

December 17, 1997

EA 97-525

Mr. Leon J. Olivier
Vice President - Nuclear
Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
600 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360-5599

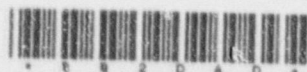
SUBJECT: PILGRIM SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-293/97-12

Dear Mr. Olivier:

This letter refers to the special inspection conducted from October 6-10, 1997, at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, Plymouth, Massachusetts. The inspection was focused on areas important to public health and safety, including a review of certain engineering activities: (1) the environmental qualification (EQ) documents for those EQ equipment that required requalification due to containment environment changes resulting from the containment spray flow rate reduction in 1988; 2) the potential unreviewed safety question (USQ) issue for the replacement and the subsequent modification of two 480/120 volt safeguard control transformers; and 3) your corrective actions for the requalification of nine General Electric electrical containment penetrations. At the conclusion of the inspection on October 10, 1997, the preliminary findings were discussed with M. T. Boulette and other members of your staff. Additional findings were also discussed with Mr. D. Ellis of your staff in a November 19, 1997, telephone call.

Based on the results of this inspection, one apparent violation with two examples was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy) NUREG-1600. This violation involved unreviewed safety questions in the replacement of the safeguard control transformers in 1992, and the subsequent modification of those transformers in April 1997, following the loss of offsite power event on April 1, 1997. The circumstances surrounding this apparent violation, the significance of the issue, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action were discussed with members of your staff at the inspection exit meeting on October 10, 1997, and during the November 19, 1997, telephone conversation. The issues were also covered at an enforcement conference involving service water inspection findings on November 21, 1997. Based on a telephone conversation between Mr. Oheim and myself on December 16, 1997, we understand that your organization does not see it necessary to conduct an additional predecisional enforcement conference for this matter.

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Because this is an apparent violation, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review of the enforcement aspects of the issue. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

In addition, a violation of NRC environment qualification (EQ) requirements was also identified during this inspection. The violation involved the use of an unacceptable qualification method for the qualification of nine General Electric electrical containment penetrations for the period from March 1996 to April 1997. This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and a detailed description of the violation is included in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

James T. Wiggins, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: Pilgrim Special Inspection Report No. 50-293/97-12

cc w/encl:

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C. Goddard, Plant Department Manager

N. Desmond, Regulatory Relations

D. Tarantino, Nuclear Information Manager

R. Hallisey, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Honorable Therese Murray

The Honorable Joseph Gallitano

B. Abbanat, Department of Public Utilities

Chairman, Plymouth Board of Selectmen

Chairman, Duxbury Board of Selectmen

Chairman, Nuclear Matters Committee

Plymouth Civil Defense Director

P. Gromer, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy Resources

J. Miller, Senior Issues Manager

J. Fleming

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Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

T. Rapone, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety

Chairman, Citizens Urging Responsible Energy

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, SLO Designee

Mr. Leon J. Olivier

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