JUL 8 1994

Docket No. 50-293

E. Thomas Boulette, PhD
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
600 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360-5599

Dear Dr. Boulette:

SUBJECT: PILGRIM INSPECTION 94-07

This letter refers to the announced safety inspection conducted by Mr. Harold Gregg on March 7-11, 1994, and June 6-10, 1994, at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Mr. Gregg discussed the preliminary results with Mr. L. Schmeling and others of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

This inspection was performed to review your test practices and engineering related to reactor coolant/main steam safety and safety relief valves, including measures being taken to improve valve performance. These valves have important safety functions with respect to public health and safety, specifically in ensuring the integrity of reactor coolant system components. Your refurbishment strategies and incorporation of Stellite pilot disc material have led to excellent valve reliability. We also observed good management involvement in setpoint drift issues, well written and implemented test procedures, and effective use of computer data for trending valve performance.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Eugene M. Kelly, Chief
Systems Section
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-293/94-07
w/Attachment 1

cc w/encl:
L. Schmeling, Plant Department Manager
R. Fairbank, Manager, Regulatory Affairs and Emergency Planning Department
D. Tarantino, Nuclear Information Manager
D. Ellis, 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
Bonnie Cronin, Legislative Assistant
A. Nogee, 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)
NRC Resident Inspector
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
J. Wiggins, DRS
R. Conte, DRP
J. Shedlosky, DRP
M. Oprendek, DRP
DRS File

bcc w/encl (**VIA E-MAIL**):
W. Butler, NRR
R. Eaton, NRR
W. Dean, OEDO
M. Shannon, ILPB
F. Cherny, RES
K. Manoly, NRR
G. Hammer, NRR
M. Wegner, AEOD

for AMK

RI:DRS	RI:DRS
Gregg	Kelly
7/7/94	7/8/94

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

DOCKET/REPORT NO. 50-293/94-07

LICENSEE: Boston Edison Company

FACILITY: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Plymouth, Massachusetts

DATES: March 7-11, 1994 and June 6-10, 1994

INSPECTOR: Harold Gregg 7/1/94
Harold Gregg, Sr. Reactor Engineer Date
Systems Section
Division of Reactor Safety

APPROVED BY: Eugene M Kelly 7/6/94
Eugene Kelly, Chief Date
Systems Section
Division of Reactor Safety

Summary: Engineering personnel have excellent knowledge of the installed safety valves (SVs), safety relief valves (SRVs), and associated setpoint drift issues. The use of computer data to generate graphics for trending of historical information was excellent. The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station has two installed SVs and one spare; they also have four installed SRVs and four spares. Six SVs tested since 1987 were within ±3% of setpoint. Of 23 SRVs tested since 1987, 19 were within ±3% setpoint; four were over ±3%, but none were higher than 4.3%. The "simmer" margin (above normal reactor pressure) for SRVs is small (as low as 80 psi). The stringent technical specification (TS) requirements for leaking SRVs, the refurbishment of all tested valves, and the use of Stellite 21 pilot discs, contribute to good valve reliability. The licensee adheres to the ANSI/ASME OM-1 1987 Code.