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WILLIAM D. HARRINGTON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR

August 6, 1985
BEC0 5.85-058

50-293

NPDES Permit No. MA0003557

Mr. T. E. Landry
Environmental Protection Agency
Compliance Branch
JFK Building, Room 2103
Boston, MA 02203

Mr. Thomas C. McMahon, Director
Mass. Div. of Water Pollution Control
Permit Section - 7th Floor
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02198

Gentlemen:

Telephone notifications were made to Mr. Robert Leger of the USEPA, Region 1, and Mr. Gerald Szal of the Mass. DWPC concerning the observed incidence of gas bubble disease (GBD) in fishes inhabiting the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station discharge canal at 1400 hours on July 31, 1985. Approximately 1,000-2,000 juvenile river herring (1-3 inches long) and adult Atlantic silversides (3-5 inches long) were seen along the southeast side of the discharge canal with approximately 10% of them showing external symptoms and behavioral characteristics associated with GBD. Most apparent were extruded eyeballs (exophthalmia) accompanied by gas bubbles and hemorrhaging around the eyes, and erratic, disoriented swimming behavior. The Pilgrim Station was operating near 100% capacity at the time observations were made.

In accordance with NPDES Permit No. MA0003557, the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was notified and made gas saturation measurements in the late afternoon on July 31, 1985. Their results showed Pilgrim Station discharge canal waters to be 117% total saturation of which 140% is oxygen, and 112% is nitrogen. A measurement made on August 1, 1985 revealed 117% nitrogen saturation. The DMF will continue to monitor this situation regarding the potential for any marine resource impacts, and make recommendations for mitigation, if necessary.

If additional information is required please contact Mr. R. D. Anderson at 849-8935.

Very truly yours,

WD Harrington

cc: Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo Chief
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