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October 31, 1978

BECo. Ltr. #78-183

Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3  
Division of Operating Reactors  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

Please find attached a copy of the memo I agreed to send summarizing the unusual operating history of the "B" diesel-generator at Pilgrim Station. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



Attachment

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ADD  
F. CLEMENSON  
w/ENCE

To Mr. J. E. Howard Prepared by Miss S. J. Little *SL*  
Date October 26, 1978 Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_  
CC: Nuclear Records Center Approved by Mr. G. Carl Andognini *GC*

RECORD CATEGORY
UNIT APPLICABILITY: #1
PNPS FILE NUMBER 6.12

Title: Pilgrim "B" Diesel Generator

The recent failure of the "B" diesel-generator stator initiated a review of its operating history in order to determine if the failure could be attributed to specific occurrences or if it could be indicative of a generic problem. The conclusion derived from this review is that "B" diesel-generator experienced three unique situations that resulted in abnormal stresses being applied to the unit. "A" diesel-generator has not experienced similar conditions. Therefore, the evidence at hand supports the conclusion that the failure of the "B" stator is not a generic problem, but is unique to that diesel-generator.

A brief summary of the three instances involving the "B" diesel-generator are presented as follows:

1. In the early part of 1972, during pre-op testing, the "B" diesel-generator was inadvertently backscuttled (i.e. 4 kV applied to the stator with the unit at stand-still) when an operator manually closed the bus-to-diesel breaker (#152-609). The unit tripped on overcurrent.
2. On July 30, 1974, the "B" diesel was running when the 125 VDC supply to the engine controls was lost. The operator was consequently unable to shutdown the unit and a voltage regulator failure resulted. The diesel-generator tripped on overspeed.
3. On August 2, 1978, the "B" diesel-generator was synchronized on line out of phase which resulted in a voltage regulator failure and a subsequent trip.

A more detailed description of these instances is available at Pilgrim, and will be provided upon request.

cc: Messrs. P. J. McGuire  
R. D. Machon  
G. C. Andognini  
File 6.12