



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR KATHLEEN O'CONNOR IVES

First Essex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 215
BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

TEL. (617) 722-1604

FAX (617) 722-1999

KATHLEEN.OCONNORIVES@MASENATE.GOV

WWW.MASENATE.GOV

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Stephen G. Burns, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

May 10, 2016

Dear Chairman Burns:

As state legislators, our most basic responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In Massachusetts, there are 60,000 citizens who live and work within the 10-mile evacuation zone surrounding Seabrook Station. However, a radiation release due to an incident at Seabrook Station will not stop at a 10-mile radius from the plant.

In fact, when the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan experienced a meltdown on March 11, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recommended that all American in Japan immediately move 50 miles from the disaster. This is indicative of what the NRC *really* believes to be an appropriate evacuation zone. We see no reason why the NRC would not apply the same protections that it recommended to Americans in Japan to those in Massachusetts and New England. Over four million New Englanders live within 50 miles of Seabrook Station.

Given the sheer number of people that could be affected, we firmly believe that the Seabrook nuclear reactor poses an unacceptable threat to the lives and livelihood of the people who live in the evacuation zone and beyond.

First, the continued operation of Seabrook Station is too risky because concrete degradation—due to a chemical reaction that is novel to the U.S. nuclear power industry and the NRC—has occurred throughout the plant's entire foundation and vertical structures. This includes NRC-designated safety structures such as the containment building that houses the plant's nuclear reactor.

Second, a timely, safe, and realistic evacuation from the evacuation zone and beyond in the case of a nuclear public safety risk is impossible. Summer beach traffic congestion or winter snowfall like we experienced in the winter of 2015 will not allow for safe evacuation. In fact, there are absolutely no evacuation plans for anyone living outside the 10-mile zone surrounding Seabrook Station.

Thirdly, the NRC has failed to provide adequate oversight, particularly over the degradation that plagues the Seabrook Station. The NRC's lack of knowledge about the progression of the degradation combined with a non-existent regulatory track record on concrete degradation has already put the people of New England at unknown risk.

On behalf of public health and safety, we call on the NRC to close Seabrook Station by withdrawing its operating license.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the growing number of Massachusetts elected officials and the public who have called for a shutdown of Seabrook Station.

We urge the NRC to shut down Seabrook Station in order to avoid a catastrophe that could exceed that which occurred in Fukushima. In Fukushima, 100,000 Japanese people fled their homes and their businesses—possibly forever; damage estimates are estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Thank you for your attention. We would greatly appreciate a response which specifically addresses our serious concerns.

Sincerely,



Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives
First Essex



Senator Daniel A. Wolf
Cape & Islands



Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Fifth Essex



Representative James Kelcourse
First Essex

SENATOR KATHLEEN O'CONNOR IVES
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 215
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053

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Stephen G. Burns, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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