



Barnstable County Department
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September 18, 2019

Kristine L. Svinicki, Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16 B33
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Comments on Formation of a Citizens Advisory Board for the Decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Powerplant and Safety Concerns.

Dear Chairman Svinicki:

As Director of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment and the County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, I am writing to advocate for the creation of a Citizen's Advisory Board for the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. To date, this process has raised issues about transparency and trust.

The NRC and the operators of the plant have not adequately communicated with the public during the license transfer process. We have heard from many citizens who are deeply disturbed by the decommissioning process. The formation of a Citizen's Advisory Board will allow for public hearings and comments which can only help to foster a greater trust in this process and a better understanding of the proceedings.

Having said that, it is also imperative that any work by a Citizen's Advisory Board must also carry weight with the NRC. Since 2017 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has had a Nuclear Decommissioning Citizen's Advisory Panel, but it seems despite all hard work and efforts, much of this panel's work has fallen on deaf ears. This cannot continue to be the case.

The impact of the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant poses a threat that goes far beyond the perimeter of the plant's property. With a potential threat to Cape Cod Bay, Barnstable County and the people of Plymouth, the NRC must continue its strong emergency preparation work, with continued planning from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and continued funding for an Emergency Manager in the town of Plymouth. This undertaking carries risks today and well into the future. Those who will be most directly impacted must have a voice, and I urge you to do whatever is necessary to increase transparency, including the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. Please contact me directly with any questions or if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Sean O'Brien
Director
Barnstable County Department
of Health and Environment

CC: The Barnstable County Commissioner's
The Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
Jack Yunits, Barnstable County Administrator
The Office of Congressman William Keating
The Office of Attorney General Maura Healy
The Office of Senator Vinny deMacedo

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