

JOHN KERRY
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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October 3, 1994

Ivan Selin, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

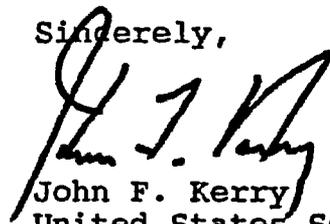
Dear Chairman Selin,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter from Ms. Ott and Mr. Muirhead to you regarding the status of the core shroud at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant.

Their letter to you dated 9/16/94, raises a question as to need to conduct an inspection on the core shroud during the period of the current Pilgrim shutdown. I feel that this is a very legitimate question, and I hope that you will give it serious consideration. I would appreciate your analysis and response to this issue at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this matter.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
United States Senator

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Citizens Urging Responsible Energy

September 16, 1994

Ivan Selin, Chairman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Via Fax: (301) 504-1672

Dear Chairman Selin:

As you are aware, the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station automatically shutdown on August 29, 1994. This is the fourth unplanned shutdown this year. While various malfunctions associated with the shutdown remain under investigation, it is now apparent that the plant's main generator was seriously damaged. Boston Edison originally said there was "no damage to any of the equipment." However, at a press conference last Monday, the company confirmed that Pilgrim will remain off line for up to four months to complete up to \$6 million in repairs.

Our purpose in writing is to inform you that two anonymous sources have stated that Boston Edison is aware that the core shroud at Pilgrim is cracked. Have you been noticed of such findings, or has past NRC inspection activity identified any core shroud crack indications at Pilgrim?

Clearly the NRC views the subject of core shroud cracking with great concern since you have issued Generic Letter 94-03, "Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking (IGSSC) of Core Shrouds in Boiling Water Reactors," on July 25, 1994 with no notice of opportunity for public comment "because of the urgent nature of the actions requested." In fact, Federal Register, Volume 59, No. 155/ Friday, August 12, 1994 says, "The NRC determined that the need for licensees to implement the requested actions quickly made it necessary to issue this generic letter immediately."

In view of Pilgrim's unexpected lengthy outage and the emergent nature of this issue, we feel it would be prudent for the NRC to move up the schedule for Pilgrim's core shroud inspection. Have you considered this action?

Finally, the NRC's "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT" to you for week ending July 15, 1994 notices an August 4, 1994 meeting with Boston Edison "To discuss the reactor vessel inspection scheduled for the April 1995 refueling outage and (an) IGSCC inspection relief request." Please provide us with a copy of the company's request and the current status of this issue. We would also like to know what criteria, standards or regulations the NRC will use in deciding whether to grant the requested relief.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Muirhead Jr. *Mary C. Ott*
me

Donald M. Muirhead Jr, M.D.
Co-Chairmen

Mary C. Ott

cc:

Senator Edward Kennedy
✓ Senator John Kerry
Congressman Gerry Studds
Attorney General Scott Harshbarger
Ronald Eaton
Robert Pollard