

Docket No. 50-293

October 4, 1990

Mr. Ralph G. Bird
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
RFD #1 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Dear Mr. Bird:

As you are aware, a special Task Force was established by James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, to determine and assess the factual status of offsite emergency preparedness for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

Enclosed is a Task Force Charter for its activities which should take approximately four months to complete. The Task Force will be initiating its efforts this week. The report will be made public.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Richard H. Wessman, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - 1/II

Enclosures: As stated

cc: See next page

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Mr. Ralph G. Bird

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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CHARTER FOR TASK FORCE ON PILGRIM
OFFSITE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Background

As part of the effort to determine the current status of offsite emergency preparedness (EP) around Pilgrim, the staff held a public meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on September 6, 1990.

At the meeting, the predominant messages from the public were that the NRC staff did not do a credible job in evaluating the status of offsite planning; the State (and to a lesser extent the local officials) have not effectively addressed the EP issues; and, the Boston Edison Company is no longer cooperating in resolving issues. Because of the myriad of details presented to the staff at the public meeting, the EDO established a special task force with FEMA participation to: (1) review the assertions and documents presented to the staff at the September 6 public meeting, (2) review the soon-to-be-issued FEMA status report, (3) conduct field verification of issues in dispute, (4) issue a current EP status report, and (5) provide a recommendation as to whether the staff should change its 50.54(s) reasonable assurance finding.

Tasks

1. Identify Pilgrim Offsite EP Issues in Dispute. Analyze the following documents: (1) transcript and documents obtained at the September 6, 1990, public meeting, (2) FEMA's August 31, 1990 exercise report on Pilgrim, (3) the licensee's analysis of these documents, (4) FEMA's forthcoming status report on EP planning for Pilgrim and, (5) other documents deemed pertinent.
2. Determine the Factual Status of Issues in Dispute. Establish the facts regarding each issue on the basis of authoritative documentation. Where necessary, independently verify and document facts and status through field visits (to include inspection of facilities, and meetings with State and local officials responsible for emergency planning), personal observation, direct measurement, photographs and other means, as appropriate.
3. Describe Current Status of Offsite EP for Pilgrim. Assemble factual information into a current description of the status of the issues in contention regarding offsite EP for the Pilgrim emergency planning zone.
4. Identify and Assess the Significance of Existing EP Problems. Review the current status of offsite EP to identify shortcomings, weaknesses, inadequacies or other problems in emergency planning and preparedness for the Pilgrim emergency planning zone. Assess their significance relative to the appropriate standards in the EP regulations and in NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 1, "Criteria For Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants," and other NRC and FEMA guidance documents. The review should also consider compensatory measures that local and State entities may have established to address weaknesses while working towards a permanent resolution.

5. Recommend Whether the NRC Should Reconsider its Reasonable Assurance Finding. Based upon review and assessment of any new information uncovered by the Task Force and the facts and status of offsite emergency planning and preparedness for the Pilgrim emergency planning zone, recommend whether the NRC should reconsider its finding that the state of emergency preparedness provides reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

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