMENT

MAP Meeting Minutes

Date: February 17, 2000

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MAP Members in Attendance:

- J. Linville, Director, Millstone Inspection Directorate (MID)
- J. Clifford, Chief, Project Directorate I, Section I-2, NRR
- D. Lew, Team Leader, MID
- L. Doerflein, Chief, Engineering Programs Branch, Division of Reactor Safety (DRS)
- D. Beaulieu, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit 2, MID
- T. Cerne, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit 3, MID

Other Attendees:

- R. Urban, Project Engineer, MID
- S. Jones, Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit 2, MID
- J. Zimmerman, Project Manager, Millstone Unit 2, NRR
- V. Nerses, Senior Project Manager, Millstone Unit 3, NRR
- N. McNamara, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, DRS

Meeting Summary:

Mr. Linville opened the meeting with an overview of the MAP agenda, and briefly discussed the recent interest from outside parties in Millstone activities.

Ms. McNamara provided insights from an emergency preparedness (EP) program review that was completed during the week of February 14, 2000. The licensee's corrective action system identified concerns and critique items from past exercises or drills. The licensee is continuing to work on some operational problems with the new pager system. The overall EP program was improving, with the local towns being very involved. The licensee, however, has a number of challenges that warrant management attention and oversight. Specifically, the accountability of the line organization to support EP appeared weak. For instance, some responders, who did not show up for exercises or swapped pagers without notifying the EP staff, were not held accountable. Ms. McNamara noted that the State of New York will now participate in protective action recommendation (PAR) decisions associated with Fishers Island. A drill conducted during the week of February 7, 2000, with the State of New York participating, went well.

Mr. Cerne provided the status of Millstone Unit 3. The unit was operating well with few challenges in the last year. Control Room deficiencies are down, and Unit 3 is operating with very few lit annunciators in the control room. Mr. Cerne discussed highlights from the recently issued NRC Resident Inspection Report (99-12). The licensee provided good control of routine testing, corrective maintenance activities, and other corrective actions that had the potential to adversely impact operations. One non-cited violation (NCV) was issued concerning design control of air driven Recirculation Spray System cubicle sump pumps. Other NCVs were issued, but dealt with items that occurred in 1998.

Mr. Beaulieu provided the status of Millstone Unit 2. The plant was in Mode 5 after plant operators manually tripped the reactor on February 11 in response to two dropped control rods. Mr. Beaulieu provided a synopsis of this manual trip and another recent manual trip, and provided insights into the causes and corrective actions that have been taken by the licensee. Equipment problems in the feedwater heater system and control rod system, which led to two previous plant shutdowns, also led to these recent manual trips (see next paragraph).

Mr. Linville discussed the 40500 corrective action team inspection findings and the exit meeting with the licensee that was conducted earlier in the day. The team concluded that the licensee's corrective action program was adequate. Some minor issues associated with condition report (CR) initiation were noted, but overall the licensee was appropriately implementing the CR process. The licensee's root cause analyses for the two recent manual reactor trips were thorough and comprehensive. While there were similar events in the past and the licensee could have broadened their review of the previous events, the licensee's previous actions were considered reasonable. While the backlogs were still substantial, no significant issues were identified.

Mr. Urban discussed the findings from Little Harbor Consultants' (LHC) report and the NRC's inspection findings concerning the safety conscious work environment (SCWE) and employee concerns program (ECP) areas at Millstone. Overall findings from the LHC report and the NRC inspection were consistent and found a generally healthy SCWE and effective ECP. The MAP members discussed the licensee's performance in the SCWE and ECP programs, and the staff's commitments to the Commission in a May 25, 1999 response to SRMs dated March 9 and April 28, 1999. The MAP reached a consensus that a recommendation should be made to NRC senior management that the licensee's performance warranted returning Millstone to normal oversight of the SCWE and ECP programs. In addition, the MAP reached a consensus that the following commitments made to the Commission were met: 1) conduct a combined 40500/40001 team inspection, including two more 40001 inspections to coincide with LHC's quarterly assessments; 2) participate in quarterly meetings with the licensee and LHC; 3) assess LHC's quarterly reports for significant trends and findings; 4) assess the licensee's key performance indicators; and 5) assess allegations received by the NRC from Millstone. The licensee is effectively managing the Millstone corrective action program and employee concerns, and the ECP and SCWE key performance indicators have generally shown positive trends. The staff's 40001 inspections, as well as LHC's quarterly assessments have noted improvement of the SCWE and ECP programs. These findings were discussed in public meetings with the licensee and LHC. In addition, NRC allegation receipt, significance, and substantiation rates have indicated positive trends to date. Although some future licensee challenges and several open OI investigations might have the potential to impact the SCWE, the MAP believed that monitoring the SCWE and ECP programs should be performed through review of LHC activities and reports and allegation receipt by the NRC.

Mr. Lew discussed the upcoming Millstone Plant Performance Review (PPR) on February 24, 2000. Regarding Unit 3, licensee performance was very good. Unit 3 operated without a plant trip or forced outage during the entire PPR cycle, and experienced few operational challenges. Performance indicators showed an improving trend in most areas with the exception of drills and exercises. There were no hits identified for Unit 3 in the performance indicators from Headquarters. The initiative inspection to review Unit 1 modifications associated with alternate power to Units 2 and 3, recommended during a previous MAP meeting, was discussed since it will be proposed in the PPR meeting. The MAP reached a consensus that a recommendation

should be made to NRC senior management that there was an adequate basis for returning Unit 3 to normal reactor oversight.

Regarding Unit 2, some performance issues were noted, however, overall licensee performance was adequate. The issue of condition report initiation was discussed. While some examples were noted in the corrective action team inspection, the failures to initiate condition reports were not considered pervasive. Equipment challenges were discussed relative to the two recent trips. However, there did not appear to be a declining trend. Performance indicators were noted to be improving with the exception of the emergency preparedness area mentioned above. Also, performance indicators from Headquarters indicated that Millstone 2 had two hits. These hits appeared consistent with the unit being in an extended outage during the first half of 1999 and emergent equipment issues. Following detailed discussions, the MAP members reached a consensus that a recommendation should be made to NRC senior management that an adequate basis existed for returning Unit 2 to normal oversight.

Mr. Zimmerman discussed the status of the Unit 2 licensing action inventory. NRR is currently reviewing 15 licensing actions. Of these 15 actions, 7 are associated with the upcoming spring 2000 refueling outage (2R13). In addition, the licensee has indicated that they will be sending in 6 additional licensing actions by the end of FY2000.

Mr. Nerses discussed the status of the Unit 3 spent fuel pool rerack amendment. He noted that on February 9, 2000, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board had rendered a decision to admit for litigation three of eleven proposed contentions. The staff continues to maintain its amendment review schedule.

Mr. Linville discussed the public meeting that was scheduled later in the evening. Mr. Urban will provide a summary of the NRC 40001 inspection conducted in January. Increased public interest was anticipated. In particular, some public criticism was aired over the licensee's response to the recent NRC actions on some historical issues regarding the Millstone Independent Review Team.

Action Item:

Follow-up to ensure that a March inspection of the planned modifications at Unit 1, which affects the alternate power supply for Units 2 and 3, is scheduled.

Action assigned to L. Doerflein