NORTHEAST UTILITIES
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY
HOLYOKE WATER POWER COMPANY
NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE COMPANY
NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

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January 19, 1990

Docket No. 50-423
B13424
Re: 10CFR50.90

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Reference: (1) E. J. Mroczka letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Proposed Revision to Technical Specifications Hydrogen Recombiners, dated December 1, 1989.

Gentlemen:

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3
Proposed Revision to Technical Specifications
Hydrogen Recombiners (TAC No. 75393)

By letter dated December 1, 1989 (Reference (1)), Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) submitted a proposed revision to the Technical Specifications for Millstone Unit No. 3.

In a subsequent discussion with the Staff, additional information was requested to clarify the changes proposed to the surveillance requirements for the hydrogen recombiners. The purpose of this submittal is to provide the Staff with the requested information.

As stated in Reference (1), the existing Technical Specification 4.6.4.2.b.4 requires the hydrogen recombiners be functionally tested, once per 18 months, using containment air at a flow rate greater than or equal to 50 scfm. The proposed change will require testing with a flow rate above the limit specified in a newly added Figure 3.6-2. This proposed change will now allow NNECO to conduct this surveillance test during the normal plant operating conditions at any range of containment operating pressures up to and including atmospheric pressure. In addition, the proposed change provides a better representation of the performance capability of the hydrogen recombiner.

As stated in the Final Safety Analysis Report Section 6.2.1.1.2, the Millstone Unit No. 3 containment is a subatmospheric-type containment. During normal operation the containment is maintained at a subatmospheric pressure (typically 9.0 to 12.0 psia) to limit the peak pressure attained during a postulated accident and to minimize radioactive releases after the postulated accident. As stated in Reference (1), NNECO performed a new calculation and determined that the minimum acceptable flow rate through the hydrogen recombiner to be 40.5 scfm at 9.0 psia. An acceptance curve, Figure 3.6-2, was generated to account for instrument inaccuracies which increased the acceptable surveillance flow rate to 43 scfm at 9.0 psia. This converts to an acceptable surveillance flow rate of 51 scfm at the minimum containment pressure of 10.6 psia.

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We trust the Staff finds this additional information helpful. Should you have any additional questions please contact our licensing representative directly.

Very truly yours,

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY

E. J. Mroczka
Senior Vice President

cc: W. T. Russell, Region I Administrator
D. H. Jaffe, NRC Project Manager, Millstone Unit No. 3
W. J. Raymond, Senior Resident Inspector, Millstone Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3

Mr. Kevin McCarthy, Director
Radiation Control Unit
Department of Environment Protection
Hartford, CT 06116

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) ss. Berlin
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

Then personally appeared before me, E. J. Mroczka, who being duly sworn, did state that he is Senior Vice President of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, a Licensee herein, that he is authorized to execute and file the foregoing information in the name and on behalf of the Licensees herein, and that the statements contained in said information are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Notary Public
My Commission Expires March 31, 1993