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To: Collins, NRR
Appropriate Action

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ADDRESSEE: ~~Chrm Richard Meserve~~ S. Collins, NRR

SUBJECT: Concerns Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station - formal citizen complaint against employee's behavior - including, harassment and false statements

ACTION: Appropriate

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November 30, 2001

Sam Collins
US NRC

Dear Mr. Collins:

RE: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station – formal citizen complaint against employee's behavior – including, harassment and false statements

The following describes recent behavior by Entergy employees at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Harassment of citizens who are trying to answer their country's call for vigilance against potential terrorist attacks can not be tolerated; nor can nuclear power plant employee's misleading the public with false statements about the status of security and the potential effects of sabotage on reactors.

1. Entergy employees at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station have been busy denouncing those who speak of the terrorist threat to Pilgrim's nuclear fuel and reactor - shoot the messenger.

This is wrong for two reasons. (1) It is harassment, pure and simple. (2) Our Attorney General and federal government have called upon citizens to keep a vigilant eye to prevent a terrorist attack. Entergy's behavior interferes and discourages citizen involvement.

Recent examples include the following:

Entergy's David Tarantino had stated that certain security measures existed to guard Pilgrim from the water – Coast Guard patrols and a 500-yard exclusion zone. A group of Duxbury citizens took a Channel 4 Investigative Team out on a boat to check. There was no visible security from the water, whatsoever. The so-called exclusion zone was not marked. Lobster trap markers were in the water between where the zone supposedly existed and shore.

Entergy's David Tarantino responded by publicly accusing us of violating the water security zone. It was obvious that we never violated the unmarked zone, film footage was conclusive proof. However, Tarantino did not retract his false accusations until long after. His persistent false accusations resulted in harm – personal and financial. For example, the local Chair of the Plymouth Selectmen, Ken Taveres, and the State Senator, Terry Murray, stated to the media that, "We want them prosecuted to the full extent of the law." I had to hire an attorney. Many other people, including public officials, believe to this day that we violated the unmarked 500-yard security zone and were as Tarantino stated, "mock terrorists, playing war games."

Tarantino went on to tell the press that we had wasted valuable resources. He claimed that Entergy had called the Coast Guard and a Coast Guard helicopter was dispatched and monitored the boat while it was on the water. This is doubtful. Why didn't the helicopter appear on the extensive films taken by Channel 4? Why wasn't the helicopter seen or heard by the six people on board? Why, when the ship's radio was on during the entire voyage, didn't anyone contact us?

My reputation has been harmed - Entergy's intent. It goes far beyond Tarantino's usual dismissive comment when referring to me publicly as that, "anti-nuclear activist" You and I both know that security and the terrorist threat to nuclear power plants has nothing to do with whether you are pro or anti nuclear.

Most recently, Plymouth Sheriff McDonough's staff rode into the plant virtually unchallenged. Again, David Tarantino quickly accused them in the press of pulling a "stunt". The Duxbury Reporter, November 28th, *Sheriff rides into Pilgrim* quoted Tarantino,

"I kind of put it in the same category as the stunts the activists pull," referring to a recent highly publicized encounter between plant security and some residents on the water near the plant.

Will he call a real terrorist attack simply another stunt? Is the terrorist threat only a PR issue?

2. Entergy is also busy arranging virtually closed meetings with emergency planners, school officials and selected citizens to assure that only their half-truths and misrepresentations of fact are heard.

They should not be lying to the public - their lies discourage vigilance.

For example at the Pembroke Emergency Planning Meeting held for the public on November 28,th David Tarantino announced at the meeting that Entergy agreed to come on the condition that only Pembroke citizens could ask questions or make comment. They proceeded to misinform the public – unchallenged.

Entergy's engineer, Bethay stated that in his opinion an airplane could not penetrate the reactor building because the containment is 5 feet thick and the outer walls 2 and one half feet. He, and we, knows about the federal government studies of the ability of reactors to withstand airplane crashes – see November 27, 2001 letter to Chairman Meserve from Congressman Markey regarding aircraft threats to nuclear plants.

