



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

October 25, 2012

The Honorable Therese Murray  
Senate President  
State House, Room 332  
Boston MA 02133-1053

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated September 19, 2012. Specifically, on behalf of the Town of Bourne, you expressed the need for increased communication with the Town's officials concerning evacuation 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. The state's radiological emergency plan was developed by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and subsequently approved by FEMA.

We contacted representatives from both FEMA and MEMA informing them of your concern. MEMA informed us they are sensitive to the evacuation concerns being expressed by the communities located on Cape Cod. 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 concerns regarding emergency evacuation routes.

Furthermore, we forwarded your concerns to Entergy, owner of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. On October 9, 2012, they conducted an outreach initiative to meet Bourne's Emergency Manager and to gain a better understanding of the issues. 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.

Senator Therese Murray

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Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William M. Dean  
Regional Administrator

cc:

K. Schwartz, Director, MEMA

S. Colman, Regional Assistance Coordinator, FEMA, RI

T. White, Emergency Planning Manager, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Senator Therese Murray

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Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

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T. White, Emergency Planning Manager, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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DATE	10/ 18 /12	10/18 /12	10/18 /12	10/23/12	

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\*Concurrence via email