

APR 19 1988

Docket No. 50-293

MEMORANDUM FOR: James T. Wiggins, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch No. 3

FROM: A. Randy Blough, Chief  
Reactor Projects Section No. 3B

SUBJECT: PILGRIM STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 26 - APRIL 8, 1988

Enclosed is the Pilgrim bi-weekly status report from the NRC Resident Office at Pilgrim. Three resident inspectors monitored activities at the plant during the report period. In addition, a region-based specialist inspector was onsite during the week of April 4, 1988, to review the licensee's radioactive waste processing systems and effluent monitoring. On May 11, 1988, NRC will be conducting a public meeting at the Plymouth Memorial Hall, in Plymouth, Massachusetts to respond to the public comments and concerns on the Boston Edison Company's Pilgrim Restart Plan raised during the February 18, 1988 public meeting. NRC Region I will issue a news release to inform the public of the scheduled meeting.

Section 3 of the enclosed report provides an overview of NRC activities and plans for assessing licensee's readiness for restart. Subsequent inspection reports will address many of these topics in more detail.

*Original Signed 5/1*

A. Randy Blough, Chief  
Reactor Projects Section No. 3B

Enclosure:  
As stated

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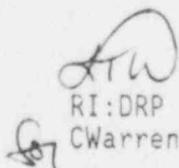
APR 19 1988

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R. Bird, Senior Vice President - Nuclear, BECo  
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Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Carver  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Duxbury  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Marshfield  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Kingston  
The Honorable Edward P. Kirby  
The Honorable Peter V. Forman  
The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
M. Ernst, Committee on Energy, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
B. McIntyre, Chairman, Department of Public Utilities  
N. Johnson, Chairman, Duxbury Nuclear Committee  
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APR 19 1988

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## ENCLOSURE

### PILGRIM STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 26 - APRIL 8, 1988

#### 1.0 Plant Status

As of 8:00 a.m. on April 8, 1988, the reactor was in cold shutdown mode with moderator temperature about 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### 2.0 Facility Operations Summary

The plant has been shutdown for maintenance and to make program improvements since April 12, 1986. The reactor core was completely defueled on February 13, 1987 to facilitate extensive maintenance and modification of plant equipment. The licensee completed fuel reload on October 14, 1987. Reinstallation of the reactor vessel internal components and the vessel head was followed by successful completion of the reactor vessel hydrostatic test. The primary containment integrated leak rate test was also successfully completed during the week of December 21, 1987.

#### 3.0 Items of Special Interest

##### Overview of NRC Activities Regarding Pilgrim

In April 1986, an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was dispatched from NRC Region I to Pilgrim in response to several operational problems. At that time the licensee agreed, in a Confirmatory Action Letter, to obtain Regional Administrator approval prior to a plant restart. Most of the related technical issues were resolved. However, NRC concerns raised during the 1985 Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) and during a subsequent regional diagnostic team inspection remained. On July 25, 1986, Boston Edison Company announced that the outage would be extended to include refueling and completion of plant modifications. The requirement to obtain NRC approval prior to restart was extended in August, 1987 to cover the other hardware and SALP related performance issues. On August 27, 1986, the Regional Administrator, NRC-Region I, requested in a letter to the licensee that they perform a formal assessment of their readiness for plant restart, and provide the assessment results for NRC review. By letters dated July 30, 1987, October 26, 1987 and January 4, 1988, the licensee submitted the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Restart Plan. A special NRC Task Force was formed to review and evaluate the Restart Plan. This Task Force completed its initial review and, on March 18, 1988, forwarded a request for additional information to the licensee.

NRC is continuing to devote considerable inspection resources to Pilgrim. The resident staff has been maintained at three inspectors. Since the plant was shut down on April 12, 1986, the NRC has conducted 84 special and routine inspections in various functional areas at Pilgrim expending 11,977 direct inspection hours. Senior NRC management involvement also remains substantial. A series of management meetings to discuss the licensee's progress and proposed programs have been held. Frequent site tours by Commissioners, the Director of Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Regional Administrator have been conducted. A Pilgrim Restart Assessment Panel was formed which consists of senior management from NRR and Region I. This Panel coordinates the planning and execution of NRC activities, and assesses the results of these activities to provide an independent judgement of the plant's readiness for operation. The Panel meets approximately bi-weekly, with alternating meetings held onsite. Development of the staff's restart recommendation will be coordinated by the Panel.

The licensee's management self-assessment to determine restart readiness is underway. Once a conclusion has been reached by the licensee a formal restart request will be submitted. The NRC staff currently plans to perform an Integrated Assessment Team Inspection (IATI) and a SALP, prior to finalizing a NRC staff recommendation on restart. A Readiness Report addressing the SALP and IATI results will be prepared to support the NRC staff recommendation. Current plans include a status briefing for the Commission, a full Commission meeting to review the staff's recommendation, and a Commission vote regarding restart. Some Commissioners have indicated that they will visit the site personally prior to the Commission meeting.

In order to accommodate broad public participation into the NRC assessment process, a public meeting was conducted by the NRC in Plymouth, Massachusetts on February 18, 1988. Public comments on the licensee's Restart Plan were received orally and in writing. Prior to the meeting, copies of the Restart Plan were made available to the local town libraries for public review. The NRC Task Force is reviewing the meeting transcription to identify and disposition relevant comments and concerns. A second public meeting is scheduled to be held in the Plymouth area on May 11, 1988, to respond to the comments and concerns raised during the first meeting. Before a position on restart of the plant is developed in final form, a public meeting will be held between NRC senior staff and State Senator William Golden and other petitioners who submitted the July 1986 10 CFR 2.206 petition if the petitioners desire such a meeting. This meeting will discuss NRC's actions regarding the Pilgrim plant and answer questions of the petitioners.

NRC Public Meeting to Respond to Comments on BECo's Pilgrim Restart Plan

On May 11, 1988, NRC will be conducting a public meeting at the Plymouth Memorial Hall, in Plymouth, Massachusetts to respond to the public comments and concerns on the Boston Edison Company's Pilgrim Restart Plan raised during the February 18, 1988 public meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. NRC Region I will issue a news release to inform the public of the scheduled meeting.

Management Meeting for Power Ascension Test Program

On April 8, 1988, a publicly-noticed management meeting was held between NRC and Boston Edison Company (BECo) officials at the NRC offices in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. BECo management presented an overview of the ongoing engineering analysis to support the basis of their Power Ascension Test Program. The licensee previously had submitted a Power Ascension Test Program and a Management Self-Assessment Program describing the methods which will be employed to assess and confirm the readiness of plant hardware and staff for extended power operation. NRC staff review of these items is ongoing.

4.0 Emergency Notification System (ENS) Report

During this period, the licensee made the following report to the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR 50.72:

On March 31, 1988, at 12:42 p.m., an inadvertent reactor building isolation and an automatic start of both standby gas treatment trains occurred. A licensed operator performing a daily surveillance test of the refueling floor high radiation monitors failed to properly reset the monitors. When the operator proceeded to test the redundant monitors, combined trip functions resulted in the observed engineered safety systems actuations. The trip signals were reset and the systems returned to normal operation a short time later.

5.0 NRC Staff Status During the Period

The inspection staff at Pilgrim during the report period consisted of the following:

Clay Warren	---	Senior Resident Inspector
Jeffrey Lyash	---	Resident Inspector
Tae Kim	---	Resident Inspector

In addition, a region-based specialist inspector was onsite during the week of April 4, 1988 to review the licensee's effluent monitoring program including radioactive waste processing systems.