

Pilgrim Legislative Advisory Coalition

P.O. Box 2712, Orleans MA 02653

August 29, 2016

Arthur Burrirt, Chief NRC Director of Reactor Projects
Erin Carfang, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Dear Chief Burrirt and Inspector Carfang,

The recent failure of the Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) is yet more evidence of Entergy's unwillingness to maintain Pilgrim Station. It is also evidence of the NRC's willingness to put the public at risk rather than requiring the operator to spend sufficient money on safety. This is nothing new. For example, fire-prevention regulations adopted in the wake of the 1975 Brown's Ferry near-double-meltdown are largely unimplemented 40 years later, and Davis Besse came within 3/8" of a meltdown because the NRC allowed the operator to ignore evidence of corrosion of the reactor head.

Here in Massachusetts, it is quite obvious that Entergy's safety culture is severely lacking and that they consciously choose to jeopardize public safety. Here is a brief summary:

In 2015 Pilgrim posted workers on fire watch, 23 years after ignoring a federal advisory regarding remote reactor shutdown; last February we learned that Entergy had falsified 200 fire watch logs. The NRC could have imposed \$20 million in fines, but didn't.

A system to provide emergency meteorological information vital to any evacuation effort malfunctioned 8 times over 3 years. The NRC has allowed Pilgrim to experience LOOPs and SCRAMs with complications eight times since 1978 during extreme winter weather conditions in which safe evacuations were impossible.

Pilgrim's overstuffed spent fuel pool relies upon Boraflex that is known to be faulty, yet the NRC has not required the only reasonable fix: thinning the pool.

Nearly 3 years ago Pilgrim was #1 in the U.S. for most SCRAMs and was rated by the NRC as one of the 4 worst-run U.S. reactors. Since then it has alternated between being one of the 9 worst-run or 3 worst-run reactors in the nation. And now, a year after the NRC moved Pilgrim back to the bottom column due to failure of the Main Steam Isolation Valve system, that same critical system has failed again.

Supporting Organizations

Association to Preserve
Cape Cod

Cape Downwinders
Cooperative

Down Cape Downwinders

Pilgrim Watch

Protect Our Cape Cod
Aquifer

Toxic Action Center
(Boston)

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Entergy's job is to make money. The regulator's job is to ensure that the reactor is operated safely, but the NRC continues to allow Entergy to apply band-aids. Entergy is doing it's job; the NRC is not.

Because of the Mark 1 containment's known inability to contain a severe accident, Pilgrim should not have been licensed in 1972; because Fukushima proved the Mark 1's weakness, it should have been closed on March 12, 2011; because the relicensing process was incomplete, Pilgrim should not have been relicensed in May of 2012.

Pilgrim's retirement is long overdue, as is the NRC's time to do it's job. Close Pilgrim. Now.

Sincerely,

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cc:

Governor Charlie Baker

Senator Edward Markey

Senator Elizabeth Warren

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MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz

OEE Secretary Matthew Beaton

Attorney General Maura Healey

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Sen. Daniel Wolf

Sen. Vinny deMacedo

Rep. Sarah Peake

BCREPC Chair Sean O'Brien