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October 19, 1979

BECO Ltr. #79-207

G. CARL ANDOGNINI
SUPERINTENDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

License No. DPR-35
Docket No. 50-293

Containment Atmospheric Control System

Ref: (a) NRC Letter T.A. Ippolito to G.C. Andognini
dated 3/14/79.

(b) BECO Letter G.C. Andognini to T.A. Ippolito
dated 6/6/79.

Dear Sir:

In Reference (a) you requested that we submit a schedule for the installation and the testing of a CAD System at Pilgrim Station Unit #1. Your inquiry also requested a detailed description of any design changes that we propose to make in our original system description (FSAR submittal, Amendment 35). In Reference (b), we informed you that our current plans do not call for the installation of CAD System and that we were evaluating a system that incorporates hydrogen recombination capability. Therefore, we request that you delete FSAR Amendment 35 from our docket.

To determine what changes are currently required for post LOCA containment combustible gas control, we have evaluated the present station design with respect to 10CFR50.44. Based upon our analysis, we comply with 10CFR50.44 with existing equipment. However, we recognize that additional system modifications may be appropriate once the TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force has completed its long term recommendations.

As described in its short term recommendations (NUREG-0578), the TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force majority view was that the existing design basis for combustible gas control systems needs re-evaluation. We are therefore, unable to commit to any system design changes for combustible gas control at Pilgrim, until a final resolution is issued by the Commission on the system design bases.

However, we have revised our operating procedures, as necessary to mitigate the consequences of a TMI type incident in the unlikely event that it occurred and as stated in Reference (b), we will continue to operate with an inerted containment.

If you have any questions on this subject, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

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