



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

PDR

November 28, 1988

CHAIRMAN

Ms. Patricia A. Dowd, Chairman
Mr. David J. Vogler
Mr. Abdulkader C. Hamadeh
Office of Selectmen
Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts
87A Tremont Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts 02332

Dear Chairman Dowd and Members Vogler and Hamadeh:

I am responding to your letter of October 19, 1988, concerning the incident that occurred during the Commission meeting on October 14, 1988. In a letter to Mr. Agnes on the same day, I expressed my regret for his expulsion.

The Commission is interested in hearing the views of local officials and citizens on issues associated with the restart of the Pilgrim facility, including the status of emergency planning in the towns surrounding the plant. Prior to the Commission's October 14 meeting, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff had conducted a series of meetings in the vicinity of the Pilgrim facility to hear the views of the public on the possible restart of Pilgrim. During the October 14 meeting, the Commission heard the views of elected representatives from Massachusetts, including Lt. Governor Murphy, Senator Kennedy, and Representative Studts. As a result of the Commission's own concern about the status of emergency planning, we postponed any decision on the restart of the plant to further evaluate this issue. To that end, I informed Mr. Agnes that NRC staff members would be pleased to meet with him in his office to hear his views. In addition, staff representatives recently met with Civil Defense Directors and other local officials in the seven emergency planning zone and reception center communities around Pilgrim, including the Town of Duxbury. These meetings were held to enable the NRC to obtain first-hand information on the status of the local emergency plans and procedures and to hear the concerns of local officials.

The Commission has decided to hold a public meeting in our Rockville, Maryland, headquarters building to hear from local officials regarding the status of emergency plans and the readiness of local communities to protect the public in the event of an emergency. This meeting has been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on December 9, 1988. By a separate letter to you dated November 21, 1988, from our Office of the Secretary, you have been invited to participate in this meeting. In order to fully consider all of this information, the Commission does not plan to reach a decision on the restart of the Pilgrim plant at this meeting.

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I know that you, and your colleagues in the surrounding communities, are taking your responsibilities to protect the health and safety of your citizens very seriously, and I commend you for your efforts to put in place effective emergency plans and procedures. I can assure you that the Commission takes its responsibilities equally seriously, and that we will not authorize the Pilgrim plant to restart unless we are convinced that it can be operated safely and that the public health and safety will be protected.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Lando W. Zech, Jr.