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NRC TO REQUIRE COMMISSION APPROVAL BEFORE MILLSTONE RESTART

At the direction of the Commission, the NRC staff has reclassified Millstone Units 1, 2 and 3 at Waterford, Connecticut, as watch list plants which will require authorization from the Commission to restart.

The Commission took the action today as the result of the staff's semiannual briefing Tuesday on nuclear power plants which warrant increased NRC regulatory attention. At that briefing — as at a similar briefing in January — the Millstone units were listed as "Category 2" watch list plants: those authorized to operate, but which have weaknesses which warrant increased NRC attention.

As a result of the Commission's action, the Millstone units have been moved to the watch list "Category 3." This classification lists plants with significant weaknesses which warrant being maintained in a shutdown condition until the licensee can demonstrate to NRC that adequate programs have both been established and implemented to assure substantial improvement.

The Millstone units, operated by Northeast Utilities, are the only plants currently in Category 3. Continuing in Category 2 are Dresden Units 2 and 3, operated by Commonwealth Edison near Morris, Illinois, and Indian Point Unit 3, operated by the New York Power Authority near Buchanan, New York.

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