



Entergy Nuclear Generation Co.
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
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Mike Bellamy
Site Vice President

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Docket No. 50-293
License No. DPR-35

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Reply to the Notice of Violation Dated August 24, 2001
(NRC Office of Investigations Report No. 1-2000-002)

Enclosed is Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's reply to the Notice of Violation (NOV) dated August 24, 2001 (NRC Office of Investigations Report No. 1-2000-002).

Corrective actions are complete. This letter includes no commitments.

This response does not require redaction.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bryan Ford at (508) 830-8403 if there are any questions regarding the enclosed reply.

Sincerely,

R.M. Bellamy

Enclosure: Reply to the Office of Investigations Report

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IE01

ENCLOSURE

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

During an investigation by the NRC Office of Investigations, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, the violation is listed below:

10 CFR 50.9 requires, in part, that information required by the Commission's regulations, orders or license conditions to be maintained by a licensee (at the time Boston Edison Company) [SIC] shall be complete and accurate in all material respects.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Technical Specification 5.4.1, requires that written procedures shall be established, implemented, and maintained covering the applicable procedures recommended in Regulatory Guide 1.33, Revision 2, Appendix A, February 1978. Section 1.h of Appendix A requires administrative procedures for log entries and record retention.

PNPS Procedure No. 2.1.15, "Daily Surveillance Log (Technical Specifications and Regulatory Agencies)," Revision 120, provided procedures and checks required to perform necessary Technical Specification surveillances that were required to be initialed by the individual recording the data and were required to be reviewed by the control room supervisor.

PNPS Procedure No. 2.1.16, "Nuclear Power Plant Operator Tour," Revision 95, required operators to tour the reactor building to record values, initials and check marks for systems and equipment, including those required by Technical Specifications such as: (1) Step R99 – record nitrogen flow to the TIP system purge; (2) Steps R114, R115, R116, R155, R157 - record particulate, iodine and gaseous activity values from the C19 West and East Panels, respectively; and (3) Steps R160, R161 – record torus oxygen concentrations. Upon completion of the tour, operators were required to transfer the tour data to PNPS Procedure No. 2.1.15.

Contrary to the above, information required to be maintained by the licensee (namely, a record of a tour of the reactor building by an NRC-licensed reactor operator), was not complete and accurate in all material respects. Specifically, either after or during the reactor building tour by the reactor operator on December 8, 1999, the reactor operator created (1) an inaccurate record for the nitrogen flow to the TIP system purge, (2) an inaccurate record for the particulate, iodine and gaseous activity values from the C19 West and East Panels, and (3) an inaccurate record for the levels of oxygen in the torus. The records were inaccurate in that readings were recorded but actual checks were not done. The inaccuracies of these records were material because the NRC relies on this information to assure that equipment and facilities are being inspected and maintained in accordance with regulatory and license requirements.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement VII).

REASON FOR THE VIOLATION

Pilgrim accepts the cited violation with comment.

The reason for the violation was the willful misconduct of a licensed nuclear plant operator.

Pilgrim wishes to provide the following comments concerning this violation:

- As noted in the NOV, this issue was self-identified by Pilgrim.
- Subsequent readings for this watch tour were not substantially different than those provided within the falsified tour (i.e.: plant conditions did not change during the time the falsified tour was performed).
- Pilgrim's investigation also indicated that no equipment or plant operations were impacted by the suspect data produced by the misconduct.
- In addition to the procedures cited, the willful misconduct violated a Pilgrim Procedure concerning adherence to governing documents and implementing procedures.

CORRECTIVE STEPS TAKEN AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

The licensed operator who willfully created a required record not accurate in certain material respects was terminated from employment at Pilgrim and his willful act of misconduct and identity was provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The day following the incident, December 9, 1999, Pilgrim initiated an investigation into the extent of the incident. The extent of condition review included a review of recently performed tours. The investigation concluded that the misconduct was limited to the individual who was assigned the reactor building tour on December 8, 1999.

Pilgrim Operations performs checks of security card reader histories for building tour operators. These checks were conducted weekly for approximately six months following the misconduct and revealed no suspect tours. The frequency of card reader history checks has been decreased based on the results obtained over the initial six months.

CORRECTIVE STEPS THAT WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID FUTURE VIOLATIONS

All corrective steps have been implemented. No further corrective actions are planned.

DATE WHEN COMPLIANCE WILL BE ACHIEVED

Full compliance was achieved on January 13, 2000.