

September 5, 1984

Docket No. 50-293

Mr. William D. Harrington  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear  
Boston Edison Company  
800 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Dear Mr. Harrington:

SUBJECT: EXTENSION FOR COMPLETION OF HYDROSTATIC TESTS

Re: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Your letter of June 27, 1983, requested an extension for completion of the ASME Class II and Class III hydrostatic tests following the first ten years of Pilgrim Station commercial operation until startup from Refuel Outage Number 7. That startup is expected to occur during the third quarter of 1986 according to the Revised Long Term Plan submitted with your letter dated May 7, 1984.

ASME Section XI allows an additional year beyond the first ten years of operation (ending December 8, 1982) to permit these tests to be made during a plant outage. Hence, the tests should have been completed by December 8, 1983. However, we note that an outage of sufficient length to do these tests did not commence until the current outage which began on December 10, 1983. Furthermore, your Long Term Plan indicates that approximately two-thirds of the Class II and Class III hydrostatic tests are to be completed during this outage, which is expected to end in October 1984. Only the remaining tests would be deferred until the next outage.

We have reviewed your request and we find that completion of the remaining hydrostatic tests by the Code-allowed time is impractical considering the plant's outage schedule and the extensive pipe replacements, other modifications, maintenance and tests to be performed during the present outage. The systems for which the Class II and Class III test are required are operated repeatedly during plant operation and they are subject to frequent observation for leakage. Any significant amount of leakage would be noticed quickly and repairs can be made promptly since these systems are located outside of the reactor containment. We, therefore, conclude that postponing the remaining hydrostatic tests until Refuel Outage Number 7 will not compromise the safety of the plant.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), we hereby grant relief from ASME Section XI schedule requirements to the extent of allowing until the end of Refuel Outage Number 7 for completion of the Class II and Class III

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Mr. William D. Harrington

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hydrostatic tests. This relief is subject to your making appropriate observations of the untested systems to detect any leakage during operation of these systems.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of the relief will have no significant impact on the environment (49 FR 34431).

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #2  
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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Mr. William D. Harrington  
Boston Edison Company  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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