



BOSTON EDISON

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
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December 29, 1994
BECO Ltr. 94- 137

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

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

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE
PERFORMANCE BOARD REPORT NO. 50-293/93-99**

This letter documents Boston Edison Company's receipt and review of the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) Board Report for Pilgrim Station (PNPS) covering the period March 14, 1993, to October 8, 1994.

As we stated at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) public SALP management meeting held on November 30, 1994, the report provides an assessment of Pilgrim that is consistent with our own self-assessment.

We are pleased with the NRC's recognition of the Engineering improvements during the assessment period by assigning a Category 1 rating. As we discussed at the public meeting, many initiatives are in progress or planned to assure continuation of this strong performance.

Significant management attention and oversight is being directed toward the maintenance area including supervisory oversight and craft performance. Although several equipment failures occurred during the assessment period, evaluation of these failures did not identify any common failure mode. An important factor for improving and sustaining equipment reliability is preventive maintenance. To improve this area, the scheduling and deferral of preventive maintenance action items is now being controlled by the Master Surveillance Tracking Program that also is used to schedule and track actions including Technical Specifications related surveillances. The Quality Assurance Department is expanding its oversight function for Balance-of-Plant (BOP) equipment. This increased level of oversight will scrutinize BOP plant equipment similar to safety-related and NSSS (Nuclear Steam Supply System) equipment. These actions, in conjunction with several other maintenance program enhancements discussed at the management meeting are providing a success path to improved equipment reliability and performance.

The Plant Support functions will continue to contribute effectively to support safe plant operations. We acknowledge those areas identified by the SALP Report as needing performance improvement. Performance in the area of Radiological Controls continues to improve, including ALARA ("As Low As Reasonably Achievable"). Management is maintaining its attention, focus and support of the Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Fire Protection areas to assure these areas continue strong performance.

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Although we are pleased the NRC recognizes our strong Operations performance, we also acknowledge Mr. Kane's comment regarding the need for sustained strong management leadership, safety focus, and involvement in the day-to-day operations of Pilgrim Station. Late in the assessment period, Pilgrim's corporate and station management was further strengthened by several management changes. The former Senior Vice President-Nuclear and Executive Vice President, Mr. George Davis, became Boston Edison Company's President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Davis brings to his new executive position a first-hand knowledge of Pilgrim Station and its need for continued strong corporate support. Former Nuclear Support Department Manager, Mr. Leon Olivier, was elected Vice President and Station Director. The former Operations Section Manager, Mr. Theodore Sullivan, was appointed Plant Manager and the former Chief Operation Engineer, Mr. Thomas Trepanier, was appointed Operations Section Manager. The Station Director, Plant Manager, and Operations Section Manager have held or do currently hold a Senior Reactor Operator License and have over forty years of combined Pilgrim-specific experience. These individuals, through extensive experience, strong proven leadership, and exemplary personal dedication, bring to their new positions the management attributes needed to assure continuation of Pilgrim's progress toward becoming a world class facility.

We are committed to continued improvement. Our ongoing self-assessment practices have made a major contribution to our success. Our commitment to continued improvement has the support of the highest levels of the company and extends throughout the Nuclear Organization.


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RLC/lam/resp

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