

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 15, 2015

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Burns:

We write to request that the Commission ensure that the remaining period during which the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA operates receives the utmost attention to safety and security, and that the reactor's operations are adequately funded by Entergy. We additionally ask for your assistance with ensuring that the reactor's subsequent decommissioning occurs quickly, with all needed measures to protect public health and safety, and assistance for the workers whose jobs will be lost when the reactor shuts down.

On October 13, 2015, Entergy announced that Pilgrim would be permanently shutting down no later than June 1, 2019. This announcement comes following the September 2 announcement that the NRC had listed the reactor in "Column 4," the least safe of its operating reactor safety ratings, which means that Pilgrim has had multiple and repetitive safety problems that require increased NRC oversight. We ask that as the reactor continues to operate while also preparing for its eventual shut-down, that you affirm your commitment to the following:

- The Commission must ensure that Entergy has, and is spending, resources sufficient to guarantee the safe and secure operation of the facility. In particular, and especially if the reactor will be continuing to operate until 2019, Entergy must work diligently to resolve the safety issues that caused NRC to place it in "Column 4" in the first place.
- The Commission must support the inclusion of State and local officials in Entergy's decommissioning planning process and its implementation to ensure that the economic, safety and environmental needs of the surrounding communities are met.
- The Commission must reject any license application amendment from Entergy that seeks to reduce or eliminate applicable emergency response or security requirements at the reactor until after the spent nuclear fuel is removed from the spent fuel pools and placed into safer dry cask storage following the reactor's permanent shut-down. The National Academy of Sciences¹ and the NRC² have both found that draining of a spent nuclear fuel pool can lead to fires, large radioactive releases and widespread contamination. NRC's analysis has even concluded that the health and economic impacts of a spent fuel fire could equal those caused by a severe accident at an operating reactor. Given the

¹ National Research Council, "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage," 2006

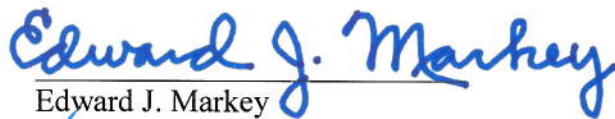
² <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1325/ML13256A342.pdf> and
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML0104/ML010430066.pdf>

geographic near-impossibility of quickly evacuating many of the communities located near the reactor and Pilgrim's recent shut-downs during winter storms that rendered roads near the reactor impassable for days, there is simply no basis to remove common-sense requirements for measures like warning sirens, safety and security drills, and emergency protection zones.

- The Commission must redouble its efforts to ensure the adequacy of Entergy's decommissioning fund for Pilgrim in order to enable the quick decommissioning and remediation of the site so that it can be used for other purposes.
- The Commission must encourage measures to support communities, particularly workers whose jobs will be lost when the reactor shuts down, such as through the availability of grants from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Assistance Programs, to states, localities, non-profit organizations and others to help create jobs following plant closure.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these requests. We look forward to a prompt response.

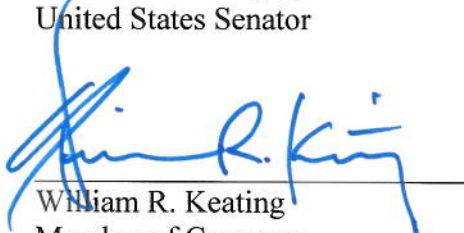
Sincerely,



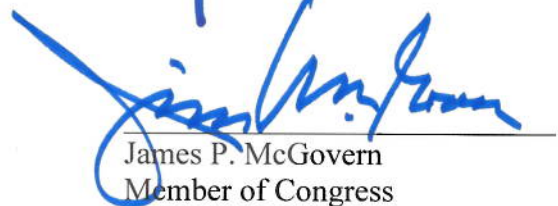
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



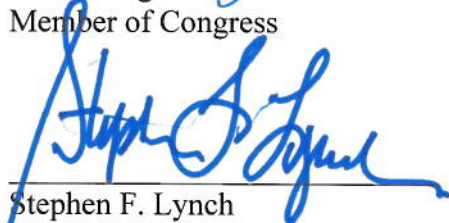
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



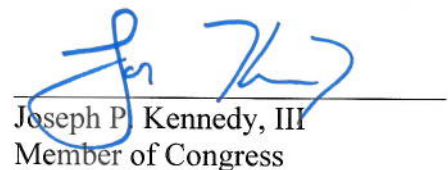
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
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Stephen F. Lynch
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