



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

May 1, 1990

Docket No. 50-293

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: EXEMPTION FROM THE CONTAINMENT LEAK RATE TEST REQUIREMENTS OF  
10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J (TAC. NO. 73773)

- References:
1. BECo Application for Exemption dated 7/7/89, Attachment B  
"Corrective Action Plan"
  2. BECo "Additional Information - Request for Exemption" dated  
9/1/89
  3. NRC letter issuing an Exemption from Requirements of  
Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, dated 9/27/89

In your letter dated March 14, 1990, you stated that while reviewing the September 27, 1989 exemption to Appendix J you discovered two incorrect statements regarding containment integrated leak rate tests (ILRTs) and local leak rate tests (LLRTs) in your submittals (References 1 and 2) and our Exemption (Reference 3). The NRC staff has reviewed your letter of March 14, 1990 and the associated references, and discussed this matter with Ms. M. Lenhart of BECo on April 27, 1990.

The first statement, "Since the failure of the December 1987 ILRT ...nearly two complete sets of LLRTs were performed... They were performed in the June and December 1988 timeframes" is in error. You indicated in your March 14, 1990 letter that while many Type C Tests were performed twice during this timeframe, overall, you only performed 1 full set of LLRTs and some additional tests.

The second statement of concern is "BECo plans to complete approximately five sets of LLRTs...during the four-year period from June 1987 to June 1991." This appears on page 3 of Reference 1. In Reference 2 (the word "approximately" was inadvertently omitted and an incorrect date was provided), and in Reference 3 on page 3 of the exemption (again the word "approximately" was omitted and an incorrect date was stated).

In your March 14, 1990 letter you state that the correctly worded statement should be "approximately 5 full sets of LLRTs... during the five-year period from June 1986 to June 1991", and you provide the justifying analysis.

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The staff has considered these errors and we agree that these errors do not affect the basis for the exemption, because you have exceeded the number of LLRTs required by 10 CFR 50 Appendix J. This confirms that the NRC approved Exemption dated 9/27/89 is still effective.

Original signed by Walter Butler for Steve A. Varga, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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