



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 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: ASSESSMENT OF CORE SPRAY SYSTEM PIPING INSPECTION AND FLAW
EVALUATIONS AT PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. M93398)

Dear Mr. Boulette:

During Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's (PNPS) Refueling Outage No. 11, Boston Edison Company (BECo) identified crack-like indications (or flaws) in collar-to-shroud and pipe sleeve welds on core spray system downcomer piping internal to the reactor pressure vessel. On February 21, 1997, BECo notified the NRC of the core spray piping inspection findings pursuant to NRC Bulletin 80-13 requirements. In a telephone conference call on March 3, 1997, BECo updated information on the inspection findings, discussed the results of inspections and agreed to submit the inspection results and flaw evaluations for NRC review. On March 18, 1997, BECo submitted a description of flaws identified during core spray piping inspections and evaluation of flaws for NRC review prior to restart of PNPS. Further, on April 2, 1997, BECo submitted additional information in response to staff's telephone request on March 20, 1997.

BECo's evaluation of flaw indications included in the March 18, 1997, submittal concluded that the core spray system integrity and performance will not be compromised during the operation of PNPS for the next fuel cycle (12). BECo provided commitments to submit its plans to the NRC for reinspection and repair of the core spray piping internal to the reactor vessel 3 months prior to the start of refueling outage No. 12. BECo should work with Boiling-Water Reactor Vessel and Internal Project Committee to develop a reinspection plan and repair criteria to ensure piping structural integrity consistent with the commitments made in your March 18, 1997 letter.

Based on the NRC staff's initial review of these submittals, the staff has concluded that the flaw indications in the core spray piping are not a restart issue for PNPS. The results of the staff's detailed evaluation will be provided to you at a later date. Any concerns that arise during staff review will be promptly communicated to BECo. If the staff subsequently determines that the flaw and the piping integrity evaluations are unacceptable, BECo will be expected to take prompt action to place the facility in a safe configuration,

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consistent with the requirements of NRC regulations and Pilgrim technical specifications.

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

Sincerely,

/S/

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

Docket No. 50-220

cc: See next page

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consistent with the requirements of NRC regulations and Pilgrim technical specifications.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Milano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Docket No. 50-220

cc: See next page

E. Thomas Boulette

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