

December 9, 1997

Mr. Leon J. Olivier  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Boston Edison Company  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station  
RFD #1 Rocky Hill Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR  
THE CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING OF BOSTON EDISON COMPANY, BY THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A HOLDING COMPANY (TAC NO. M99326)

Dear Mr. Olivier:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. The assessment  
relates to your application dated June 9, 1997, for consent under 10 CFR 50.80  
regarding the proposed corporate restructuring of Boston Edison Company.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for  
publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Alan B. Wang, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

DISTRIBUTION

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

Docket File    B. Boger    OGC  
PUBLIC        R. Eaton    ACRS  
PDI-3 Rdg.    T. Clark    C. Hehl

cc w/encl: See next page

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PILGRIM\M99326.EA    \*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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DATE	12/2/97	11/18/97		11/14/97	1/197	12/2/97

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Boston Edison Company

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONBOSTON EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-293PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATIONENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval under 10 CFR 50.80, by issuance of an Order, of the transfer of control of Facility Operating License No. DPR-35, for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, located in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, to the extent such transfer would be effected by the proposed corporate restructuring of Boston Edison Company (BECo, the licensee), holder of the license.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would consent to the transfer of control of the license, to the extent effected by the restructuring of BECo by establishment of a newly created holding company, BEC Energy. BECo would become a wholly owned subsidiary of the holding company and would continue to be the licensee for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. No direct transfer of the license would occur. The proposed action is in accordance with BECo's application dated June 9, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to the extent the proposed restructuring of BECo will effect a transfer of control of the license to permit the restructuring to occur. BECo has submitted that the proposed restructuring will enable it to better prepare to implement changes resulting from electric utility industry restructuring, and will enhance

the insulation of BECo's utility business from business risks associated with non-utility enterprises.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed corporate restructuring and concludes that there will be no physical or operational changes to the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. The corporate restructuring will not affect the qualifications or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate or maintain the facility, as BECo will continue to be responsible for the operation, maintenance and possession of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed action and has determined that the probability or consequences of accidents would not be increased by the proposed action, and that post-accident radiological releases would not be greater than previously determined. Further, the Commission has determined that the proposed action would not affect routine radiological exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are identical.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, dated May 1972.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 9, 1997, the staff consulted with the Massachusetts State Official, James Muckerheide, of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's application dated June 9, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Plymouth Public Library, 11 North Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of December 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Ronald B. Eaton, Acting Director  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation