

No. 91-74
Tel. 301-415-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, July 9, 1991)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES A \$50,000 FINE FOR VIOLATION OF REQUIREMENTS
AT NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY'S MILLSTONE UNIT 1 NUCLEAR PLANT**

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited Northeast Nuclear Energy Company for failing to follow written procedures at its Millstone Unit 1 Nuclear Power Station near Waterford, CT. The staff is proposing a \$50,000 fine.

The procedures require the Shift Supervisor (SS) to shut down all four of the circulating water pumps that send Long Island Sound water into the plant's main condenser whenever the control room indicators show too great an increase of water pressure building up where water approaches the screens that filter it as it enters the plant.

On October 4, 1990, a severe storm caused a buildup of seaweed on these screens. Although control room indicators showed a pressure increase, the SS tripped only two of the pumps because he believed the indicators were not correct. This caused three screens to partially collapse, allowing seaweed into the intake bays and clogging a service water strainer. There also was a potential for clogging of the emergency service water strainers.

In a letter to Northeast Nuclear, Thomas T. Martin, Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, said "the failure to follow operating procedures and effectively monitor and supervise plant operations resulted in the plant being placed in a condition potentially outside your design, since the SW (service water) and ESW (emergency service water) systems provide the ultimate heat sink for this unit." Mr. Martin did recognize that the "operators demonstrated good performance subsequent to the event by promptly restoring service water flow to essential components and placing the plant in cold shutdown."

Northeast Nuclear now has 30 day to submit a written statement to the NRC admitting or denying the violations, explaining the reasons for them, if admitted, stating the corrective actions which have been or will be taken, and the date when full compliance with the NRC requirements was or will be achieved. The licensee also has 30 days to pay the proposed fine or to request that all or part of it be withdrawn.

The State of Connecticut has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

#