



PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION
RFD #1 ROCKY HILL ROAD
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02360

R. D. MACHON
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS MANAGER
PILGRIM STATION

June 4, 1982
BECO Ltr. #82-161

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

Gentlemen:

On June 3, 1982 at 1522 hours, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station declared an alert status due to a malfunction of the "T.I.P." (traversing in-core probe) retraction mechanism. The probe did not automatically stop in the shield chamber but continued to travel beyond it. This event resulted in increased radiation levels in the area to a level above the limits specified in the station emergency plan. 10CFR50.72(a)(1) "Notification of Significant Events" requires a licensee to notify the NRC whenever any part of the emergency plan is initiated. That notification was made via ENS at 1542.

The probe was being utilized to perform surveillance test 9.5, "LPRM Calibration" when it was determined it was beyond the chamber by position indicator in the control room. The machine was manually shut off and, within minutes, the area was declared a high radiation area and the alert status emergency plan initiated. A limit switch malfunction is the probable cause of this event.

At the present time, the probe is still outside the chamber. We are allowing the source to decay to a radiation level justified by PNPS ALARA policy. A plant information report will be available for review by the Site Resident Inspector.

If you have any questions regarding this report please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

R. D. Machon
Nuclear Operations Manager
Pilgrim Station

GGW:cak

cc: Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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