

January 19, 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: EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 50-293/95-27 (OL)

Dear Dr. Boulette:

During the period of November 27, 1995, to December 1, 1995, the NRC administered initial examinations to eight employees of your company, who had applied for licenses to operate the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. At the conclusion of the examinations, the preliminary findings were discussed with Mr. Olivier in an exit meeting.

One of the three reactor operator (RO) applicants passed the initial examinations and was subsequently issued a license. Three of the five senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed the initial examinations and were subsequently issued licenses. One RO applicant failed the walk-through portion of the operating examination. One RO and two SRO applicants failed the walk-through and simulator portions of the operating examination. Generic weaknesses were identified in both the written and operating portion of the examination and are detailed in the examination report.

The results of this examination reflect a poor level of performance, by both the candidates that failed and the training program. The weaknesses of the applicants covered a broad range of knowledge and abilities, including execution of procedural steps and self-checking. We would like to understand your assessment of the examination results. Subsequent to your review of the enclosed report and the examination results (transmitted separately), please contact us to arrange a mutually-agreeable forum (written reply or public meeting) to provide your assessment.

This examination was developed and administered as part of the recent NRC pilot process that utilized the resources of Pilgrim to propose the written and operating examinations. The NRC appreciates your voluntary participation in this process. At the exit meeting, your staff conveyed some perspectives regarding this pilot examination process. We continue to be interested in your comments and perspectives and will review either oral or written comments as part of the overall evaluation of the pilot process.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Mr. E. Thomas Boulette

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Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Don Florek of my staff at (610) 337-5185 or me at (610) 337-5211.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Glenn W. Meyer, Chief  
Operator Licensing and  
Human Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: Examination Report No. 50-293/95-27  
w/Attachments 1-5

cc w/encl; w/o Attachments 1-5:

L. Olivier, Vice President - Nuclear and Station Director  
T. Sullivan, Plant Department Manager  
N. Desmond, Regulatory Relations  
R. Fairbank, Manager, Regulatory Affairs and Emergency Planning Department  
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  
P. Gromer, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy Resources  
B. Cronin, 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  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

Mr. E. Thomas Boulette

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cc w/encl and Attachments 1-5:  
J. Alexander, Training Manager  
T. Swan, Manager - Operations Training  
PUBLIC  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

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A. Cerne, DRS  
D. Florek, DRS  
K. Kolaczyk, DRS  
OL Facility File (V. Curley, DRS)  
S. Baker, DRP

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Inspection Program Branch, NRR (IPAS)

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