

June 27, 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 REPORT 50-293/96-03

Dear Mr. Boulette:

On June 2, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 8 weeks covered by this inspection period, the conduct of activities at the Pilgrim facility was characterized by safe operation. The NRC resident inspector directly observed operators' prompt and effective response to the April 19 automatic reactor scram and associated anomalies. This scram was complicated by the unexpected main steam isolation valve closure and smoke introduced into the control room atmosphere due to a smoldering turbine lock-out relay. Under the positive command-and-control of the nuclear operating supervisor, operators professionally executed emergency operating procedures during the scram recovery to place the plant in a safe and stable condition. Extra operations personnel staged in the control room to support outage activities quickly extinguished the overheated relay and cleared the smoke from the control room. In addition to evaluating the root cause of the scram and associated anomalies, the post trip review team identified an unexpected pressure decay immediately following the scram due to a leaking turbine steam sealing pressure relief valve. Some areas for improvement in operator training became evident during our review of the scram and subsequent plant startup.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
BARRY S. NORRIS for
Richard Conte, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch No. 5
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-293
License No.: DPR-35

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-293/96-03

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cc w/encl:

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The Honorable Linda Teagan

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Chairman, Nuclear Matters Committee

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

E. Thomas Boulette, PhD

3

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