

BOSTON EDISON

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Ralph G. Bird
Senior Vice President — Nuclear

July 2, 1990
BECO Ltr. 90-079

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

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

**Subject: Special Report - Alarm Function of Turbine
Basement Wet Pipe Sprinkler System Declared Inoperable**

Dear Sir:

This special report is being submitted in accordance with Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Technical Specification 3.12.C.d. The report is required because the alarm function of the Turbine Basement Wet Pipe Sprinkler System was declared inoperable on May 27, 1990 at 1630 hours and could not be returned to operable status within fourteen days. Refer to Attachment I for further details.

Only the alarm function of the system was inoperable; the sprinkler system would have operated in the event of a fire. Compensatory measures were established until the alarm was repaired. The alarm check valve was repaired and the Turbine Basement Wet Pipe Sprinkler System was declared operable on June 23, 1990 at approximately 1524 hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this subject.


R. G. Bird

GJB/dmc

cc: Mr. Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Rd.
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Sr. NRC Resident Inspector - Pilgrim Station

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ATTACHMENT I

Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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The Turbine Basement Wet Pipe Sprinkler System provides automatic suppression protection for the Condenser Bay Area. The system is located at approximately the 49 foot elevation just under the Turbine Deck Floor. The sprinkler system was declared inoperable at 1630 hours on May 27, 1990 when the system's alarm card for C-7R on window A-1 in the Control Room was removed. The (alarm) card was removed because the alarm was frequently transmitting a false signal to the Control Room.

The alarm signal was transmitted each time the fire water system jockey pump started. The jockey pump frequently starts and stops to maintain fire water system pressure. The slight surges in water pressure caused the sprinkler alarm check valve assembly to trip and transmit a false alarm to the Control Room.

The continuous alarm occurred because the pilot valve in the system's alarm check valve assembly was not working properly and required adjustment. Although the alarm system was inoperable, the water system was expected to operate in the event of a fire. Compensatory measures were established to include an hourly fire watch patrol in accordance with Technical Specification Section 3.12.C and Procedure No.8.B.14, "Compensatory Measure Fire Watch". The hourly fire watch patrol, in lieu of a continuous fire watch, was allowed by the Technical Specifications because of the High Radiation designation in the Turbine Basement area.

The alarm check valve was repaired and the Turbine Basement Wet Pipe Sprinkler System was declared operable on June 23, 1990 at approximately 1524 hours.