

December 1, 1986

Docket No. 50-293

Mr. James M. Lydon
Chief Operating Officer
Boston Edison Company
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Dear Mr. Lydon:

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SUBJECT: SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J TYPE A TEST
(TAC 62756)

Re: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

The Commission has issued the enclosed Exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6(b), to the extent it requires that a Type A test be conducted 18 months after the previous test in response to your letter dated August 29, 1986. We agree that such a test at this time is unnecessary since the station is presently shut down and will not be restarted until completion of a Type A test following refueling of the reactor.

Accordingly, the Commission has granted the enclosed exemption which provides relief from the requirement until after refueling has been accomplished during refueling outage #7.

This exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Rajender Auluck, Project Manager
BWR Project Directorate #1
Division of BWR Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

DBL:BWD#1
CJamerson
11/03/86

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R. Auluck
11/5/86

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

December 5, 1986

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DOCKET No. 50-293

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docketing and Service Branch
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: BOSTON EDISON COMPANY, PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is enclosed for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for Submission of Views on Antitrust Matters.
- ☐ Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License.
- ☐ Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- ☐ Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- ☐ Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- ☐ Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- ☐ Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- ☐ Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- ☐ Order.
- ☒ Exemption.
- ☐ Notice of Granting of Relief.
- ☐ Other: _____

Enclosure:
As stated

J. Griffin
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of BWR Licensing
BWD1 Project Directorate #1

OFFICE	DBL BWD1					
SURNAME	JGriffin					
DATE	12/05/86					

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 1, 1986

Docket No. 50-293

Mr. James M. Lydon
Chief Operating Officer
Boston Edison Company
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

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(TAC 62756)

Re: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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This exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Rajender Auluck

Rajender Auluck, Project Manager
BWR Project Directorate #1
Division of BWR Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

Mr. James M. Lydon
Boston Edison Company

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

Mr. Alfred E. Pedersen, Station Manager
Boston Edison Company
RFD #1, Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Resident Inspector's Office
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Post Office Box 867
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Chairman, Board of Selectmen
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Office of the Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Quality Engineering
One Winter Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Office of the Attorney General
1 Ashburton Place
19th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mr. Robert M. Hallisey, Director
Radiation Control Program
Massachusetts Department of
Public Health
150 Tremont Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Regional Administrator, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. James D. Keyes
Boston Edison Company
25 Braintree Hill Office Park
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	Docket No. 50-293
BOSTON EDISON COMPANY)	
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station)	

EXEMPTION

I.

Boston Edison Company (BECO/the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-35 which authorizes the operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (the facility) at a steady-state power level not in excess of 1998 megawatts thermal. The facility includes a boiling water reactor (BWR) and is located at the licensee's site in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

II.

By letter dated August 29, 1986, the licensee requested a schedular exemption from the 18-month test frequency requirement in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6(b). This section states that:

"If two consecutive periodic Type A tests fail to meet the applicable acceptance criteria in III.A.5(b), notwithstanding the periodic test schedule of III.D, a Type A test shall be performed at each plant shutdown for refueling or approximately every 18 months, whichever occurs first, until two consecutive Type A tests meet the acceptance criteria in III.A.5(b), . . ."

Although the most recent Type A primary containment leakage test conducted at Pilgrim Station in December 1984 met the criteria in III.A.5(b), the previous test did not. The above testing frequency therefore applies.

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P PDR

III.

The Pilgrim Station was shut down on April 12, 1986 to make certain repairs and the outage has continued for various reasons, including a decision by the licensee to refuel the reactor prior to restarting the plant. This decision created the circumstances whereby two Type A tests will have to be performed during the current refueling outage (RFO #7) unless relief is granted. The first Type A test would need to be conducted upon completion of the present ongoing Type B and C testing of air locks and valves, which, in accordance with the 18-month frequency requirement, commenced in June 1986. The second Type A test would be required following completion of all outage work, including refueling.

IV.

Type A testing is performed to assure that primary containment leakage is within acceptable limits during plant operation. Pilgrim Station will not be operating prior to the end of RFO #7 next spring, at which time a Type A test will be successfully performed. Thus, the performance of an earlier Type A test to meet the 18-month schedular requirements is unnecessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

V.

Based upon the considerations described above, the staff has concluded that the licensee has presented a sound rationale for its need of schedular relief which will allow postponement of Type A testing until the end of RFO #7.

This will not present undue risk to the public health and safety because Pilgrim will remain shut down until completion of the Type A testing following refueling. In addition, the licensee will fix any leaks identified by the testing prior to restart.

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1), the schedular exemption requested by the licensee's letter of August 29, 1986, is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as described in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), are present, namely, that application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule. Accordingly, the Commission grants this Exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6(b) for the performance of a Type A containment leakage test until after refueling has been accomplished during refueling outage #7 and any leaks identified by this testing shall be repaired prior to restart.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (51 FR41308, November 28, 1986).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 1st day of December 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert M. Bernero, Director
Division of BWR Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation