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BOSTON EDISON COMPANY
GENERAL OFFICES 800 BOYLSTON STREET
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G. CARL ANDOGNINI
SUPERINTENDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

October 29, 1979

BECO. Ltr. #79-212

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA. 19406

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

Response to IE Bulletin #79-23

Dear Sir:

In a letter dated September 12, 1979, you transmitted IE Bulletin #79-23, titled, "Potential Failure of Emergency Diesel Generator Field Exciter Transformer". Boston Edison Company was requested to take the following actions in a review of this problem at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station:

1. Determine whether or not connections have been made between low KVA rated transformers and high KVA rated EDGs without adequate limitations on the flow of circulating currents. If applicable, provide a description of the corrective action being taken to address this problem.

RESPONSE

The circulating current problem between the Excitation Power Transformer and the Diesel Generator Neutral does not apply. The Excitation Power Transformer primary is connected in Delta which is not grounded therefore no circulating current can be passed between the Generator Neutral and the Excitation Transformer.

2. Provide a schedule for the completion of a sustained full-load operation test of the EDGs for a duration of not less than 24 hours, or provide the results of the similar long duration, full-load test which has already been completed on the EDGs installed at your facility. The test should demonstrate full-load carrying capability for an interval of not less than 24 hours, of which 22 hours should be at a load equivalent to the continuous rating of the diesel generator and 2 hours at a load equivalent to the 2 hour rating of the diesel generator. The test should also verify that voltage and frequency requirements are maintained and that the cooling system functions within design limits.

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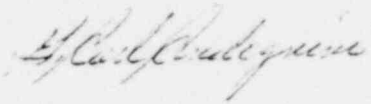
RESPONSE

Full load testing was performed by the manufacturer (ALCo Co.). Additional testing was conducted at 110% and 120%; however, the tests were not of the duration requested. Therefore, a sustained operational test of the diesel generators will be conducted for the 24 hours requested, with 22 hours at full-load capability and 2 hours at overload capacity as described in the original design specifications.

Procedures are being developed to ensure that testing will be conducted in a manner that provides sufficient documentation of continued availability. The testing is presently being scheduled to be conducted during the January 1980 Outage.

We believe that the actions described above adequately respond to your concerns. Should additional information on this subject be required, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



cc: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operation Inspection
Washington, D. C. 20555

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