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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

To: Leeds, NRR

AUTHOR: Paul Afonso

AFFILIATION: MA

ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko

SUBJECT: Pilgrim nuclear station license renewal

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ACTION: Appropriate

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**NEW ENGLAND  
ENERGY ALLIANCE**



July 27, 2011

Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

George Apostolakis, Commissioner  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

William D. Magwood, IV, Commissioner  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Subject: PILGRIM NUCLEAR STATION LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

The New England Energy Alliance was established to advocate for informed decision making and timely action on energy infrastructure projects considered vital to the region's economic well being. While its membership is diverse, all share a common concern about the adequacy of the region's energy infrastructure to ensure affordable and reliable electricity.

The Pilgrim Nuclear Station ("Pilgrim") operating license renewal proceeding – which has lasted more than five years – is among the projects considered by the Alliance to deserve timely action. While the Alliance does not advocate for specific infrastructure projects, it believes the need for nuclear energy in the region is compelling, and the NRC nuclear plant relicensing process to be thorough and reflective of the need to balance careful consideration to environmental, safety, design and operational issues.

cc: Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman

cc: Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner

cc: George Apostolakis, Commissioner

Although the Alliance has not conducted an independent review of the proposed plant relicensing application and subsequent NRC review, it is aware that NRC staff has concluded, most recently in a Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report, that Pilgrim can safely operate for an additional twenty years.

Specifically, on July 19, 2011, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board issued a decision resolving the last admitted contention that remained before it. Accordingly, if all issues admitted for hearing have been resolved in favor of issuance of the renewed license and the NRC Staff has made the requisite safety and environmental findings on all other uncontested issues necessary for license renewable, the Alliance urges prompt issuance of a renewed operating license for Pilgrim.

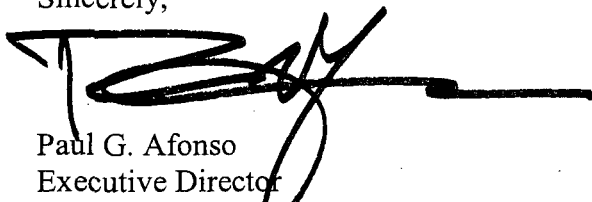
Pilgrim is one of five New England nuclear energy plants that are the "backbone" of the region's electricity grid – providing reliable, base-load capacity. Because of their low operating costs, nuclear energy plants generate electricity economically – which is important in a region that has some of the highest electricity rates in the country.

In addition, Pilgrim's continued safe operation would maintain a significant positive economic impact on southeastern Massachusetts, while supplying nearly 10% of the Commonwealth's electricity needs.

The Alliance advocates for projects to be fairly and expeditiously judged on merit and ability to comply with regulatory requirements. If the NRC has determined that Pilgrim will continue to comply with all NRC safety standards and regulation upon license renewal, then the Alliance urges its renewed operating license be issued without delay.

I appreciate your consideration and continued transparency of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Afonso', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul G. Afonso  
Executive Director  
New England Energy Alliance  
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Boston, MA 02110  
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