

# *Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts*

## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN MANAGER

August 26, 2019



The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 0-1604  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

***RE: Request that NRC Delay (or Reverse) Decision on Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's License Transfer***

Dear Chairman Svinicki,

On behalf of the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, we write to urge you to direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to delay or reverse the ruling on the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station license transfer request from Entergy and Holtec (Docket No. 50-293 & 72-1004) until after the Commission has ruled upon the petitions and motion currently in the proceeding docket.


On August 22, 2019, NRC staff approved the transfer of Pilgrim's license from Entergy Nuclear Operations to Holtec Decommissioning International (HDI) as the operator for decommissioning and renamed the site to Holtec Pilgrim. Also, the NRC issued a regulatory exemption to Holtec Pilgrim LLC and HDI to use the decommissioning trust fund, heretofore restricted for the removal of radiological material, for spent fuel management and site restoration activities. As part of these proceedings, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Pilgrim Watch, a local citizens' organization, both filed petitions to intervene and for hearing requests. On August 2, 2019, the Commonwealth additionally filed a motion to ask the NRC to stay its activities on the license transfer to allow the Attorney General's office more time to discuss a settlement with Entergy and Holtec.

The petitions and motion were filed in the correct fashion and within all relevant deadlines, as laid out in the Federal Register notice announcing the application. However, the NRC staff said that they can reach a decision on the license transfer without waiting for a ruling on either motion or the petition. Issuing a decision on the license transfer request without input from either the Commonwealth or the local community would be an unacceptable undermining of the public's ability to weigh in on NRC actions and would undercut the promise of a rigorous evaluation of the license transfer request. Therefore, we ask that the NRC staff stay the August 22 order until the NRC has ruled upon relevant petitions and motions. We also urge the Commission to grant the petitions for hearings in order to improve transparency and provide an opportunity for the interveners to get answers to their questions about the applicants.

If the NRC is serious about its process for soliciting comments and requests for hearings in its proceedings, it will wait for rulings before deciding on the application. The NRC should not put industry timelines above the statutory requirement for a thorough process that includes the opportunity for public involvement.

Sincerely,

**DUXBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

  
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David J. Madigan, Chair  
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Theodore J. Flynn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn M. Dahlen

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**OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER**

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