

APR 02 1986

Docket No. 50-293

Boston Edison Company M/C Nuclear
ATTN: Mr. William D. Harrington
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection Report No. 50-293/86-06

During the period from February 18, 1986 to March 7, 1986 eight members of a Region I team conducted a special safety inspection of operational and other activities at your facility. The results of this inspection are documented in the enclosed inspection report. At the conclusion of the inspection, Mr. E. Wenzinger of my staff summarized the inspection findings for you and other members of your staff. We identified no items adverse to nuclear safety. However, there was one violation of NRC requirements as discussed in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

The overall objective of the team inspection was to obtain a more complete understanding of the underlying reasons for the poor performance described in the most recent SALP report and to ascertain whether they could have an adverse impact on the safety of plant operations. In addition, the inspection was to assess whether corrective action programs now in place are properly structured and focused to achieve the necessary improvements.

In this, as in every inspection conducted by Region I, we assessed whether the facility is being operated safely. This aspect of the inspection took on special significance in light of poor SALP results. During the inspection, we found no evidence that the plant was being operated unsafely. Plant operators were found to be both knowledgeable and conscious of nuclear safety. Other plant workers and first line supervisors also had good attitudes towards nuclear safety. Notwithstanding this conclusion, we believe that substantial improvements are necessary at your facility before Region I inspection activities can be reduced. This confirms the conclusions reached during the recent 1985 SALP report.

We believe that the corrective action programs you now have in place have the potential for achieving the necessary improvements. However, there are four principal factors that are inhibiting progress in these programs and in identifying and correcting other weaknesses. These are: (1) incomplete staffing, in particular operators and key mid-level supervisory personnel, (2) a prevailing view in the organization that the improvements made to date have corrected the problems, (3) reluctance, by management, to acknowledge some problems identified by the NRC, and (4) dependence on third parties to identify problems rather than implementing an effective program for self-identification of weaknesses. These four factors must, in our view, be corrected in order to achieve future improvement and the maximum benefit from your corrective action programs.

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We have discussed the problems outlined in this report with you at a meeting on March 25, 1986. We found this meeting useful and believe your planned corrective actions should help resolve our concerns.

In your response to the attached Notice of Violation, please also respond to the items identified as licensee commitment items in the attached report.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

original Signed By:

Richard Starostecki, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-293/86-06

cc w/encl:

L. Oxsen, Vice President, Nuclear Operations
C. J. Mathis, Station Manager
Joanne Shotwell, Assistant Attorney General
Paul Levy, Chairman, Department of Public Utilities
Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Plymouth Civil Defense Director
Senator Edward P. Kirby
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2)

bcc w/encl:
 Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
 Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)
 T. Murley, RI
 R. Starostecki, RI
 S. Ebnetter, RI
 T. Martin, RI
 W. Kane, RI
 J. Johnson, RI
 L. Tripp, RI
 H. Kister, RI
 J. Strosneider, RI
 W. Raymond, SRI, Vermont Yankee
 H. Eichenholz, SRI, Yankee
 R. Jacobs, SRI, Susquehanna 1&2
 J. Wechselberger, RI, Oyster Creek
 N. Blumberg, Region I
 R. Nimitz, Region I
 G. Meyer, Region I
 P. Leech, LPM, NRR

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 McBride/meo
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for Tripp
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RI DRP
 Wenzinger
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 Kane
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 Starostecki
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