



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

TIC
NRC PDR

Docket No. 50-471

AUG 31 1979

Dr. Patricia McGraw
P. O. Box 1249
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653

Dear Dr. McGraw:

Your letter of June 19, 1979, to Mr. Abraham concerning the Pilgrim facility, has been referred to me for a reply.

In your letter, you state that the proposed Pilgrim Unit 2 nuclear plant should not be granted a construction permit. You also comment on the evacuability of Cape Cod if there were to be an accident at the proposed facility and indicate that the existing facility, Pilgrim Unit 1, has a poor record with regard to worker exposure to radiation.

The matter of whether the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should grant a construction permit to the proposed Pilgrim Unit 2 facility is currently before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Board). The NRC staff has performed both an environmental review and a radiological safety review for the proposed facility. The results of the staff's environmental review are documented in the Final Environmental Statement and its two supplements; the results of the staff's radiological safety review are documented in the Safety Evaluation Report and its four supplements, which include an evaluation by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. All of these documents have been incorporated into the record of hearing being held by the Board and are available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Plymouth Public Library, North Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts. A construction permit for Pilgrim Unit 2 cannot be granted unless the Board, upon completion of the hearing, issues a favorable decision on both environmental and safety matters.

With regard to your comment relating to emergency planning (protective measures, including evacuation, in the event of an accident), issues associated with emergency planning are expected to be further considered by the Board at a public hearing to be held later this year.

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As you note, there have been occurrences where workers at Pilgrim Unit 1 have been overexposed to radiation. In this regard, corrective measures to reduce exposures are being implemented by the Boston Edison Company which include (1) retaining a consultant with an appropriate staff to investigate on-going exposures and practices related to maintaining exposures to as low as is reasonably achievable, and (2) conducting an engineering investigation of measures such as shielding redesign, removal of contaminated piping and improving ventilation. With regard to Pilgrim Unit 2, the utility has committed to implement a health physics program of sufficient scope to maintain in-plant exposure of personnel within applicable limits and occupational radiation exposures to as low as is reasonably achievable.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to respond to the comments in your letter.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Varga
Steven A. Varga, Acting Assistant
Director for Light Water Reactors
Division of Project Management

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