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NRC ESTABLISHES SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICE TO OVERSEE INSPECTION
AND LICENSING ACTIVITIES AT MILLSTONE AND HADDAM NECK PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has established a Special Projects Office within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to oversee inspection and licensing activities at the Millstone sites operated by Northeast Utilities in Connecticut.

The Special Projects Office will also have responsibility for regulatory activities at Haddam Neck, unless Northeast Utilities decides to permanently shut down the plant.

Since December 1995, a number of senior managers and staff members have been assigned to a variety of special task forces and inspections related to Millstone and Haddam Neck. To consolidate that effort and to ensure consistent NRC oversight and inspection of other operating facilities, the Special Projects Office will provide a specific management focus on NRC activities at Millstone and Haddam Neck beginning November 3. About 30 staff members will be assigned to the office, which is expected to operate for 18 to 24 months.

Heading the new office will be Dr. William D. Travers, who currently directs the NRC's Spent Fuel Project Office in the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards at headquarters. Between 1984 and 1988, he served as director of the Three Mile Island Cleanup Office and was stationed at the TMI site.

Under Dr. Travers' direction, the Special Projects Office will be responsible for (1) licensing and inspection activities at Northeast Utilities' Connecticut plants; (2) oversight of the Independent Corrective Action Verification Program NRC is requiring for Millstone; (3) oversight of the utility's corrective actions related to safety issues involving employee concerns; and (4) inspections necessary to implement NRC oversight of the plants' restart activities.

Assisting Dr. Travers will be:

-- Phillip McKee, of NRC headquarters, who will serve as deputy director for licensing. He will be responsible for licensing activities and oversight of the licensee's corrective actions related to safety issues involving employee concerns.

-- Eugene Imbro, also of NRC headquarters, who will be responsible for the regulatory oversight of all aspects of the Independent Corrective Action Verification Program.

-- Wayne Lanning, who currently heads the Millstone Oversight Team at NRC's Region I office in King of Prussia, Pa. He will remain in Region I where he will serve as deputy director for inspection and will be responsible for on-site inspection activities.

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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