



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I**
2100 RENAISSANCE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-2713

October 25, 2012

Town of Bourne
Board of Selectmen
24 Perry Avenue
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Dear Selectboard Members:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated September 11, 2012. Specifically, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Bourne, you expressed the need for town officials to be involved in the evacuation/mitigation plans that would be used during a radiological event at the Pilgrim Nuclear Station.

In the area of emergency preparedness and response, the NRC works in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for ensuring the onsite and offsite emergency plans are adequate. The regulation of onsite emergency response falls within the NRC's purview, while the offsite oversight responsibility rests with FEMA. The NRC relies on FEMA to provide a reasonable assurance finding that the offsite emergency response programs are adequate for protecting the public health and safety.

As you are aware, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has the overall authority for making protective action decisions (sheltering, evacuation, etc.) for ensuring the safety of their public during a radiological event and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) maintains the FEMA-approved State Radiological Emergency Plan for implementing those decisions.

We contacted representatives from both MEMA and FEMA and informed them of your concerns. MEMA informed us they are sensitive to the evacuation concerns expressed in your letter. In fact, on October 3, 2012, Mr. Kurt Schwartz, Undersecretary of Homeland Security and Director of MEMA met with members of the public from the Cape Cod communities in Harwich, MA. We understand the meeting resulted in a good exchange of information and that Director Schwartz committed to work with the Cape Cod communities, including the Town of Bourne, to help address their issues regarding emergency evacuation routes.

Furthermore, we forwarded your concerns to Entergy, owner of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Entergy informed us that on October 9, 2012, the Pilgrim Emergency Manager met with Bourne's Emergency Manager to gain a better understanding of the evacuation planning concerns. We understand discussions went well and future meetings are being scheduled to brief town officials on a study that Entergy is conducting regarding evacuation time estimates.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you have questions regarding the State's Radiological Emergency Plan, you may contact Mr. John Giarrusso, Planning and Preparedness Division Chief, MEMA at (508) 820-1040. Should you have further questions for the NRC, please contact Ms. Nancy McNamara, NRC Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

cc:

J. Giarrusso, MEMA

S. Colman, FEMA, RI

T. White, Pilgrim Emergency Manager

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Sincerely,

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William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

cc:
J. Giarrusso, MEMA
S. Colman, FEMA RI
T. White, Pilgrim Emergency Manager

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	
OFFICE	RI/ORA	RI/DRS	RI/DRP	RI/RA	
NAME	NMcNamara (NTM)	RMcKinley *	RBellamy (RJB) *	WDean (WMD)	
DATE	10/25/12	10/18/12	10/18/12	10/25/12	

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*Concurrence via email