



Boston Edison

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

E. T. Boulette, PhD
Senior Vice President — Nuclear

September 23, 1996
BECo Ltr. #96-084

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

Generic Letter 96-04: Request for Extension to Respond

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

NRC Generic Letter (GL) 96-04, "Boraflex Degradation in Spent Fuel Pool Storage Racks," dated June 25, 1996, requested Pilgrim, and other licensees whose spent fuel storage racks use Boraflex as a neutron absorber, to provide an assessment of the Boraflex's ability to perform its design function. The requested information was to be submitted by written response within 120 days of GL 96-04.

Following our review of this issue, we determined that a Blackness Test is necessary to confirm our Boraflex storage racks are performing as designed. We have a vendor commitment to perform Blackness Testing in the last quarter of 1996 and are preparing to shuffle spent fuel in preparation for the test. Based on these activities and the final assessment, our schedule (attached) requires us to request an extension from October 23, 1996, to December 18, 1996.

Should you require further information on this request, please contact Mr. P. M. Kahler at (508) 830-7939.

[Signature]
for E. T. Boulette, PhD

Attachment: Schedule

PMK/dmc/boraflex

300096

9610010131 960923
PDR ADOCK 05000293
P PDR

1068
1/1

cc: Mr. Alan B. Wang, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Mail Stop: 14B2
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1 White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Resident Inspector
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Schedule for Generic Letter 96-04: Boraflex
Degradation in Spent Fuel Racks

- *Preparation for and Conducting of Blacklight Testing:*

September - October 4, 1996

- *Data Analysis and Criticality Margin Calculation:*

October 4 - November 20, 1996

- *Internal Review:*

November 20 - December 18, 1996

- *Submittal of Requested Information to NRC:*

December 18, 1996