Entergy's Sowden informed the public in Pembroke that in the unlikely event of an accident, Pembroke citizens would not have to worry – there would not be enough radiation to cause one single ill health effect. This is the same Mr. Sowden that Jane Fleming asked the IG to investigate in the 1990's. As a reminder the substance of that investigation was that Sowden reported to the NRC (and NRC's accepted the report) that the cesium in the cow's milk sampled was due to the cow's pregnancy and not the plant. The large animal expert at Tufts University Vet School submitted expert testimony that cows have calves when pregnant - not cesium.

Does NRC condone the industry lying to the public? Does the NRC condone closed "public" meetings?

Is the behavior of Pilgrim officials discussed above the policy of the NRC? If not, it would be appropriate for the agency to require corrective measures so that the public's safety is better protected and some measure of integrity is restored to the industry. Please let me know your response.

To summarize, it is clear that Entergy's behavior discussed above is dangerous. (1) It interferes with protecting national security. Citizens have been asked by Attorney General Ashcroft and Mr. Ridge to be foot soldiers in the war against terrorism - to keep a vigilant eye. However when we perform our duty, we are harassed and ridiculed by Entergy. If the federal government, and NRC, is serious about security then you best back us up. (2) Entergy's lies and misstatements to the public about the status of security and consequences of an attack are designed to lull the public into a false sense of security. If they are convinced by Entergy to "relax and be happy" how can we expect them, at the same time, to be on the alert?

Sincerely,



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Cc. Chairman Richard Meserve

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Congressman William Delahunt
Congressman Edward Markey
Sheriff Joseph McDonough

November 30, 2001

To the Editor:

Pilgrim – a threat to democracy not simply public safety

Nuclear industry propagandists at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station are busy denouncing anyone who speaks of the terrorist threat to Pilgrim's nuclear fuel and reactor. They are also busy arranging virtually closed meetings with emergency planners, school officials and selected citizens to assure that only their message is heard. Their obvious goal is that a misinformed public will "Relax and be happy."

Example: On Wednesday, November 28th Pembroke emergency planners hosted a public meeting to discuss emergency planning. Entergy officials, the operators of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, were invited to make a presentation. I learned later that Entergy agreed to come only on the condition that no outsider, no non-Pembroke resident, could ask questions or make comment. Pembroke officials inexplicably agreed. Outsiders were actually labeled with an identifying badge and warned that they were to sit in the back, not speak and police were present.

Unchallenged, Entergy officials (David Tarantino, Tom Sowden, Steve Bethay) spun a web of half-truths and out-right misinformation. Sowden said, for example, that outside the ten-mile zone, no radiation release could be high enough to cause one health effect. Chernobyl released 2½ million curies of cesium-137 – and contaminated milk and land as far away as Poland. Pilgrim's spent fuel pool contains over 30 million curies of cesium-137, and is outside the concrete containment intended to protect the reactor. Chernobyl's core melt resulted in over 11,000 children having thyroid cancer. The federal government (US NRC) has reported that "*the vast majority of the thyroid cancers were diagnosed among those living more than 50 km (31 miles) from the site [Chernobyl]*"

I believe that the public needs, and has the right to listen to, a full and open discussion about the risks posed by nuclear reactors and fuel especially in this time of national emergency. I believe also that only an informed citizenry will be able to force industry and the government to do what is required to provide the funds and personnel necessary for home defense. Only an informed citizenry will exercise its responsibility to assume a "Neighborhood Watch" - to be the eyes that our government has called upon to avert a tragedy at Pilgrim.

James Madison noted long ago that

A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy.

The meeting in Pembroke was a farce – others have been, also. I hope that there will be a public outcry to insure that not simply the industry, but ordinary citizens and non-industry professionals, are allowed to provide information to the public and decision-making groups (such as emergency planners, schools officials etc) in the future so that we can avoid a tragedy.


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