

Memo to File: May 7, 2018

Attached is a prepared statement from Senator Edward J. Markey, presented at the Annual Assessment Meeting for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station on March 27, 2018.



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Statement from Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) public meeting on Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

“Since last year’s annual public meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, there has been continued cause for concern on the part of the people of Massachusetts.

“We are at what we can only hope will prove to be the end of a historic run of storms this month that saw blizzard after blizzard batter the coast of our state. Amidst these storms, Pilgrim has suffered multiple incidents of loss of offsite power that have necessitated emergency shutdowns of plant operations, yet according to their own winter shutdown requirements, these storms did not meet the severity requirements for a pre-emptive safety shutdown. Despite the increasing power and potential of storms in recent years, it seems that neither Entergy nor the NRC has seen fit to escalate the storm safety precautions at Pilgrim in accordance with the increasing severity of winter storms. It is of the utmost importance that Entergy provide its staff with the resources they need to operate the plant safely up to and through its prompt shutdown.

“Together with my colleagues Senator Warren and Congressman Keating, I and my staff have sent letters to the NRC and met with your staff to relay our serious concern on this continued issue. I am deeply troubled by the repeated emergency shutdowns at Pilgrim, all while the NRC has allowed the number of resident inspectors at the plant to wane from three to two.

“Pilgrim cannot persist in Column 4. The safety of our residents is at stake every day, and it depends on the NRC’s commitment to holding Entergy accountable and ensuring a swift and safe path to a responsible closure.”

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