

FEB 9 1994

DCS

Docret No. 50-293

Mr. E. Thomas Boulette, PhD  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear  
Boston Edison Company  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station  
Rocky Hill Road  
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Dear Mr. Boulette:

SUBJECT: PILGRIM INSPECTION 93-23

This refers to the safety inspection conducted by Messrs. J. Macdonald, A. Cerne, and D. Kern, of this office on December 7, 1993 to January 17, 1994 at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Areas relevant to the health and safety of the public examined during this inspection are described in the enclosed report. Our findings were based upon observations of performance and independent evaluations of safety systems and quality records. The preliminary results have been discussed with Mr. E. Kraft and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Several safety issues occurred within this inspection period which required NRC involvement, either before or after, to more fully involve BECo management with respect to significant questions regarding the integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary and the reliability of the ultimate heat sink. Although we observed a well-coordinated Furmanite repair to a Class 1 boundary isolation valve on January 8, 1994, senior NRC management involvement was required prior to the repair to achieve sufficient BECo sensitivity to recent industry concerns for the potential adverse consequences of such repairs.

We are also concerned about BECo management sensitivity and response to the conditions encountered during the December 13, 1993 coastal storm which presented a significant challenge to plant operators and intake structure systems. Operators exhibited excellent communication and coordination in response to the decreasing sea water level in the east bays of the intake structure, maintaining the plant in a stable condition until normal water level was restored. However, the significance of the duration and magnitude of the decreasing water level in the east bays was not clearly recognized during the event. Further, it was not until approximately 30 days after the event and following heightened NRC involvement that station management was fully aware of this information. The event revealed concerns for the continued high reliability of the service water system. We acknowledge your formation of an Event Response Team after this report period to address the questions raised by the event, and would request a management meeting in March 1994 to discuss your conclusions and corrective actions.

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Mr. E. Thomas Boulette, PhD

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No reply to this report is necessary, and your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
WAYNE D. LANNING

Wayne D. Lanning, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 93-23

cc w/encl:

E. Kraft, Vice President, Nuclear Operations and Station Director  
L. Schmeling, Plant Department Manager  
R. Fairbank, Manager, Regulatory Affairs and Emergency Planning Department  
D. Tarantino, Nuclear Information Manager  
G. Basileco, Acting Compliance Division Manager  
R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
R. Adams, Department of Labor and Industries, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
The Honorable John F. Kerry  
The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
The Honorable Terese Murray  
The Honorable Peter V. Forman  
B. Abbanat, Department of Public Utilities  
Chairman, Plymouth Board of Selectmen  
Chairman, Duxbury Board of Selectmen  
Plymouth Civil Defense Director  
Paul W. Gromer, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy Resources  
Sarah Woodhouse, Legislative Assistant  
A. Noguee, MASSPIRG  
Regional Administrator, FEMA  
Office of the Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality  
Engineering  
Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety  
Chairman, Citizens Urging Responsible Energy  
Public Document Room (PDR)  
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
K. Abraham, PAO (2 copies)  
NRC Resident Inspector  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

M. Oprendek, DRP

L. Kay, DRS

E. Kelly, DRP

J. Shedlosky, DRP

bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):

W. Butler, NRR

R. Eaton, NRR

V. McCree, OEDO

M. Shannon, ILPB

P. Swetland, SRI - Millstone (Section 3.1)

J. Durr, DRS (Section 3.1)

M. Modes, DRS (Section 3.1)

R. Hermann, NRR (Section 3.1)

J. Strosnider, NRR (Section 3.1)

W. Ruland, DRS (Section 4.2)

W. Lanning, DRP (Section 4.1)

RI:DRP

Macdonald/meo  
2/1/94

*AMK*  
RI:DRP  
Kelly  
2/8

*Unaltered review  
& concurrences on 2/7/94*

*AMK*  
RI:DRP  
Lynville  
2/9

*WAL*  
RI:DRP  
Lanning  
2/9/94

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