

November 6, 1995

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

SUBJECT: PILGRIM INSPECTION 95-21

Dear Mr. Boulette:

From August 20, 1995 through October 7, 1995, Mr. R. Laura and Ms. B. Korona of this office conducted a resident inspector safety inspection 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 were discussed with Messrs. V. Oheim and L. Oliver and other members of your staff on October 20, 1995.

A significant sea water intake structure fouling event occurred on October 6 that required prompt operator response to avert a reactor scram. A sudden and unexpected insurge of seaweed caused the east intake bay level to drop. Operators commenced a rapid downpower. We observed effective operator adherence to your abnormal procedure for intake structure fouling during the seaweed intrusion which prevented a reactor scram. We also noted effective senior reactor operator command-and-control. Plant management initiated an event response team to evaluate the significance, develop longer term corrective actions and identify lessons learned. Your management team response was much improved in understanding the significance of this decreasing sea water level event as compared to a December 13, 1993 intake structure water level event at Pilgrim.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Richard Conte, Chief
Projects Branch No. 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-293
Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 95-21

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cc w/encl:

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N. Desmond, Regulatory Relations
D. Tarantino, Nuclear Information Manager
J. Keene, Acting Compliance Supervisor
R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Honorable Therese Murray
The Honorable Linda Teagan
B. Abbanat, Department of Public Utilities
Chairman, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Chairman, Duxbury Board of Selectmen
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T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
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NRC Resident Inspector
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