

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/01/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110446
DOC DT: 06/02/11
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Scott P. Brown

TO:

Schmidt, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 11-0340

Borchardt, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant Safety Concerns
(EDATS: SECY-2011-0337)

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Muessle
OGC/GC
Leeds, NRR
Dean, RI
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 06/14/11

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm to coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

EURIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0337

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 7/1/2011 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 7/6/2011 11:00 PM

Subject: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant Safety Concerns

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; RegionI; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110446, LTR-11-0340

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: EDO

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: NO

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm to coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Scott P. Brown

Date of Incoming: 6/2/2011

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 6/13/2011

Addressee: Rebecca Schmidt, OCA

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 13, 2011 16:48

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-11-0340 **LOGGING DATE:** 06/09/2011
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Scott Brown
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: Rebecca Schmidt
SUBJECT: Constituent correspondence - concerns about the possibility of a nuclear disaster occurring at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant

ACTION: Signature of EDO
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 06/02/2011

ACKNOWLEDGED: No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 07/06/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

SCOTT P. BROWN
MASSACHUSETTS

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Ms. Rebecca Schmidt
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

June 2, 2011

To Ms. Schmidt,

I am writing to you today on behalf of a few constituents who are concerned about the possibility of a nuclear disaster occurring because they believe the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts is unsafe.

The 40-year-old power plant is applying to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to renew its license and continue operations for another 20 years. My constituents are concerned that if this request is approved, Plymouth, and the entire state of Massachusetts will be subjected to unnecessary risk of a nuclear disaster for another 20 years.

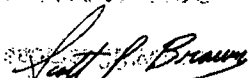
In 2010, the NRC calculated the odds of catastrophic failure in each of the 104 nuclear reactors existing in the United States. The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant ranked second for risk of severe core damage. This at-risk reactor has the same General Electric Mark 1 design as five of Japan's six Fukushima reactors which experienced catastrophic failure in March and are still emitting radiation, contaminating the air, sea, and groundwater.

In addition to the at-risk reactor core, another concern is that the spent fuel rods stored in the plant's storage pool far exceed the pool's capacity. The original design limit of the pool was 880 assemblies. When this limit was exceeded, the NRC modified the regulation and allowed the very same pool to store 3,859 assemblies. In Japan's March 2011 Nuclear Disaster, it was the spent-fuel pool that leaked large amounts of radiation causing the disaster. If the generators at the Pilgrim Plant were ever to fail, a disaster of the same or even worse caliber could occur.

As a United States Senator representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it is my responsibility to ensure the safety of my constituents and all of the citizens of Massachusetts. For this reason, I urge you to carefully consider all public opinion before renewing the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant's license.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown
United States Senator

63 Puritan Way
Duxbury, MA 02332
781-934-0595
May 30, 2011

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2102

Dear Senator Brown:

I recently read the letter to the Editor from Carol Dwyer of Concord in *The Boston Globe* (May 21, 2011, page 10 – A section) which referred to a study from the NRC which recalculated the odds of catastrophic failure in the reactors of the 104 US nuclear power plants and the fact that the Pilgrim Nuclear Power plant was ranked 2nd for risk of severe core damage. A previous article in *The Boston Globe* was written on another report that deems US nuclear plants are unsafe due to problems with nuclear backup power (May 13, 2011, Page A2).

I am asking for your help. I live in Duxbury, at 63 Puritan Way and I am approximately 10 miles away from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is thinking of renewing the license for Pilgrim and based on the many issues raised in the articles (as indicated above) I think the license should **not** be renewed. My neighbors and I are very concerned about the disasters that could arise in Plymouth and in our town and surrounding towns if these issues are not addressed prior to renewing the license. Based on the horror of what happened recently in Japan, we are extremely concerned. Please look into this matter and get back to me.

Sincerely,



Margaret Delaney
MD/bjc
FAX: 202-228-2646

From:

NRC mustn't renew license for Pilgrim nuclear plant

THE 40-YEAR-OLD Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth is unsafe, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should reject its request to renew its license to

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continue operations for another 20 years ("Problems cited with nuclear backup power: Report comes as panel deems US sites safe," Page A2, May 13).

When in 2010 the NRC recalculated the odds of catastrophic failure in each of the 104 US reactors, Pilgrim ranked second for risk of severe core damage. The Pilgrim reactor is the same General Electric Mark 1 design as five of the six Fukushima reactors, which are still, two months after the March 11 earthquake, emitting high levels of radiation into the groundwater, sea, and air.

Most significant, the Pilgrim plant's highly radioactive spent fuel rods are stored in a pool of water at nearly four times the

pool's capacity. When the original design limit of 880 assemblies was exceeded, the NRC changed the rules to allow the same pool to have 3,859 assemblies. This storage pool is sensitive to a disastrous fire, but it isn't considered in the NRC's reviews for license renewal. The spent fuel pool at Pilgrim contains many times the radiation in Chernobyl and a fire could contaminate an area three times the size of Massachusetts.

The NRC decisions on renewing licenses appear to be biased in favor of the power companies. The agency has approved every request — 66 in a row.

We need to speak up.

CAROL DWYER
Conc

05/31/2011 3:04PM (GMT-04:00)

05/31/2011 13:56 #294 P.003/003