



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

August 10, 1990

Kenneth Carr, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1 White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Carr:

On July 25, 1990, the Plymouth board of Selectmen received the Inspection Report of the NRC's 1988 review of the status of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station off-site emergency preparedness. Selectman Alba Thompson, Civil Defense Director Hadfield, and representatives of the Saquish-Gurnet beach area had furnished Inspector George Mulley, Jr. with oral and written testimony.

The Town of Plymouth had maintained a voluminous, continuous correspondence with the NRC during the years 1986 - 1989. Chairman Thompson testified before the NRC Commission at the December 9, 1988, Commission meeting in Rockville, Maryland, as did Civil Defense Director Hadfield.

All through the years from 1986 to 1989 we had maintained that the Commission was relying on an NRC staff that gave inaccurate facts on the status of our radiological emergency preparedness. It was incomprehensible to this town that not a single NRC staff person met with an elected official or the Civil Defense Director to review or study our response plans until late October 1988 after the Commission meeting. Those two persons (Hogan and Lazarus), even then, did not open one of our plan books. As a matter of fact, there is no doubt that Hogan and Lazarus visited us because the Selectmen had sent the NRC a long letter of protest and refutation of the NRC "facts" as present by NRC staff to the NRC meeting of October 1988.

Please see our letter dated October 31, 1988, in which we documented six pages of inaccuracies in the testimony of NRC staffers given during the October 14, 1988, Commission meeting. We particularly challenged pp 76-103. Incidentally,

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we never received any reply to that letter although we asked for one. Again at the Commission meeting of December 9, 1988, we challenged the truth of the testimony presented by your staff at the October 14, 1988, meeting to which we had not been invited. (Our Civil Defense Director was present but was not permitted to speak.) The record is replete with our sharp protests that staffers were relying on Boston Edison, owner of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, for information, hardly a credible source of information at a time when the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station was anxious to re-start the plant.

The Plymouth Board of Selectmen notes that the findings of the Inspector are consistent with our knowledge of the facts as are also the conclusions. Finally, the truth has been discovered.

It is not our purpose at this time to review this sorry record of inaccurate and incomplete NRC staff reporting. Your files are full of our previous corrections and protests which seemed to have little influence on NRC decisions.

It is our purpose to set down what we see as germane questions now that the inspection report has located so many areas flawed by poor staff work:

- a. What disciplinary action will be taken against staff that gave erroneous testimony at the Commission meetings of October and December 1988?
- b. What action will be taken to determine who at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station gave written "plans" and "reports" to NRC staff on the preparedness of the Town of Plymouth which he or she knew were documents prepared by Boston Edison personnel but in no way reflected the true status of preparedness in or any approval by the Town of Plymouth?
- c. What steps has the NRC taken to insure that local officials are now consulted about local preparedness throughout the entire spectrum of planning and implementation?

- d. What procedures have been instituted to avoid over-reliance on input from nuclear plants making a "best case" for themselves in the area of off-site preparedness for which they have no jurisdiction? Responsibility lies with the state and local communities.
- e. What procedures have been instituted to guarantee that NRC personnel in the area of preparedness have actually held public hearings on that subject in the Emergency Planning Zone communities?
- f. What steps has the NRC taken to ascertain that required, graded emergency drills are not waived at a time when their results are needed for important decisions such as re-start?

Finally, we quote from our letter dated December 12, 1989, to Commissioner James Curtiss:

"You heard our contentions that the NRC has not had accurate, complete, or truthful staff input on the status of our radiological emergency planning. The Inspector General's report should finally address the inadequacies of procedures that compiled information that did not include a study of the actual plans at the Plymouth Emergency Operations Center, the only location that had accurate, up-to-date material. Neither did any NRC staffer consult with our Civil Defense Director or any elected official prior to October 1988. Since ours is the responsibility for developing and implementing emergency planning, we have always been the best source of factual information.

"It is really indefensible that NRC staffers should not have done this basic research. As a matter of fact, it has been the NRC policy until this year to get a periodic report on the status of our emergency planning from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station which has no jurisdiction for off-site planning! Obviously a troubled plant requesting re-start was hardly an objective source. More importantly, it did not have the same knowledge of our plans that we ourselves had. This strange channel of communication avoiding the responsible local authority is not one that the NRC should tolerate.

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"The lack of NRC personal contact and involvement with the local level brought a heavy baggage of mistrust into important issues."

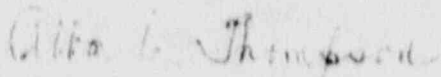
The Inspection Report findings are exactly on target:

"(1) The Assessment by the NRC staff on Pilgrim off-site emergency preparedness was not balanced or thorough; and (2) certain information provided by the staff concerning the status of Pilgrim off-site emergency preparedness during the October and December 1988 Commission meetings was inaccurate."

We had said exactly that in several communications as well as testimony. It is small comfort to say, "We told you so," when some of your important decisions were based on inaccuracies. The public safety of our townspeople was at risk. We respectfully request ameliorative action by the Commissioners, disciplinary measures, and a reply to our preceding questions.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Alba C. Thompson
Chairman

ACT/lr

Enclosures

cc Nuclear Matters Committee
EPZ Communities
Civil Defense Director
MA Secretary of Public Safety
Representative Robert Kraus
Representative Peter Forman
Congressman Gerry Studds
Senator John F. Kerry
Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Inspector General NRC