

June 29, 1998

EA 98-277

Mr. Leon J. Olivier  
Vice President - Nuclear Operations/Station Manager  
Boston Edison Company  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station  
600 Rocky Hill Road  
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360-5599

SUBJECT: PILGRIM MAINTENANCE RULE BASELINE TEAM INSPECTION  
REPORT 50-293/98-04

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This report transmits the findings of the safety inspection conducted by NRC inspectors at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station from April 27, 1998 to May 1, 1998 (onsite) and May 4-15, 1998 (in-office). The purpose of this inspection was to review Pilgrim's maintenance rule implementation in accordance with 10 CFR 50.65. At the conclusion of this inspection, these findings were discussed with you and members of your staff.

Overall, we concluded that your facility had implemented the maintenance rule acceptably at the time of the inspection with the exception of the violations identified below. We are concerned, however, that before October 1997 significant performance weaknesses and inadequacies existed that indicated an apparent organizational ineffectiveness in initial implementation of the maintenance rule. We noted that a number of revisions and substantial improvements to your program were implemented just prior to this inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that apparent violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations were identified by the NRC, in part, and included: 1) failure to demonstrate effective preventive maintenance as required by 10 CFR 50.65 (a)(2) because you did not establish an unavailability performance measure for the anticipated transient without scram (ATWS) function of the control rod drive system; 2) failure to place the feedwater system into an (a)(1) status in a timely manner when preventive maintenance was not effective; 3) failure to place the primary containment system into an (a)(1) status in a timely manner when preventive maintenance was not effective; 4) failure to include certain systems/functions in the scope of the Maintenance Rule program as required by 10 CFR 50.65(b); and 5) failure to complete the periodic evaluation required to be performed for refueling cycle (No. 11) which ended April 1997 as required by 10 CFR 50.65 (a)(3).

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We are continuing to review the violations as related to the past problem with maintenance rule implementation. We will contact you shortly on our enforcement

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Mr. Leon J. Olivier

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James T. Wiggins, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-293

License No.: DPR-35

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-293/98-04

Mr. Leon J. Olivier

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cc w/encl:

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The Honorable Joseph Gallitano

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