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### **NRC CLOSES SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICE OVERSEEING MILLSTONE REACTORS**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has closed the Special Projects Office (SPO) within the headquarters Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation that has been overseeing the Millstone nuclear power plants operated by Northeast Utilities

Now that Millstone Unit 3 has restarted after a 27-month shutdown, the inspection functions that had been performed by the special projects office since October 1996 will return to more normal oversight by the NRC's Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Officials at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, will continue to oversee licensing and technical reviews, including oversight of the Millstone independent corrective action verification program, as well as the licensee's employee concerns program and safety conscious work environment programs, probably until Unit 2 is restarted.

The NRC has previously used special projects offices to oversee regulatory activities at the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant in Texas and all of the Tennessee Valley Authority's nuclear plants in the 1980s.

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