



SECRETARY

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

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 4, 2019, to Chairman Svinicki regarding concerns raised at the January 15, 2019, Government-to-Government meeting with officials representing the NRC about the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Massachusetts, as it pertains to the pending application to transfer the plant's operating license and the decommissioning process. Your letter requests information pertinent to these matters.

Specifically, the NRC is reviewing an application filed by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENOI) received on November 16, 2018. The application seeks NRC approval of the direct and indirect transfers of the renewed facility operating license for Pilgrim as well as the general license for the Pilgrim Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. ENOI on behalf of itself and Entergy Nuclear Generation Company, Holtec International (Holtec), and Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (HDI) requests that the NRC consent to (1) the indirect transfer of control of the Licenses to Holtec; and (2) the direct transfer of ENOI's operating authority to HDI. The NRC is also considering amending the renewed facility operating license for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer.

On February 20, 2019, the NRC received two hearing requests on the license transfer application, from the State of Massachusetts and Pilgrim Watch. These hearing requests raise substantially the same issues raised in your letter, particularly relating to financial assurance for decommissioning Pilgrim and the environmental review associated with the license transfer application. Because the application is the subject of a current adjudication, the Commission must remain impartial during the pendency of the proceeding. Due to the nature of the Commission's adjudicatory role, I trust that you will understand that it would be inappropriate at this time for the Chairman to discuss or comment on issues involved in this matter.

A copy of your letter and this response will be served on the participants in the Pilgrim license transfer proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Annette Vietti-Cook", is written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Keating
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515