

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19401
Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

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Contact: Diane Screnci (610/337-5330)
Neil A. Sheehan (610/337-5331)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, BOSTON EDISON TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT PILGRIM

A predecisional enforcement conference will be held between Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and Boston Edison Company officials on Friday, November 21, to discuss apparent violations of agency requirements at the utility's Pilgrim nuclear power plant. The infractions pertain to design and engineering issues at the facility, which is located in Plymouth, Mass., and owned and operated by Boston Edison.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public for observation.

Among the apparent violations to be discussed are: an unreviewed safety question and several instances in which procedures were changed without appropriate written safety evaluations; design control issues and inconsistencies between safety analyses and operating procedures; inadequate corrective actions regarding significant conditions adverse to quality; and failure to report the operation of the plant in unanalyzed conditions outside the facility's design basis, or operational blueprint.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

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