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The Honorable Edward Markey
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Bill Keating
The Honorable Charlie Baker
The Honorable Maura Healey

Cape Downwinders
P.O. Box 303
South Harwich, MA 02661
15 March 2018

Dear Senator Markey, Senator Warren, Representative Keating, Governor Baker, and Attorney General Healey,

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is ignoring its own mandate to protect the public health and safety by permitting Entergy to continue to operate the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station during severe storms. Protocol is in place for Pilgrim to be shut down *“to reduce the risk of core damage due to a loss of offsite power by reducing the plant’s heat load BEFORE the loss of offsite power occurs.”*¹ However, closing remains at the discretion of Entergy. The recent storm on March 2 had forecasts of high winds and power outages. MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz informed FEMA that the local emergency directors reported they would be unable to fully implement the emergency plans.² Yet, Entergy operated Pilgrim while Plymouth flooded and trees fell, blocking road access in many communities. There was a high potential for loss of offsite power across the region. It is irresponsible to permit the worst nuclear operator in the U.S.— Entergy—to make these serious public safety decisions which threaten the 5 million people in the 50 mile emergency planning zone-including metro Boston. According to an NRC spokesperson, at no time during that severe storm did the NRC direct Entergy to power down or shut down Pilgrim.

Entergy and the NRC have proven time and again that profit, flagrant disregard, and complacency trump public safety. In 2015, a citizens petition was filed to the NRC-and rejected-due to winter storm Juno blizzard conditions that made evacuation impossible.³ At that time, Governor Baker called for a travel ban in the state, yet Entergy continued to operate Pilgrim which then lost offsite power and scrambled. Back up safety equipment failed. That scam was a "near miss" according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. It was also the event that pushed a special NRC inspection which kept Pilgrim one step from federally mandated shut down where it remains today.

Entergy continues to operate during severe storms when documented public evacuation could be hindered. Entergy filed a March 6 Event Report with the NRC that stated, *“there may be a potential loss of offsite response capabilities due to ongoing severe natural hazard conditions*

¹ NRC storm protocol for Pilgrim: <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/pilg/faq.html#8>

² MEMA email to FEMA: <http://files.constantcontact.com/4ef44f21401/d344eefa-3b93-4280-b748-1f76504932c2.pdf?ver=1521136847000>

³ Citizen petition: <http://files.constantcontact.com/4ef44f21401/7218dc28-d770-4e93-afaf-cfe039c59c5.pdf?ver=1435785622000>

(i.e. major winter storm) along the coast of Massachusetts. According to information received by PNPS, towns within the 10 mile EP Raduis could be hampered in implementing some protective actions specified in the emergency plan in the unlikely event an emergency were to occur.”⁴ The dangers were acknowledged but dismissed.

Why does Entergy take the risk of a scram and possible core damage during severe storms? Because shutting Pilgrim is a business decision, not a public safety plan.

The citizens of the Commonwealth can no longer tolerate this blatant threat to our communities. The actions of Entergy are reckless. The NRC is failing to regulate. Let's evoke the Precautionary Principle and take responsible action before a potential accident, not in response. It is urgent that you represent the public interest and enforce our right to safety.

We request you demand the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to immediately revoke Entergy's license to operate Pilgrim.

Sincerely,

Cape Downwinders, Diane Turco, Director Elaine Dickinson, Treasurer
Boston Downwinders, Guntram Mueller, Paula Sharaga, Susan Mirsky, Co-Convenors
Plymouth Downwinders, Henrietta Cosentino, Convenor
Citizens Awareness Network, Deb Katz, Executive Director
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action, Laura Wagner, Executive Director
MA Peace Action, Cole Harrison, Executive Director
MASSPIRG, Janet Domenitz, Executive Director
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, Kea van der Ziel, President
American Friends Service Committee, Joseph Gerson, Director, Northeast Region
Sierra Club, Emily Norton, Executive Director, MA Chapter
The Peace Abbey, Lewis M. Randa, Director
Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Andrew Gottlieb, Executive Director
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Kate Epperly, Executive Director, Cape Cod Chapter
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom/CC, Laurie Gates, Convener
Concerned Neighbors of Pilgrim, Heather Lightner, Norm Pierce, Conveners
350 Martha's Vineyard, Nicola Blake, Richard Knabel Conveners
We Stand Together/Estamos Todos Juntos! Marie Meyer-Barton, Convener
Down Cape Downwinders, Yvonne Barocas, Judith Cumbler, Steering Committee
No More Fukushimas, Joanna Hammond, Co-Founder, Amesbury
Occupy Hingham, John Gaulley, Convenor
On Behalf of Planet Earth, Sheila Parks, Ed.D, Founder
Lower Cape Indivisible, Mark Massoni, Steering Team
Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment, Tony Palomba, Steering
350MA-Cape Cod, Rosemary Dreger Carey, Convenor
Engage Falmouth, Elise Hugus, Convenor
Six Ponds Improvement Association, Plymouth, Love Albrecht Howard, President

cc:

Kristine Svinicki, Chair, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
David Lew, NRC Region 1 Administrator

⁴ Entergy event report: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2018/20180305en.html>

Kurt Schwarz, Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Jack Priest, Director of Radiation Control, MA Department of Public Health
Senate President Harriette Chandler
Speaker of the House Robert Deleo
Senator Julian Cyr
Senator Vinny DeMacedo
Representative Sarah Peake
Representative Ruth Balser
Representative Randy Hunt
Representative David Vieira
Representative Dyan Fernandes
Representative Timothy Whelan
Representative William Crocker
Representative James Cantwell
Representative Josh Cutler
Representative Seth Moulton
Sean O'Brien, Coordinator, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee

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