



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555  
March 23, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACRS Members  
FROM: Paul Boehmert, Senior Staff Engineer *B*  
SUBJECT: PILGRIM PLANT RESTART

Pilgrim is a 690 MW(e) GE BWR/3, housed in a Mark I Containment. The plant is located in Plymouth Massachusetts and began operation in September 1972.

In April 1986, the plant shutdown due to hardware problems. Because of an increasingly bad operating history, NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter on August 27, 1986, ordering a continued shutdown until problems identified by the NRC in two preceding SALP reviews were resolved. These problems included: management effectiveness, personnel shortages (e.g., plant operators), operations (e.g., extensive maintenance backlog), administration (e.g., poor adherence to procedures) and weaknesses in radiological and emergency planning (EP) programs (see below).

Since the shutdown, the EP issue has taken on heightened significance due to the involvement of the State and FEMA; the Mark I containment concern, via severe accident considerations, is also now an issue, again partly because of State involvement and partly due to the Licensee's attempt to upgrade the Mark I containment to better resist severe accident loadings.

Prior to restart, NRC will require a "self assessment" report from the Licensee which addresses resolution of all significant outstanding issues. INPO will also perform an evaluation of the Utility's readiness to restart, prior to an evaluation by a restart Panel composed of personnel from the Region I Office. Finally, NRR will, of course, review the results of the above evaluations.

NRC's current restart schedule for Pilgrim calls for the EDO to Brief the Commission on the Licensee's readiness for restart around the first of August 1988. This could slip, as one of the action items to be satisfied is an EP exercise to be supervised by FEMA.

At this time, neither the Commission nor the Staff has requested ACRS review of the restart effort. I believe the Committee needs to decide if it wishes to get involved here, and at what level. Given the above Staff schedule, this decision now appears timely.

[Note: Pilgrim was not "adopted" by any Committee Member.]

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