



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 13, 2012

Mr. Richard Wilson, Professor
Department of Physics
Harvard University
17 Oxford Street
Jefferson Physical Laboratory, Room 257
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of May 18, 2012, regarding the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS) license renewal. The agency appreciates the copy you provided of your 1980 report on nuclear safety following the accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station and your willingness to discuss it.

The NRC staff has considered the facts known to date and has concluded that U.S. reactors continue to operate safely. Since the events of March 2011, at Fukushima Dai-ichi, the NRC staff has been focused on indentifying lessons learned, assessing those lessons learned, and making any necessary enhancements to its regulatory system. In March 2011, the NRC established a senior level agency near-term task force (NTTF) to conduct a methodical and systematic review of NRC processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to our regulatory system. The NTTF submitted its report and recommendations to the Commission in July 2011. In October 2011, the staff provided its proposed plan of action and prioritization of the NTTF recommendations, which included the identification of recommendations related to lessons learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi event beyond those identified in the NTTF report. Additionally, the NRC has already begun applying the lessons learned with issuance of orders and Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.54(f) letters in March of this year. Further information about NRC actions in response to the Japan nuclear accident is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/japan-info.html>. If, as this process continues, the NRC determines that the Commission's regulations should be further examined and potentially revised, the agency will promptly undertake such an examination.

The renewed Pilgrim license was issued on May 29, 2012, and will expire on June 8, 2032. However, if, at any time, the NRC receives information from inspection activities or reporting activities that shows there is a basis to question the continued safe operation of PNPS, the agency can take the appropriate actions as part of the its ongoing safety oversight.

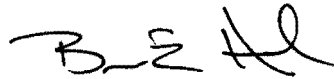
For additional information on the license renewal process, please review the information provided on the agency's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

R. Wilson

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We appreciate hearing your views and thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dennis Morey, Chief, Projects Branch 1, in the Division of License Renewal at 301-415-6852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B E Holian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

R. Wilson

- 2 -

We appreciate hearing your views and thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dennis Morey, Chief, Projects Branch 1, in the Division of License Renewal at 301-415-6852.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Letter to Richard Wilson from Brian E. Holian, dated July 13, 2012

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