

JUL 8 1988

Mr. Stephen J. Sweeney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Boston Edison Company
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

On June 28 and 29, 1988, NRC senior managers met to review the performance of operating nuclear power plants licensed by the NRC. These meetings are conducted biannually to focus NRC resources on those plants and issues of greatest safety significance. At this meeting, the Pilgrim facility was categorized as requiring substantial improvement. Plants in this category have been identified as having significant weaknesses that warrant maintaining the plant in a shutdown condition until the licensee can demonstrate to the NRC that adequate programs have both been established and implemented to ensure substantial improvement.

A summary of NRC discussions held relating to Pilgrim is provided below:

A status report on Boston Edison Company's progress since the June 9, 1988 Commission meeting on Pilgrim was reviewed including an overview of planned activities needed to make a staff restart recommendation. On June 25, 1988, the licensee completed and submitted its plan and schedule for actions in followup of its self-assessment of readiness for restart and its response to the May 1988 maintenance team inspection findings. These reports form the basis for the licensee's request that NRC start its Integrated Assessment Team Inspection (IATI) on July 11, 1988. The staff committed to complete its review of these recent submittals by July 11, 1988, and subject to the results of its review, will conduct an IATI in late July or early August 1988. Following issuance of the IATI report, the staff will hold a public meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to review its conclusions regarding plant and management readiness for restart. The Pilgrim restart review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, including an on-site subcommittee meeting, was discussed. The staff will meet with ACRS to develop a schedule for ACRS review. The earliest projected schedule for a Commission decision on restart was considered to be early September 1988.

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Mr. Steven J. Sweeney

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An NRC Commission meeting open to the public has been scheduled for July 13, 1988, to review the results of the latest meeting of NRC managers. Mr. William T. Russell, the Region I Administrator, has discussed the basis for our conclusions with regard to the Pilgrim facility with members of your staff.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

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