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July 14, 2017

Mr. Daniel Dorman
Regional Administrator, Region 1
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2100 Renaissance Blvd, Suite 100
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Dorman,

I write to urge you to reject the request of Entergy Corporation to extend its deadline to complete federal cybersecurity requirements consistent with Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 2009 Cyber Security Rule for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

As you are aware, the rule, 10 CFR 73.54, requires a licensee to provide high assurance that digital computers and communications systems and networks are adequately protected against cyberattacks that would adversely impact the integrity or confidentiality of data and software; deny access to systems, services, or data; or provide an adverse impact to the operations of systems, networks, and associated equipment. It is my understanding that the initial implementation of nuclear power plant cybersecurity compliances was completed in 2012 and that full implementation is expected this year. However, Entergy, which owns and operates the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, has requested an extension of its deadline for completion of federal cybersecurity requirements to December 2020 – a full 18 months following the projected deactivation of the plant in June 2019. At risk should the extension be granted is the implementation of additional cyber controls at Pilgrim, including cybersecurity training for the plant's employees, incident response drills, and testing.

As has been publicly reported recently, nuclear power plant and other energy company networks have been the target of multiple cyber hacking attacks with increasing frequency since May 2017. Approval of Entergy's requested extension would contradict NRC's commitment and obligation to holding Entergy responsible for continuing to run the plant as safely as possible throughout its operations – particularly at a time of known increasing risk to nuclear plant cyber networks.

In keeping with the Commission's mission to ensure Pilgrim receive the highest level of safety, security, and oversight, I strongly urge you to reject Entergy's effort to sidestep implementation of remaining cybersecurity measures. Thank you for your immediate attention to this letter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress