

October 31, 1994

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senator  
One Bowdoin Square  
Tenth Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Senator Kerry:

I am responding to your letter of October 3, 1994, in which you asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to respond to concerns raised by Ms. Ott and Dr. Muirhead regarding the reactor core shroud at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

I am enclosing a copy of our response to Ms. Ott and Dr. Muirhead. This reply to you and the reply to Ms. Ott and Dr. Muirhead will not be publicly distributed, because we are treating the information supplied by Ms. Ott and Dr. Muirhead concerning two sources knowing of cracks in the Pilgrim core shroud as an allegation. Our process purposefully limits distribution of related correspondence to reduce the possibility of revealing the identity of individuals bringing allegations to our attention.

I hope this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely, *Original signed by*  
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to Ms. Ott and Dr. Muirhead

DISTRIBUTION LIMITED: This issue is handled as an allegation.  
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NRR Mailroom (EDO #0010543) 012-G-18  
N. Olson  
Division Director/Secretary  
Deputy Director/Secretary

R. Eaton w/incoming  
S. Little  
T. Martin  
J. Lieberman, OE  
J. Lee (O-9A2)

\*previously concurred

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 26, 1994

Dr. Donald M. Muirhead, Jr.  
Ms. Mary C. Ott  
Citizens Urging Responsible Energy  
Post Office Box 2621  
Duxbury, MA 02331

Dear Dr. Muirhead and Ms. Ott:

I am responding to your September 16, 1994, letter regarding core shroud cracking at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS). As you stated, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is concerned about core shroud cracking and is acting to ensure safe operation of the affected plants.

On October 4, 1994, the Boston Edison Company (BECo) management made a presentation to NRC management and staff in a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland. During the meeting BECo presented information to support its belief that the condition of Pilgrim's shroud is acceptable. BECo also provided evidence to support its contention that the risk associated with allowing PNPS to operate until the scheduled refueling outage in April 1995, without performing a core shroud inspection or repair, is acceptable. During that refueling outage, BECo has committed to install a General Electric designed modification which will replace the structural integrity currently provided by the core shroud welds. I am enclosing (Enclosure 1) a copy of the slide presentation from the October 4, 1994, public meeting. The NRC staff asked BECo to submit a sensitivity analysis that would provide the margin to unacceptable performance of the core shroud during a postulated large break loss-of-coolant accident. BECo submitted the analysis on October 13, 1994, and the staff is currently reviewing it. A decision on whether it is acceptable to wait until the April 1995 outage to perform repairs to the core shroud will be made after that review. We will inform you of our decision.

On September 27, 1994, the NRC staff informed you in a telephone conversation that we are also concerned about the information supplied to you by anonymous sources regarding the core shroud at PNPS. As the staff told you, BECo informed us that the core shroud has not been inspected in a manner that would allow BECo to determine if the shroud is cracked. Without additional information, NRC has no basis on which to substantiate the statements of the anonymous sources. As the staff requested, if you are contacted again, please ask the sources to contact us directly. If they are reticent to do so, but could supply additional information to substantiate their assertions, we will revisit the issue.

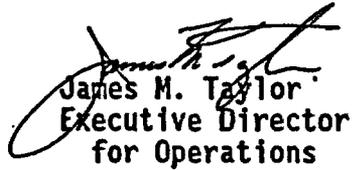
As requested, I am also enclosing (Enclosure 2) a copy of the slide presentation from the August 4, 1994, public meeting with BECo to discuss the reactor vessel inspection and a proposed intergranular stress-corrosion cracking (IGSCC) inspection relief request. The slide presentation was included in the meeting summary of August 9, 1994, during which time BECo proposed changing the frequency of inspection of 11 category D recirculation

Donald M. Muirhead and Mary C. Ott -2-

safe-end welds. This proposal is highlighted on the fourth slide of the presentation. NRC informed BECo that relief is not required if they implement hydrogen water chemistry as stated in Generic Letter 88-01, "NRC Position on IGSCC in BWR Austenitic Stainless Steel Piping." They do, however, need to submit a written description of their program for evaluation and approval by the NRC staff.

I hope this reply addresses your concerns, and I will await any additional information you may be able to supply regarding the PNPS core shroud.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

- Enclosures: 1. Core Shroud Presentation  
(October 4, 1994)  
2. Proposed IGSCC Inspection Relief  
Request (August 4, 1994)
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