UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION SUPPORTING PARTIAL RELIEF FROM PERFORMING VISUAL EXAMINATION OF REACTOR COOLANT PIPING PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION DOCKET NO. 50-293

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The licensee (Boston Edison Company) in its submittal dated November 25, 1985, requested relief from the visual examination requirements in Generic Letter (GL) 84-11. Item E in Attachment 1 to GL 84-11 requires the licensee to enter the containment and perform a visual examination for leakage of the reactor coolant piping whenever the containment is de-inerted.

2.0 EVALUATION

The requirement that visual inspection for leakage be performed between scheduled outages was imposed to augment the installed leakage detection systems. It reflects staff concerns regarding the sensitivity of leak detection systems based primarily on sump level monitoring.

Most of the piping at Pilgrim Station has been replaced with type 316NG which is expected to be more resistant to IGSCC. Although not all susceptible piping was replaced, the licensee did inspect essentially all remaining old welds, so the probability of developing leaks or significant cracks has been significantly reduced.

3.0 CONCLUSION

We conclude that visual inspection of the Pilgrim Station piping should not be required at intervals of less than 3 months (92 days) of operation, for the following reasons:

1. Most of the piping has been replaced with resistant material.
2. The remaining IGSCC susceptible piping welds have been essentially 100% inspected and no significant cracking was found.
3. The additional personnel exposure associated with multiple examinations at a frequency less than 3 months is not justified.

Prinicipal Reviewer: W. Koo.

Dated: February 12, 1986.