



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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MARTHA COAKLEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 15, 2008

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Chairman Dale E. Klein
Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko
Commissioner Peter B. Lyons
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Re: NRC IG Audit on license renewals

Dear Chairman Klein and Commissioners Jaczko and Lyons:

On behalf of Attorney General Martha Coakley, I am writing today regarding a report recently issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of the Inspector General. *See Audit of the NRC's License Renewal Program*, 016-07-A-15 (September 6, 2007). As is discussed below, we believe the NRC should address the concerns raised by the IG's report prior to issuing any final approvals in ongoing relicensing proceedings, including those involving the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station just over the border from Massachusetts in Vernon, Vermont.

As you know, the regulatory structure created by federal law presupposes that the NRC will serve as an independent expert that scrutinizes industry submittals. The IG's report raises questions about whether this is in fact true, at least in the context of relicensing decisions. The report states that relicensing decisions fail to document that NRC staff is providing the intensive, independent review of industry submittals that the public both expects and relies upon for its protection. We urge you to address these concerns in order to restore public credibility in the NRC's actions. We also urge you to do so prior to finalizing any pending relicensing applications.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Milkey".

James R. Milkey
Assistant Attorney General, Chief
Environmental Protection Division

cc. Attorney General Martha Coakley

