



CHAIRMAN

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

PDR

August 17, 1989

The Honorable Gerry E. Studds, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife  
Conservation and the Environment  
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your letter of July 13, 1989, in which you request that an environmental assessment concerning the resumption of operation of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant be prepared before any further increase in power level is permitted. Although the recent decision in Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. NRC, No. 88-2211 (1st Cir. June 29, 1989), does not mandate such an assessment, it does conclude that restart of the Pilgrim plant involved an NRC action, that of reinstatement of a license. Even though such action under our regulations may be considered to be within the class of enforcement actions for which no environmental review is required, the Commission has decided to prepare an environmental assessment in this instance.

Sincerely

*Kenneth M. Carr*  
Kenneth M. Carr

cc: Rep. Don Young

8908310188 890817  
PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDC

DF02  
11