

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 1994

Mr. Ivan Selin
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Room 17D1
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Selin:

Enclosed is a letter from William Griffin, the Town Manager of Plymouth, Massachusetts expressing his town's strong concerns about the recent decision by the Department of Energy (DoE) not to accept high level nuclear waste in 1998, as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, due to the lack of a proper facility.

I would appreciate hearing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's assessment of any health and safety concerns relating to the storage of high level nuclear waste on-site at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant based on this change in DoE policy.

I look forward to receiving your response to Plymouth's concerns. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

JFK/jcp
Enclosure.

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TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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May 24, 1994

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senator
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and Nuclear Matters Committee of the Town of Plymouth regarding the disposal of high level nuclear waste. It has come to the attention of the Town of Plymouth that the Department of Energy has recently announced that it will not take physical control of radioactive waste by 1998 as was originally understood. The Department of Energy now states that it is not legally obligated to take the waste, and in any case, cannot take the waste since it has no disposal site. This announcement by the Department of Energy is of great concern to the Board of Selectmen and the town's Nuclear Matters Committee. This reluctance on the part of the Department of Energy to establish a disposal site will likely require the long-term storage of high level radioactive waste on site at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. The Town of Plymouth strenuously objects to that scenario and urges our legislative delegation to insist that the Department of Energy accept its responsibility and proceed with the establishment of a high level radioactive waste disposal site.

In a related matter, the Department of Energy also announced that it is considering helping utilities pay for on-site high-level radioactive waste storage after 1998. It is the position of the Board of Selectmen and Nuclear Matters Committee that financial assistance should not be provided to utilities if that assistance is derived from increased taxes or rate hikes for customers of utilities.

Your attention to these very important issues is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office or the Plymouth Nuclear Matters Committee. Thank you for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,

William R. Griffin
Town Manager



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