

April 18, 1984

*Boston Ed.
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The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Boston Edison Company for three alleged violations of NRC requirements while performing maintenance on the company's Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, April 18, 1984.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Tsongas
Rep. Studds

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555**

No. 84-50
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, April 18, 1984)

NRC STAFF CITES BOSTON EDISON FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AT PILGRIM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION: PROPOSES \$40,000 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Boston Edison Company of Boston, Massachusetts, for three alleged violations of NRC requirements while performing maintenance on the company's Pilgrim Nuclear Generating Station near Plymouth, Massachusetts. The NRC staff proposes to fine the company \$40,000.

The nuclear power reactor was shut down for maintenance when the alleged violations occurred.

The alleged violations involved an incident in which the company failed to implement adequate radiological controls. As a result, a worker received an unplanned radiation exposure to his hand. The exposure to the worker's hand measured 4.5 rem, which is below regulatory limits. The NRC limits exposures to radiation worker's extremities to no greater than 18.75 rem per calendar quarter year.

The violations were identified during a special NRC inspection January 20-27, 1984, to review circumstances associated with the incident which occurred between January 14 and 20. The NRC was informed of the incident by the company.

The worker received the exposure while attempting to measure the amount of radioactivity coming from a five-gallon bucket of highly radioactive reactor parts and metal chips. The bucket was located in a controlled-access repair room near the reactor vessel.

According to the NRC Notice of Violation, in making the measurements, the worker "exercised poor judgement by removing small items from the bucket with his hand." However, the company is being cited for failing to adequately identify or label the container with information that would have allowed workers in the area to take proper precautions; failing to provide appropriate personnel monitoring equipment; and failing to inform workers in the area of procedures to minimize exposure.

In a letter informing the company of this proposed enforcement action, Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, said, "although the unplanned occupational radiation exposure received by the individual was not in excess of regulatory limits, the causes for the exposure are of concern to the NRC because adequate radiological controls were not implemented, thereby creating a substantial potential for a radiation exposure in excess of regulatory limits."

Boston Edison has 30 days either to pay the fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to write to the NRC staff and describe what was done or will be done to assure that these alleged violations do not recur.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been notified of this proposed enforcement action.

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