

Whereas, already in 1972, an Atomic Energy Commission safety official recommended that the GE Mark 1 BWR design of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA, 38 miles from Newton, “be discontinued because it presents unacceptable safety risks”, and

Whereas the 43-year old Pilgrim is now old and decrepit, past its design life, and has been downgraded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be one of the 5 least safe in the country, out of 100, because of its frequent emergency shutdowns, and because Pilgrim has failed to fix some of the critical problems the NRC told it to fix, and

Whereas a Pentagon-commissioned analysis has concluded that it is one of the 8 most vulnerable to catastrophic terror attack because of its unprotected ocean cooling water intake, and

Whereas a Massachusetts Attorney General's Office report concluded that a loss of cooling, for any reason, of the triply overloaded spent fuel pool would ignite a fire that could spread a highly radioactive plume hundreds of miles downwind, and cause an estimated 24,000 eventual cancers and a devastating \$582 billion in damages, while people forced to abandon their homes would receive from Pilgrim only a tiny sliver of the actual value of their homes, and nothing at all from their homeowners insurance, and

Whereas the Nuclear Regulatory Commission recommended for Americans in Japan a 50-mile radius evacuation zone around the Fukushima nuclear disaster, a zone which, around Pilgrim, would include all of Cape Cod and the greater Boston area (including Newton), neither of which could be evacuated in time in a sudden major nuclear emergency, and

Whereas, if Pilgrim is closed, its 2% contribution to the ISO New England electrical generation capacity would be hardly missed, according to an ISO New England projection of 12% - 20% reserve capacity over the next 10 years,

Now therefore, shall Governor Charles Baker instruct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revoke the operating license of the 43-year old Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, because the safety of the public cannot be assured?

Vote: A) Yes, Governor should instruct NRC to close Pilgrim.
OR
B) No, he should not.