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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$55,000 FINE AGAINST BOSTON EDISON FOR SECURITY VIOLATIONS AT PILGRIM NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$55,000 fine against Boston Edison Company for a violation of NRC security requirements at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass.

The violation was found during a March NRC inspection which assessed Pilgrim's capability to protect the plant against radiological sabotage and to determine whether the security program met NRC requirements.

The violation involves multiple examples of failures of equipment used to continuously assess the security status of the station. Details of the violation are considered "safeguards information" and not publicly releasable.

In a letter informing Boston Edison of the notice of violation and fine, NRC Region I Administrator Hubert J. Miller said the failure to maintain the equipment resulted in "a degradation of your overall system for protecting the facility from security threats." These aids are needed, he said, "to provide a capability to observe the protected area barrier and isolation zone to limit exposure of responding personnel to possible attacks."

Mr. Miller also noted that the company's prompt and comprehensive corrective actions included establishing compensatory measures for the degraded equipment; replacing equipment with new, state-of-the-art components; and assigning additional maintenance staff to assist with maintenance of security equipment.

The company has 30 days to pay the proposed fine or to request in writing that all or part of it be withdrawn.

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