

JUN 2 1994

Docket 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: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-293/94-09)

This refers to the safety inspection conducted by Messrs. J. Macdonald and D. Kern, of this office on April 5 to May 9, 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. W. Rothert and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Your detailed evaluation and resolution of degraded control rod scram times identified during a routine surveillance was outstanding. Although immediate corrective maintenance restored scram times to within required limits, you assigned an issue team to further assess scram time performance trends and component reliability. The issue team questioned the material reliability of the scram solenoid pilot valve diaphragms and recommended a reactor shutdown. The decision to shutdown the reactor and replace all scram solenoid pilot valve diaphragms demonstrated a clear safety perspective. Effective oversight of operations, engineering, and maintenance activities resulted in prompt restoration of scram time margins well below the required limits. Additionally, you actively coordinated with the vendor and communicated your findings to the industry to provide immediate notification of this potentially generic issue.

However, based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). Specifically, our inspectors identified two fire doors, one of which provides a safe shutdown separation barrier, that had been blocked open but had not been properly compensated by fire watches. Additionally, your staff identified several instances in which other fire doors had been disabled and a vehicle had been parked in the reactor building trucklock without proper fire watch compensation. The violation is of concern because it appears to have identified a weakness in your fire protection program as well as an apparent lack of sensitivity on the part of your staff to the importance of maintaining the integrity of fire barriers.

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Mr. E. Thomas Boulette, PhD

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You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Accordingly, your response should not, to the extent possible, include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be released to the public and placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James C. Linville

James Linville, Chief
Projects Branch No. 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report No. 50-293/94-09

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cc w/encls:

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
Chairman, Nuclear Matters Committee
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

Mr. E. Thomas Boulette, PhD

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bcc w/encls:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

R. Conte, DRP

J. Shedlosky, DRP

M. Oprendek, DRP

D. Mannai, DRP

E. Kelly, DRS (Section 4.2)

bcc w/encls (VIA E-MAIL):

W. Butler, NRR

R. Eaton, NRR

D. Skeen, NRR (Section 2.2)

W. Dean, OEDO

M. Shannon, ILPB

RI:DRP

GBM
Macdonald/meo
6/1/94

RI:DRP

GBM for
Conte
6/2/94

RI:DRP

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Linville
6/2/94

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