



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD.  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

May 24, 2016

Mr. Paul Berry  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Berry:

I am responding to your April 25, 2016, letter requesting that the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) be shutdown based on its recent poor operating performance and the potential impact of the impending plant closure on employee morale and performance. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concerns in these areas. Several inspection findings caused us to move the plant into Column 4 (Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column) of the NRC Action Matrix in September 2015, which results in increased NRC oversight.

Based on our inspections to date, Pilgrim continues to operate safely and the issues that moved them into Column 4 were of low to moderate safety significance. However, the increased oversight, inspection, and assessment directed by the assessment process for a plant in Column 4 directs us to closely monitor for indications of unacceptable performance in all areas including human performance and safety conscious work environment. In addition with the planned 2019 shutdown, our quarterly reviews will monitor performance during the plant's transition from operation to decommissioning in several specific areas, including preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance and surveillance testing deferrals, staff attrition, and corrective action backlog. If at any time the staff determines that performance at Pilgrim has declined to an unacceptable level, the NRC will not hesitate to take additional regulatory action up to and including the issuance of a shutdown order.

We hope that this addresses your concerns regarding the NRC's actions in response to the recent degrading performance at Pilgrim. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding these issues please feel free to contact the Region I Public Affairs Officers at 610-337-5330 or 610-337-5331.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard M. Cline, Senior Project Engineer  
Reactor Projects Branch 5  
Division of Reactor Projects

Mr. Paul Berry

Dear Mr. Berry:

I am responding to your April 25, 2016, letter requesting that the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) be shutdown based on its recent poor operating performance and the potential impact of the impending plant closure on employee morale and performance. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concerns in these areas. Several inspection findings caused us to move the plant into Column 4 (Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column) of the NRC Action Matrix in September 2015, which results in increased NRC oversight.

Based on our inspections to date, Pilgrim continues to operate safely and the issues that moved them into Column 4 were of low to moderate safety significance. However, the increased oversight, inspection, and assessment directed by the assessment process for a plant in Column 4 directs us to closely monitor for indications of unacceptable performance in all areas including human performance and safety conscious work environment. In addition with the planned 2019 shutdown, our quarterly reviews will monitor performance during the plant's transition from operation to decommissioning in several specific areas, including preventive maintenance, corrective maintenance and surveillance testing deferrals, staff attrition, and corrective action backlog. If at any time the staff determines that performance at Pilgrim has declined to an unacceptable level, the NRC will not hesitate to take additional regulatory action up to and including the issuance of a shutdown order.

We hope that this addresses your concerns regarding the NRC's actions in response to the recent degrading performance at Pilgrim. However, if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding these issues please feel free to contact the Region I Public Affairs Officers at 610-337-5330 or 610-337-5331.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard M. Cline, Senior Project Engineer  
Reactor Projects Branch 5  
Division of Reactor Projects

DOCUMENT NAME: P\_Berry\_response letter.docx  
ADAMS Accession No. **ML16145A365**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	
OFFICE	RI/DRP				
NAME	LCline/LMC				
DATE	5/24/16				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY