

50-293



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 10, 1997

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 - REQUEST PERTAINING TO RELIEF FROM
ASME SECTION XI INSPECTIONS AND GENERIC LETTER (GL) 88-01
INTERGRANULAR STRESS CORROSION CRACKING (IGSCC) INSPECTIONS
(TAC NO. M97419)

Dear Mr. Boulette:

By letter dated December 12, 1996, as supplemented January 20, 1997, and February 5, 1997, Boston Edison Company (licensee) requested two relief requests pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55.a(a)(3)(ii) for various ASME Section XI inspections related to nozzle-to-reactor welds and Class 1 piping welds and a delay in inspecting certain welds related to IGSCC inspections per GL 88-01, currently scheduled for the upcoming refueling outage (RFO) #11 at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

The licensee's request consists of (1) relief from volumetric examination of three (N1A, N2A and N2B) full penetration nozzle to vessel welds and its inner radii, and a safe-end weld (N1A), (2) relief from surface and/or volumetric examination of 12 piping welds and 2 integral attachment welds and (3) relief from IGSCC inspection of two safe-end welds (N2A and N2B). The licensee proposed to inspect the above referenced welds in RFO #12 instead of the RFO #11 scheduled to begin on February 15, 1997. In this safety evaluation, the staff reviewed only the request pertaining to the IGSCC inspection of two recirculation safe-end welds (N2A and N2B) per GL 88-01. The staff did not review the other two requests for relief related to ASME inspections because they were withdrawn by letter dated February 5, 1997. 1/

The NRC staff has completed its review of the licensee's submittal. Based on the favorable inspection experience in the last three refueling outages and the continued implementation of hydrogen water chemistry (HWC) at Pilgrim plant, the staff concludes that the licensee's one time request to defer the inspection of two Category D safe-end welds (N2A and N2B) until RFO #12 is acceptable. The staff's conclusion is based on the finding that the likelihood of developing extensive IGSCC in these two welds during the next fuel cycle is small. The staff's safety evaluation is contained in the enclosure. DFO1

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E. Thomas Boulette

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If you have any questions in this matter, please contact Mr. Alan B. Wang at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Milano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick D. Milano, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

February 10, 1997

If you have any questions in this matter, please contact Mr. Alan B. Wang at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

Patrick D. Milano, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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E. Thomas Boulette

cc:

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