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PLYMOUTH AND NORFOLK
DISTRICT

February 8, 2012

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Re: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station License Renewal Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to convey my concerns with the safety of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, MA. Nuclear power is both an energy source that should be pursued and a potential safety risk. I hope that the right balance is reached between alternative energy sources and the safety of residents. The safety of Massachusetts residents is paramount in my mind, and we must ensure that the Pilgrim nuclear reactor is safe to the surrounding area.

The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant is a twin to the reactor in Fukushima, Japan and could fail because of loss of power and human error as the Fukushima Plant did. During the crisis at Fukushima, the U.S. government advised its citizens in the area to evacuate if they were within 50 miles of the area. The Pilgrim Plant has only a 10 mile emergency planning zone.

In addition, all spent nuclear fuel from the Pilgrim Plant is stored in the attic of the reactor. Designed to hold only 880 fuel assemblies, it now holds over 3,270. If there were to be a catastrophic fire or other disaster to the containment of the spent fuel, there would be billions of dollars in damages and significantly higher cancer risks for surrounding residents. The damage was not this high in Fukushima because they had taken most of the spent fuel from the fuel pools and put it in dry casks, which has not been done at the Pilgrim Plant.

It is for these reasons that I respectfully request that the NRC suspend further action on the application renewal of license for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station until additional safety measures are considered and implemented.

Sincerely,


Sen. Robert L. Hedlund
Plymouth and Norfolk District

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