

Paulus

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

August 13, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-329

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This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Boston Edison Company (Massachusetts)
(DN 50-293)

Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION LETTER ISSUED TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH A VIOLATION OF PRIMARY CONTAINMENT INTEGRITY

During a routine onsite inspection, a Region I inspector noted that on June 12, 1979, while at 100% power and performing repairs on the "A" Core Spray System test line to the Torus, the Primary Containment Integrity was violated. This occurred when the first valve in the line outside of containment was disassembled and repaired. There is no containment isolation valve inside containment for this penetration. The valve, a 6 inch check valve, was disassembled for approximately 7 hours. After identification of the incident by the Region I inspector, the licensee made a prompt report (LER 79-029/01X-0) on August 9, 1979. On August 10, 1979, Region I issued an Immediate Action Letter to Boston Edison Company specifying the following actions:

1. Review of the sequence of events leading to the violation of the primary containment integrity, determine the safety significance of each of these events and define specific measures to prevent recurrence;
2. Review the adequacy of procedural and management controls as they apply to safety-related maintenance; and,
3. Review the adequacy of plant staffing and staff training to prevent such an occurrence.

This licensee agreed to complete the reviews and inform Region I in writing of the substance of the reviews and of any changes or improvements in his programs as a result of the reviews by August 17, 1979.

Media interest is expected because of continued interest in operating nuclear power plants. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by a phone call from the Project Inspector onsite on August 9, 1979.

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Contact: PMcKee, IE x28019 FNolan, IE x28019

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