

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

“Millstone Power Station: Providing support for achieving Connecticut’s clean energy goals”

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The report seeks to answer the question: What could happen – to Connecticut consumers’ electricity costs, to statewide carbon-dioxide and other emissions, and to its dependence on natural gas – if Millstone’s generating units were to shut down in the near term (and before the end of their current operating licenses)?

Electricity Bill Savings

- Millstone’s operation produces significant electric energy cost savings for New England and Connecticut consumers, keeping electricity bills lower than if Millstone retired. Through 2030, Millstone provides more than \$6.2 billion (net present value) in benefits for all New England electric consumers.
 - This equates to average savings for all New England consumers of \$536 million per year.
 - Each Connecticut residential household would save more than \$500 in total electric energy costs through 2030, or about 2.5 percent on an average annual basis.
 - If paid in a lump sum at the beginning of 2017, these savings would be equivalent to providing 3.5 months of free electricity to every residential household in the state.

Lower Emissions

- Carbon-dioxide emissions from Connecticut’s power plants would increase by approximately 2.2 million metric tons per year if Millstone retired early. This would make it substantially harder for Connecticut to meet its greenhouse-gas reduction goals.
 - These avoided emissions are equivalent to removing nearly 470,000 passenger cars from the road each year.
 - Carbon-dioxide allowance prices in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative’s program would rise by nearly 30% by 2030 – a factor that would contribute to the electricity price increases anticipated to occur if Millstone retired early.
 - Millstone’s operation also keeps nitrogen-oxide emissions lower in New England and Connecticut: an early retirement would lead to approximately 38% higher emissions in 2030, contributing to local smog conditions.

Natural Gas Cost Savings

- Millstone’s premature retirement would lead to more than half of New England’s electric power being supplied by gas-powered facilities, raising both cost and potential reliability issues.
- The increased demand for natural gas from the power sector would raise prices for energy consumers generally: By 2030, Millstone’s premature closure could lead to a 51% increase in average wholesale natural gas prices in winter months, and a 17% increase in the average annual wholesale price of natural gas in New England, as measured at the Algonquin City Gate price index.