

EDWARD J. MARKEY

7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE
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RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States
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October 19, 1998

Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

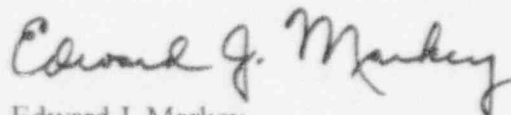
Dear Ms. Jackson:

I am writing regarding the sale of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station by Boston Edison. I recently received a letter from the Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy expressing concern that detailed records of site contamination could potentially be lost in the plant transfer and requesting that complete records, including site maps, of the low-level radioactive waste burial sites and of sites contaminated by accidental releases be given to the NRC and to Commonwealth regulators and placed on file. It is important that these records remain readily available to ensure the safety of plant operations and of the eventual cleanup and disposition of the site.

Please keep me informed of what you are doing to ensure the continued integrity and availability of these records.

I am enclosing the letter from the Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey

Enclosure

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Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy

29 Temple Place, Boston MA 02111

[617] 292-4821 phone * [617] 292-8057 fax * e-mail mwilson@toxicsaction.org

148 Washington Street, Duxbury MA 02332

[781] 934-0389 phone * [781] 934-5579 fax * e-mail jlampert@idt.net

October 6, 1998

Congressman Edward Markey
Rayburn Office Bldg.,
Washington DC 20515

**RE: Pilgrim NPS: Preserving Written Record Of
Contamination Prior To Transfer Ownership BECO To PECO**

Dear Congressman Markey:

We are told that Boston Edison will soon officially announce the sale of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, Plymouth MA, to PECO - no doubt technically to AmerGen, a joint venture of PECO and British Energy of Edinburgh, UK. This presents many issues/problems, not the least of which, preserving the record of waste disposal so that it does not become "lost" in the transfer.

Pilgrim is, for all practical purposes, a radioactive waste dump located on an eroding coastline overlooking Massachusetts Bay. It is important that, when the time comes, it is properly & thoroughly cleaned up. This requires, among many things, the preservation of precise contamination records - important records can get "lost" in the transfer of ownership.

Pilgrim was allowed to bury low-level radioactive waste (defined as waste other than spent fuel rods) and mixed radioactive waste on-site from 1972 until the mid-1980's. We know that they buried waste through 1986. *It is important that a written record, inclusive of site map, of burial sites be turned over to the Commonwealth & federal regulators as part of the "paper work" in the sale of Pilgrim to PECO.* We hope that you will reinforce our request that this happens.

Pilgrim was the site of the second worst releases in US history, 1982. For example, in June of 1982, they blew their filters resulting in significant on & off site contamination of radioactive resin. Soil samples were taken


by federal & state authorities. *Original maps and detailed reports taken at that time should also be on file with the Commonwealth & federal regulators.* We hope that you will help us with assuring that this happens, too.

It is clear that the liability issues between BECO and PECO be settled before all aspects of the sale are finalized; so that public health and safety doesn't suffer while each party plays the "he did it" game when it comes time to actually clean up.

Enclosed, you will find our letter on the subject to Gerald Rainey, President & Chief Nuclear Officer, PECO.

We thank you for any help that you can give us on this important issue and please keep us "in-the-loop" of any actions/correspondence that may occur between you and pertinent parties on this issue.

Sincerely,


Mary Elizabeth Lampert
Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy
Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee

Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy

29 Temple Place, Boston MA 02111

[617] 292-4821 phone * [617] 292-8057 fax * e-mail mwilson@toxicsaction.org

148 Washington Street, Duxbury MA 02332

[781] 934-0389 phone * [781] 934-5579 fax * e-mail jlampert@dt.net

October 5, 1998

Gerald Rainey
President & Chief Nuclear Officer
PECO Nuclear Headquarters
965 Chesterbrook Blvd.,
Wayne, PA 19087-5691

RE: Pilgrim NPS

Dear Mr. Rainey:

As you know, NRC regulations have permitted Boston Edison Company (BECO) to bury some radioactive waste on site. Those of us in this region have serious concerns about the health and other risks presented by this buried waste. We also question whether BECO has accurately reported either the locations of every site in which waste has been buried or the amount and type of waste buried in each site.

As part of the sale of Pilgrim Station to you, we are asking that the Commonwealth and the NRC require a complete and accurate reporting (written and inclusive of site map) by BECO of all radioactive waste buried or otherwise disposed of by it within the site or elsewhere; and that the reports be made available to the Commonwealth, NRC and be part of the public record.

We are also asking that the Commonwealth and the NRC insure that you and BECO are held responsible for any liabilities that might arise in the future as a result of any radioactive waste disposal efforts, and that both you and BECO be especially responsible for anything that either of you has failed to report.

Thanking you for your attention and timely response, I am sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Lampert
Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy

cc. Senators Kennedy & Kerry; Congressman William Delahunt; Congressman Edward Markey; NRC Chairman Shirley Jackson; Acting Governor Paul Cellucci; Attorney General Scott Harshbarger; MA DTE Chair, Gail Besser; Senators Hedlund and Murray; Representatives Tom O'Brien, Ruth Provost; Frank Hynes; Fran Merilli; Joseph Gallitano; Boards of Selectmen, Towns of Plymouth, Carver, Duxbury, Kingston, Marshfield.