

January 4, 1996

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 95-22

Dear Mr. Boulette:

From October 2, 1995 through November 18, 1995, Mr. R. Laura, Ms. B. Korona and others conducted safety inspections 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 L. Olivier and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

This report contains inspection findings of the resident inspection staff as well as findings from other inspections which were performed during the time period indicated. The findings from inspectors other than the resident inspectors are provided as attachments to this report with separate covers which detail areas inspected and include the signatures of the lead inspectors and the cognizant branch chiefs. The overall conclusions are reflected in the Executive Summary for the complete report. We are taking this approach to better integrate our inspection findings into a consistent regulatory message and more clearly communicate how these findings may reflect a change in your performance.

We observed some positive results from your maintenance improvement plan which was designed to improve overall maintenance performance. The increased emphasis on pre-planning and scheduling allowed maintenance activities to be conducted in a more controlled manner. One noteworthy improvement was the initiation of a weekly debriefing of lessons learned, both positive and negative, presented by the work week manager at the plant manager's morning meeting. Progress also has been made in reduction of the running repair backlog. Additionally, increased management and supervisory oversight of field activities is evident. Maintenance worker use of self verification and increased attention-to-detail contributed to successful work completion. The management decision to reduce reactor power to 15% to facilitate high risk maintenance reflects an outstanding safety perspective. Safety was enhanced by placing the plant in a configuration so that an inadvertent turbine trip would not result in a reactor scram. Collectively, these positive performance observations indicate that the efforts to improve overall maintenance performance are beginning to have positive results.

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Based on the results of this inspection, we identified several concerns involving your staff's evaluation of the effects of elevated salt service water (SSW) inlet temperatures (Section 4.1 of the Resident Report and Section 3 of the Engineering Report). On December 8, 1995, at the final exit meeting for the Resident Report, Mr. Olivier and I, agreed that we should meet on this topic, tentatively for the month of February 1996. Please contact me at 610-337-5183 to schedule a specific time and date for this meeting.

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

Enclosures: NRC Inspection Report 95-22

c w/encl:

L. Olivier, Vice President - Nuclear and Station Director

T. Sullivan, Plant Manager

N. Desmond, Regulatory Relations

D. Tarantino, Nuclear Information Manager

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

Chairman, Nuclear Matters Committee

Plymouth Civil Defense Director

Paul W. Gromer, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy Resources

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NRC Resident Inspector

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

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