



Boston Edison

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

10 CFR 50.90

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

January 24, 1997
BECo Ltr. #97-002

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

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

Proposed Change to Pilgrim's Technical Specification Concerning
the Safety Limit Minimum Critical Power Ratio

References:

- (1) General Electric letter to NRC, 10CFR Part 21, Reportable Condition, SLMCPR Evaluations, dated May 24, 1996.
- (2) General Electric Nuclear Energy Document NEDE-24011-P-A-11, General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel (GESTAR II), dated November, 1995.
- (3) NEDC-32505P, R-Factor Calculation Method for GE11, GE12 and GE13 Fuel, November 1995.
- (4) Licensing Topical Report, General Electric BWR Thermal Analysis Basis (GETAB): Data, Correlation and Design Application, NEDO-10958-A, January 1977.
- (5) General Electric Fuel Bundle Designs, NEDE-31152-P, Revision 5, June 1996.

Pursuant to 10CFR50.90, Boston Edison hereby proposes to amend Operating License DPR-35 for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station by modifying Technical Specification Section 2.1.2 and its Bases and Note 5 to Table 3.2.C-1.

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This application proposes to change the Safety Limit Minimum Critical Power Ratio (SLMCPR) in Technical Specification (TS) 2.1.2 and associated Bases to reflect results of a cycle-specific calculation performed for PNPS Operating Cycle 12, expected to commence in March of 1997. The values given in Note 5 of Table 3.2.C.1 define a "limiting rod pattern" for the purpose of establishing operability requirements for the Rod Block Monitor system. As described in Attachment 1, these values depend on the value of the SLMCPR and are changed to reflect the change in SLMCPR.

As discussed in Reference 1, the General Electric (GE) fuel type generic values of the SLMCPR may be non-conservative for certain fuel and core designs.

GE performed a cycle-specific calculation confirming the SLMCPR for PNPS that has resulted in an increase in the required SLMCPR. GE's Cycle 12 licensing analysis for Pilgrim is still undergoing review, but it is not anticipated any additional changes to Technical Specifications will be required as a result of these changes to the safety limits.

The description and evaluation of the changes are included in Attachment 1 to this letter. Attachment 2 contains the revised Technical Specification pages. Attachment 3 shows the proposed Technical Specification revisions.

Prompt review and approval of this application by March 20, 1997 is requested because the proposed amendment is needed to support Operating Cycle 12 following the refueling outage. If you have questions, please contact P. M. Kahler at (508) 830-7939.

The information supporting this proposed change was provided by GE and is considered to be General Electric Proprietary information as described in 10CFR 2.790(a)(4) and the enclosed affidavit (Attachment 4). It is requested that this information be withheld from public disclosure. Proprietary text is denoted by brackets in the right hand margins.

E. T. Boulette
E. T. Boulette, PhD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
County of Plymouth)

Then personally appeared before me, E. T. Boulette, who being duly sworn, did state that he is Senior Vice President - Nuclear of Boston Edison Company and that he is duly authorized to execute and file the submittal contained herein in the name and on behalf of Boston Edison Company and that the statements in said submittal are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

My commission expires:

April 15, 1999
DATE

Marie Th. [Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC

PMK/dmc/radmisc/MCPR



Attachments:

1. Description and Evaluation of Proposed Technical Specification Change to Minimum Critical Power Ratio Safety Limit
2. Proposed Technical Specification Pages
3. Technical Specification Marked Up Pages
4. GE Affidavit

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