



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
831 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

17 SEP 1987

Representative Lawrence R. Alexander
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House
Room 540
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Representative Alexander:

I appreciated your providing the NRC staff with the reports by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Dr. Sidney Cobb, regarding the results of epidemiological studies in the communities surrounding the Pilgrim plant. The Regional office staff has read these reports and provided copies to the appropriate NRC Headquarters offices for their information.

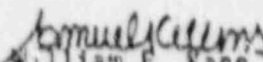
We understand the concerns your committee and your constituents have regarding an apparent increase in certain cancer rates in the areas surrounding Pilgrim. However, we note that none of the studies performed to date have uncovered convincing evidence of a direct link to reactor operations at Pilgrim.

We have required Pilgrim to maintain an extensive environmental monitoring program. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission independently monitor the environs in the vicinity of Pilgrim Station. The NRC staff routinely reviews the results of these programs. None of these data indicate measurable radioactivity from the plant.

In our view, the primary responsibility for review and disposition of these concerns rests with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and we note that MDPH is suggesting such a review. We will work through our normal State Liaison contact within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to request that the NRC be kept informed of the status of this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


William F. Kane, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc:
Robert Hallisey, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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