

Docket No. 50-293

September 12, 1990

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Mr. Ralph G. Bird
 Senior Vice President - Nuclear
 Boston Edison Company
 Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
 RFD #1 Rocky Hill Road
 Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Dear Mr. Bird:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ONE-TIME EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 55.59(a)
 PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION, (TAC NO. 77181)

Enclosed is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact relative to the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, for your information. This assessment relates to extension of the 24-month requalification program and annual requalification testing.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Enclosure:
 Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
 See next page

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 BC Clayton
 8/9/90

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 8/19/90

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Mr. Ralph G. Bird

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONBOSTON EDISON COMPANYPILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-293ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 to Boston Edison Company (the licensee) for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) located in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would grant relief from 10 CFR 55.59(a), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration and that an annual requalification examination be administered. The licensee has requested an exemption which would extend the 24 month requalification program cycle from March 1992 to May 1992 and the annual requalification examination from March 1992 to May 1992.

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefore are contained in a letter dated July 12, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is from 10 CFR 55.59(a), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. In

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addition, an annual requalification examination must be passed. The licensees requested an exemption to extend the 24-month requalification cycle from March 1992 to May 1992, for the purpose of aligning the Pilgrim program with the new NRC national examination schedule. The licensees also requested an exemption from the annual requalification examination from March 1992 to May 1992 for the same reason. This one-time exemption would result in a permanent adjustment to the 24-month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination schedule.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would align the Pilgrim requalification cycle with the NRC national examination schedule. This exemption will not increase the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological release will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect the quantity of radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant increase in occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because it has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station," dated May 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult with other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

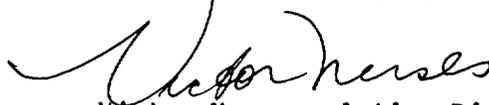
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statements for the proposed exemption.

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further information with respect to this action, see the application for exemption previously listed, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555 and at the Plymouth Public Library, 11 North Street, Plymouth Massachusetts 02360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of September , 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Victor Nerses, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation