



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 6, 2012

Mr. Larry Ballantine, Chairman
Harwich Board of Selectmen
732 Main Street
Harwich, MA 02645

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of May 21, 2012, regarding the Town of Harwich's vote to request the NRC and the Governor of Massachusetts to extend the emergency zone and radiological response plan around Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS), in Plymouth, from a radius of 10 miles to an area that would include all of Cape Cod as part of the license renewal of PNPS.

The Commission considered the need for a review of emergency planning issues in the context of license renewal during its rulemaking proceedings relating to 10 CFR Part 54. As discussed in the Statement of Consideration for rulemaking (56 FR 64966), the programs for emergency preparedness at nuclear power facilities apply to all nuclear power facility licensees and require the specified levels of protection from each licensee regardless of plant design, construction, or whether the license has been renewed. Requirements related to emergency planning are in the regulations at 10 CFR 50.47 and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. These requirements apply to all operating licenses and will continue to apply to facilities with renewed licenses. Through its standards and required exercises, the Commission reviews existing emergency preparedness plans throughout the life of any facility, keeping up with changing demographics and other site-related factors.

In accordance with Title 10 CFR Part 54, the scope of the license renewal is limited to long-lived, passive safety-related components and time limited aging analysis. If, at any time, the NRC receives information from inspection activities or reporting activities that shows there is a basis to question the continued safe operation of PNPS, including emergency preparedness, the agency can take the appropriate actions as part of its ongoing safety oversight. For additional information on the license renewal process, please review the information provided on the agency's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

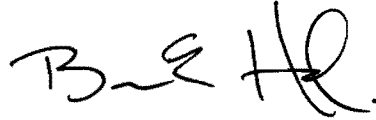
The renewed Pilgrim license was issued on May 29, 2012, and will expire on June 8, 2032.

L. Ballantine

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We appreciate hearing your views and thank you for your interest in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dennis Morey, Chief, Projects Branch 1, in the Division of License Renewal at 301-415-6852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B-E Holian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Letter to Harwich Board of Selectmen from B. Holian dated July 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Response to Harwich Board of Selectmen

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L. Ballantine

- 2 -

We appreciate hearing your views and thank you for your interest in the matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dennis Morey, Chief, Projects Branch 1, in the Division of License Renewal at (301) 415-6852.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*concurrence via email

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