



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 30, 1996

Mr. E. Thomas Boulette, Ph.D
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Boston Edison Company
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
RFD #1 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

SUBJECT: PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION - INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION (IPE)
SUBMITTAL - INTERNAL EVENTS (GENERIC LETTER 88-20) (TAC NO. M74451)

Dear Mr. Boulette:

By letter dated September 30, 1992, as supplemented on December 28, 1996, Boston Edison Company submitted the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station IPE in response to Generic Letter (GL) 88-20 and associated supplements. The NRC, with technical assistance from its contractors has completed its review of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station IPE submittal for internal events and internal flood. The IPE was used to search for vulnerabilities by examining whether the results suggested that there are "new or unusual means by which the core damage or containment failures could occur," or that "the Pilgrim core damage frequency would not be able to meet the NRC's safety goal for core damage." The licensee concluded that neither of these criteria lead to the identification of vulnerabilities for Pilgrim. A "Step 1" review was performed by the staff which examined the IPE results for their "reasonableness" considering the design and operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Based on this review, the NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's IPE is complete and the results are reasonable and, therefore, the Pilgrim IPE has met the intent of GL 88-20. However, as a result of our review, weaknesses were found in the human reliability analysis of the IPE. As the licensee has stated that they intend to continue to use and maintain its IPE, the staff encourages the licensee to improve the Pilgrim IPE in this area in order to make it a more valuable tool.

The staff's Safety Evaluation is contained in the enclosure. Also included are the contractors' Technical Evaluation Reports (TERs). If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alan Wang at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

S. Singh Bajwa, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
w/attached TER

cc w/encl: See next page

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signed by A. Dormerick for
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