



Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts provides engineering services to the power plant and process industries in the U.S. and abroad, including design, construction and consulting work on coal-powered, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants. The accompanying photos picture construction of a nuclear power plant at Millstone, Connecticut, one of several nuclear facilities designed by Stone & Webster with the aid of a NASA-developed computer program.

One phase in the design of a nuclear power plant involves computer analyses to qualify safety-related equipment at the temperatures it would experience should an accident occur. For such analyses, Stone & Webster uses a program called TAP-A (Computing Transient or Steady State Temperature Distribution). TAP-A was originally developed as part of a NASA investigation into the potential of nuclear power for space launch vehicles. Stone & Webster reports that the company selected TAP-A because it is relatively easy to use, produces accurate results and is not expensive to run.

Stone & Webster's use of TAP-A exemplifies a NASA service to industry provided by the Computer Software Management and Information Center (COSMIC)⁴⁹, located at the University of Georgia. COSMIC supplies computer programs, originally developed by NASA and other technology-generating agencies of the government, that can be adapted to secondary usage; thus, business and industrial customers of COSMIC can save the time and expense of developing entirely new software.

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