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FEB 24 1994

Docket No. 50-293

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

Dear Dr. Boulette:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NO. 50-293/94-01

This letter refers to the safety inspection of engineering and technical support activity related to the Boston Edison Company (BECO) Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS) conducted by Mr. A. Lohmeier of this office during the period January 19 through January 25, 1994, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. At the conclusion of the inspection, his findings were discussed with members of the PNPS engineering and licensing staff.

The scope of this inspection included review of your engineering and technical support effectiveness in monitoring transient operation of primary components and piping. As the plant ages, it is important to identify those operating transients for which the components and piping have been designed, and whether the actual operating transients are consistent with those used in the design of the components and piping. Effective performance in these areas, by your engineering and technical support personnel, is important to the continuing safe operation of the plant and protection of public health and safety.

Based on the results of this inspection, your engineering and technical support staff was found to be effectively addressing the retention of cyclic operating data for those components designed for a limited numbers of cycles.

In reviewing the results of transient cycle expenditure after 21 years of operation, it was noted by the inspector that the number of cycles expended to-date of some transients exceeds the number of transient cycles for which the plant components have been designed. For other transients, while presently within the numbers of cycles used for design of plant components, continuing at the same rate of occurrence will exhaust the design cycles prior to the 40 year design lifetime of the plant.

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The inspector noted the conservatism used in counting the transients, and the possibility that operation for a greater number of transients will not cause component cumulative usage factors above the limiting value. In response to the excessive transient operating cycles, it was noted by the inspector that PNPS engineering had contracted a study of system components to assess the conservatism in the fatigue evaluation. NRC believes it important for PNPS to demonstrate that the fatigue life of safety-related components will not be exhausted. For this reason, the resolution of the fatigue life is considered an unresolved item 50-293/94-01-01.

The results of this inspection were discussed with your engineering and licensing staff at the exit meeting. No violations were found during this inspection. Your cooperation with us is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Michael C. Modes, Chief
Materials Section
Engineering Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-293/94-01

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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
Paul Blanch

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
E. Kelly, DRP
J. Shedlosky, DRP
M. Oprendeck, DRP
D. Vito, ORA (section 3.4)
J. Strosnider NRR
K. Wichman NRR
R. Parkhill NRR

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
bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):


W. Butler, NRR

R. Eaton, NRR

V. McCree, OEDO

M. Shannon, ILPBcc w/enc

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