



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 23, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your October 1, 2018, letter regarding the proposed sale of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) to Holtec International (Holtec). You asked us to ensure the public interest is protected in this transfer and requested that we closely examine several specific issues. The NRC shares your interest in ensuring that decommissioning at Pilgrim occurs in a way that protects public health and safety and the common defense and security.

The NRC has not yet received an application from Entergy requesting a transfer of Pilgrim's operating license to Holtec, although it is expected soon. On September 25, 2018, the NRC staff held a public pre-submittal meeting with Entergy and Holtec regarding the planned license transfer application. The parties to the proposed license transfer outlined their plans in many areas, including future staffing, a decommissioning timeline, decommissioning funding, technical requirements, and their technical qualifications to complete the decommissioning activities. Entergy and Holtec also committed to open and transparent communications with their own employees, as well as local stakeholders.

When the license transfer application is received, consistent with its regulations, the NRC will perform a careful review of the request to ensure that Holtec is qualified to be the holder of the license and that the safety and security of the Pilgrim site is not adversely affected during future decommissioning activities. More specifically, the staff will thoroughly examine the following areas: technical qualifications; financial qualifications; decommissioning funding assurance; foreign ownership, control, or domination; and insurance and indemnity. The application for a license transfer must include technical and financial qualification information about the proposed transferee consistent with the requirements for an initial license. As a part of this process, the NRC will seek input from the public.

With respect to your specific concern about the adequacy of the decommissioning trust fund for Pilgrim, the NRC staff determined that Entergy was in compliance with the NRC's decommissioning funding assurance requirements during the most recent biennial trust fund review in late 2017.

We appreciate receiving your views and will consider them as we conduct a thorough examination of the anticipated license transfer application. If you need any additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Svinicki', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristine L. Svinicki

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable William R. Keating
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515