

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 11/05/01

EDO CONTROL: G20010482
DOC DT: 10/18/01
FINAL REPLY:

Mary Ott
Citizens Urging Responsible Energy

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 01-0561

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Request NRC to Conduct a Public Hearing within the
Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Pilgrim
Nuclear Power Station

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Virgilio, NMSS
Wessman, IRO
ERCT
Schum, OEDO
Davis, OEDO

DATE: 10/24/01

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate response with ERCT.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Oct 24, 2001 13:38

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-01-0561 **LOGGING DATE:** 10/24/2001
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Mary Ott
AFFILIATION: MA
ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve
SUBJECT: Request the NRC to conduct a public hearing within the emergency planning zone (EPZ) for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 10/18/2001
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Comm Correspondence--
SECY to Ack

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: Adams

DATE DUE: 11/07/2001 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20010482

Citizens Urging Responsible Energy

By FAX: 301-415-7010

October 18, 2001

Richard Meserve, Chairman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

We are writing to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conduct a public hearing within the emergency planning zone (EPZ) for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth. Residents in our area have great concern regarding what measures are in place to ensure our safety in the event of a potential terrorist attack at the Pilgrim.

The tragic events of September 11th have shocked and saddened our country. The unthinkable has happened; and it has defined new risks for people living or working in the shadow of Pilgrim.

Residents are alarmed about a number of issues. Some have contacted our group, Citizens Urging Responsible Energy (CURE), and civil defense agencies, in an effort to obtain Potassium Iodide. Our "Public Information Calendar" assures that tests of emergency sirens will be announced in advance in local newspapers and on the radio. The current Pilgrim owner, Entergy, is routinely testing sirens without public notice (including the days following the recent terrorist attacks), causing considerable anxiety among residents. Many are calling CURE to find out what to do when the sirens go off.

Federal regulations require Entergy to conduct a full-participation exercise of the offsite emergency plan biennially. When was our plan last tested? Has the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ever given full approval to the Pilgrim Emergency Response Plan?

Most of us were surprised to learn that Congress is currently considering establishing "no fly zones" over commercial nuclear power plants. We thought they already existed. Furthermore, we read with interest of proposed language in a Congressional bill, which would authorize nuclear power plant guards to be armed. We had assumed that this, too, was in place. Last year a 78-year-old security guard at Pilgrim accidentally fired his assault rifle into the bulletproof glass of a guard post.

We feel that there is a serious problem here. We realize that some information must be withheld from the public for security reasons; however, the absence of communication on the part of the FEMA, the NRC, and state officials responsible for ensuring our safety is appalling and unacceptable. Residents living in the Pilgrim EPZ need answers. We need to know exactly what is being done to safeguard, protect and prepare us for a potential threat, - and we need to know soon.

The recent news that "credible threats" were issued against the Three Mile Island nuclear plant has intensified our concerns, and makes our request for a hearing that much more urgent!

We urge you to support the following:

- * The establishment of "no fly zones" over nuclear power plants;
- Shutdown or low power operation during "alert status;" and
- Public supply and distribution of Potassium Iodide tablets in EPZ communities.

We thank you for your attention to these very important matters. Please let us hear from you at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,



Mary C. Ott, Co-Chairman

Cc:

Senator Edward Kennedy
 Senator John Kerry
 Representative William Delahunt
 Governor Jane Swift
 Chairman, Duxbury of Board Selectmen
 Chairman, Carver Board of Selectmen
 Chairman, Kingston Board of Selectmen
 Chairman, Marshfield Board of Selectmen
 Chairman, Plymouth Board of Selectmen