



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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June 1, 2015

Undersecretary Kurt Schwartz  
Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
400 Worcester Road  
Framingham, MA 01701-5399

Dear Undersecretary Schwartz,

Please accept our thanks for a thoughtful and constructive meeting regarding emergency planning as it relates to the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth (May 20, 2015, 100 Cambridge Street).

Among the important topics raised, we note your comment that further examination of the Commonwealth's policies, oversight and guidance during serious storm events in the Plymouth area is merited. With that excellent thought in mind, we would like to offer the following:

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's crucial responsibility is to create and execute emergency plans, including evacuation, in the event of a crisis at Pilgrim.

There is consensus that such evacuation plans could not be implemented during serious storm events, including even moderate snowfalls.

Therefore, MEMA should direct the nuclear power station to power down and go offline during any meteorological event that makes evacuation infeasible or impossible.

Obviously, any time state government institutes travel bans or travel restrictions for Southeastern Massachusetts, this should apply.

In addition, should travel conditions significantly reduce speed, visibility, and road quality, this directive should be implemented.

MEMA should create a clear policy as to when and how this order would be issued.

Implementing this policy is not suggesting that every significant storm would create a public safety issue at Pilgrim. It is acknowledging that if any public safety issue did arise during such an event, either related to weather or coincidental, MEMA would not be able to implement the evacuation and emergency response procedures it is required to have in place.

This directive also would not eliminate dangers posed by the spent fuel pool, should there be a malfunction at the plant. But it would assure that the reactor itself is in the most stable condition possible, which is a significant safety benefit.

MEMA has the authority and jurisdiction to implement this policy, given the Commonwealth's right and obligation to protect the safety of its residents. While the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has guidelines already in place to power down nuclear power plants in certain weather conditions, we believe these guidelines should be supplemented by state standards given our unique geographic situation and other unusual conditions relative to Pilgrim.

Thank you for your response at the earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



State Senator Daniel A. Wolf  
Cape and Islands District



State Representative Sarah Peake  
Fourth Barnstable District

CC:

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