

April 3, 1998

EA 98-191

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-293/98-03

Dear Mr. Olivier:

This letter refers to the security inspection conducted on March 2-5 and 11-12, 1998, at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the licensee's security force's capability to protect the facility against radiological sabotage and to determine whether the licensee's security program meets safeguard program commitments and regulatory requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, an apparent violation 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. The apparent violation involves multiple examples of equipment failures associated with the licensee's assessment program.

Accordingly, 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.

A closed predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for April 27, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. in the NRC Region I office. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: 1) the severity of the violation(s); 2) the application of the factors

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that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy; and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

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 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:
LARRY E. NICHOLSON FOR:

James T. Wiggins, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-293
License No. DPR-35

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-293/98-03 (Contains SGI in Para. S2.b)

cc w/encl: (w/o SGI)

R. Ledgett, Executive Vice President - Operations

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

A. Noguee, MASSPIRG

Office of the Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality
Engineering

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

L. Olivier

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cc w/encl: (w/SGI)

J. Neal, Protection Services Department Manager

W. Riggs, Nuclear Services Group Manager

J. Keene, Regulatory Affairs Manager

Distribution w/encl: (w/o SGI)

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Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

C. Cowgill, DRP

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C. O'Daniell, DRP

H. Miller, RA/W. Axelson, DRA

OE (2)

A. Chaffee, NRR

C. Miskey, DRS

Distribution w/encl: (w/SGI)

NRC Resident Inspector

C. Miskey (SGS File)

Distribution w/encl (VIA E-MAIL): (w/o SGI)

B. McCabe, OEDO

C. Thomas, NRR (COT)

A. Wang, NRR

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