

August 24, 2005

Mr. Kenneth A. Tavares
Chairman, Board of Selectman
Town of Plymouth
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON TOPICS RAISED WITH
COMMISSIONER JACZKO

Dear Chairman Tavares:

Thank you for visiting with Commissioner Jaczko and the Resident Inspectors during the Commissioner's visit to Pilgrim Station on July 25, 2005. We appreciate your candid dialogue concerning emergency planning, security, spent fuel storage, and the potential license renewal of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS). Please express our gratitude to Mr. Sylvia and Mr. Berger for their participation. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information to you in the areas of your expressed concerns.

The enclosed Backgrounder Information Sheet, "Reactor License Renewal," provides a high level overview of the license renewal process. Requirements for license renewal are codified in 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions" and 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements for renewal of operating licenses for nuclear power plants." More detailed information on the license renewal process may be obtained at our public website (www.nrc.gov) by selecting the License Renewal link under Key Topics. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not received a license renewal application for Pilgrim at this time. Entergy has indicated an intention to do so in early 2006.

For a nuclear power plant to operate, the NRC must have reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. Licensees are therefore required by 10 CFR 50.54(q) to maintain in effect and follow emergency plans that meet the requirements and standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.47(b) and 10 CFR 50, Appendix E. The NRC and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conduct periodic assessments of Pilgrim's emergency preparedness (EP). Assessment activities include on-site inspection of the EP program; observation of EP training and licensee evaluated exercises; biennial, NRC/FEMA evaluated exercises; NRC EP performance indicators; and review of the annual certification by the Commonwealth and local communities of the off-site emergency response plans. Because the adequacy of emergency preparedness is verified on an ongoing basis, emergency preparedness is not reviewed as a part of the license renewal process per 10 CFR 50.47(a)(1). More detailed information on emergency planning may be obtained at the NRC's public website (www.nrc.gov) by selecting the Emergency Preparedness link under Key Topics. Information regarding FEMA's activities may be obtained at FEMA's website (www.fema.gov). A copy of the NRC and FEMA reports for the April 14, 2004, evaluated exercise are enclosed. No significant NRC findings were identified for the on-site response. FEMA identified one deficiency and four areas requiring corrective action for the off-site response. The one deficiency, corrected June 14, 2004, related to the distribution of KI to State Police officers performing traffic control in the plume exposure pathway. The four areas requiring corrective action do not by themselves adversely impact public health and safety. Enclosed information

Mr. Kenneth A. Tavares

2

includes a Backgrounder Information Sheet containing a high level summary of Emergency Planning and Preparedness at Nuclear Power Plants, information on the history of emergency planning and emergency preparedness in response to terrorism, copies of sections of the Code of Federal Regulations relevant to EP (10 CFR 50.47, 50.54, and 10 CFR 50 Appendix E), and information regarding factors affecting emergency evacuations (NUREG/CR-6864, Vol 1).

Also, enclosed is a Fact Sheet on Security post 9-11 and Backgrounder Information Sheet for Dry Cask Storage. Additional information on these topics may also be obtained at our website. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Dave Lew signing for

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures: Backgrounder - Reactor License Renewal
Backgrounder - Emergency Planning and Preparedness at Nuclear Power Plants
Emergency Preparedness History
Emergency Preparedness in Response to Terrorism
50.47 Emergency Plans
50.54 Conditions of Licenses
Appendix E to Part 50 - Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities
Evacuation and Sheltering
NUREG/CR-6864, Vol.1 - Identification and Analysis of Factors Affecting Emergency Evacuations - (Main Report)
Fact Sheet - Safety and Security Improvements at Nuclear Plants
Backgrounder - Nuclear Security Enhancements Since September 11, 2001
Backgrounder on Force-on-Force Exercises at Nuclear Power Plants
Fact Sheet - NRC Review of Paper on Reducing Hazards From Stored Spent Nuclear Fuel
Backgrounder - Dry Cask Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel
FEMA Exercise Report, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, July 14, 2004
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station - NRC Evaluated Emergency Preparedness Exercise - Inspection Report 05000293/2004003, May 10, 2003

cc wo/encl.

M. Sylvia, Plymouth Town Manager
J. Berger, Plymouth Nuclear Matters Committee

Mr. Kenneth A. Tavares

4

Distribution wo/encl: (via E-mail)

- S. Collins, RA
- M. Dapas, DRA
- S. Lee, RI EDO Coordinator
- C. Anderson, DRP
- D. Florek, DRP
- T. Walker, ORA
- J. Shea, PM, NRR
- R. Ennis, NRR
- S. Lavie, NSIR
- P. Kuo, NRR
- S. Hoffman, NRR
- W. Raymond, DRP, Senior Resident Inspector
- C. Welch, DRP, Resident Inspector
- A. Ford, DRP, Resident OA
- Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

DOCUMENT NAME: E:\Filenet\ML052370163.wpd

SISP Review Complete: CJA (Reviewer's Initials)

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it **will** be released to the Public.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/DRP		RI/DRP	
NAME	CWelch/CJA		CAnderson	
DATE	08/24/05		08/24/05	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY