

November 19, 2010

Mary Lampert  
Director, Pilgrim Watch  
148 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332

Dear Ms. Lampert:

I am writing in response to your letter, dated October 15, 2010, regarding tritium at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station and the "tritium precipitation" theory. The letter was sent to me via email and contained, as attachments, an article from *The Patriot Ledger*, dated October 13, and a letter from David Lochbaum, dated October 15. Mr. Lochbaum's letter addressed the same subject as your correspondence, namely, tritium contamination via precipitation. Your letter, which was co-signed by Ms. Rebecca Chin of the Town of Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee, questioned the validity of the tritium precipitation theory as it applies to Pilgrim and requested that the NRC issue an order requiring Entergy to reduce power, increase the monitoring of water bodies outside of the owner controlled area, further evaluate the tritium rainfall theory, and perform a subsurface hydro-geologic study for the Pilgrim site.

I am including, as an attachment to this letter, a copy of the response I recently sent to Mr. Lochbaum regarding his October 15 letter. That response should address the majority of your questions relative to the NRC's assessment of tritium precipitation as it applies to Pilgrim. As the response indicates, neither Entergy's current assessment nor the NRC's independent assessment have established a conclusion regarding the source of tritium identified in the groundwater monitoring well at Pilgrim, including "tritium precipitation." Based on our review and oversight activities, we have determined that Entergy is appropriately investigating several potential sources by conducting tests of underground structures and components, hydrologic examinations of the area, analyses of ground and surface water samples collected from various locations, and reviews of plant operations and system interactions. All data and information collected to date support our conclusion that public health and safety has not been, nor is expected to be, affected by this on-site groundwater condition.

This matter is also being closely monitored by representatives of the State of Massachusetts, including the Departments of Public Health and Environmental Protection. Entergy continues to work closely with the State of Massachusetts, including providing data and information and splitting samples for independent analysis.

The NRC has determined, based on information and data reviewed to date, that the licensee is in compliance with all offsite release requirements. Entergy has established, implemented, and maintained radiological gaseous and liquid effluent monitoring and control processes, and a radiological environmental monitoring program, as required by NRC regulations. Data collected to date, including sampling of various media such as surface waters, vegetation, fish and invertebrates, and ground waters, continues to demonstrate that public health and safety has not been affected.

After your consideration of the contents of this letter and its attachment, if you wish to move forward with your requests that the NRC require Entergy to reduce power, expand their monitoring of offsite water bodies, and further evaluate radiological monitoring data, please let me know. I will ensure the requests are submitted through the 10 CFR 2.206 process.

The last request in your letter was that the NRC require Entergy to perform an updated subsurface hydro-geologic study and make the results available to the public. You previously raised this request to the NRC through a 10 CFR 2.206 petition that you and Ms. Chin submitted to R. William Borchardt, U.S. NRC Executive Director for Operations, on August 13, 2010. Accordingly, this request, as well as the November 15 letter you submitted to Chairman Jaczko, is being handled under a separate NRC process. You will be informed of the NRC's determination in accordance with that process.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and hope I have been responsive to your concerns. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Donald Jackson of my staff at (610) 337-5306.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

William M. Dean  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: As Stated

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/RA/

William M. Dean  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: As Stated

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