

Memo to File: April 29, 2019

Attached is the transcript of the  
Annual Assessment Meeting for  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station held on  
March 26, 2019.



**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: 2019 Pilgrim Annual Assessment Meeting

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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2019 PILGRIM ANNUAL ASSESSMENT MEETING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY

MARCH 26, 2019

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The meeting was convened in Hotel  
1620, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts,  
Donna Janda, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

ELISE BURKET, Senior Resident Inspector,  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

ANTHONY DIMITRIADIS, Branch Chief, Projects  
Branch 5

DAVID LEW, Regional Administrator, Region I

BRUCE WATSON, Chief, Reactor Decommissioning  
Branch

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C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

NRC Introduction and Opening Remarks  
     by Donna Janda . . . . . 3

NRC Discussion of NRC Oversight  
     by David Lew and Anthony Dimitriadis . . . 11

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NRC Closing Remarks  
     by David Lew . . . . . 95

## P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1  
2 MS. JANDA: Good evening, everyone. We're  
3 going to go ahead and get started if everyone could  
4 take a seat. Hello and welcome to the Pilgrim Nuclear  
5 Power Station annual assessment meeting.

6 My name is Donna Janda and tonight I'll be  
7 serving as the facilitator for this meeting. And  
8 Brett Klukan who is over in the corner to my right  
9 over there will be helping me out with this task  
10 tonight.

11 So here's how, before we do anything I  
12 just want to talk about exits really quick. If you  
13 could for a regular exit just use those middle doors.  
14 Is that okay, sorry, okay?

15 So just use those middle doors right  
16 there. The front doors and the back doors right there  
17 on the side are locked at this time.

18 But in the event of an emergency we have  
19 the doors on the side, the doors to the back and the  
20 doors to my left which are to the kitchen area and  
21 that can take you outside also. So in an emergency  
22 any of the doors.

23 But right now if you need to go out or use  
24 a restroom or you want to sign up to speak please use  
25 those middle doors right there. So here's how the

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1 meeting is going to be structured tonight.

2 We're going to begin with the presentation  
3 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the assessment  
4 of safety performance at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power  
5 Station for 2018. The remainder of the meeting will  
6 be an opportunity for members of the public to ask the  
7 assembled NRC staff questions concerning performance  
8 issues at Pilgrim or to present comments regarding the  
9 same.

10 With respect to the second half of the  
11 meeting, on the registration table just outside the  
12 doors to the meeting room there's a sign up sheet for  
13 public speakers. When you register to speak you'll  
14 receive a ticket and the other half of which we  
15 collected in the container that's currently at the  
16 registration table.

17 The speaking order will be determined by  
18 the numbers that are pulled from the container and the  
19 intent of which is that the speaker order be at  
20 random. Just so you have some advance warning of when  
21 it's your turn to speak we'll be posting the numbers  
22 on the screen over here to my right as they are  
23 selected.

24 And I'd like to thank Matt and Pete over  
25 here to my left for assisting me with that. So if you

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1 would like to speak this evening and haven't already  
2 done so please step outside through those middle doors  
3 and add your name to the list prior to the end of the  
4 NRC's presentation.

5           Once we resume with the second half of the  
6 meeting we're not going to add any more tickets to the  
7 container. But if you then decide you do want to  
8 speak, you know, and you register late you will have  
9 an opportunity to speak if the container has been  
10 exhausted and if time otherwise permits.

11           For your awareness, the meeting tonight is  
12 being recorded and a transcript will be generated  
13 after the meeting. Both the audio and the transcript  
14 will be posted to the NRC website.

15           So in light of that I would ask that when  
16 it is your turn to speak that you please identify  
17 yourself. And I would also ask for the sake of the  
18 audio recording that people not speak over each other.

19           I would ask also that we keep the area  
20 beyond the front row clear. If you have something  
21 that you would like to give to the NRC staff please  
22 hand it to me or to Brett.

23           Now for some basic ground rules, while  
24 recognizing that many of you have strongly held  
25 opinions concerning the matters to be discussed

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1           tonight I ask that you nonetheless adhere to civil  
2           decorum, that you respect each other.

3                       So please do not disrupt each other. Just  
4           as you wouldn't want to be interrupted during your  
5           three minutes at the microphone please respect the  
6           speaking time of others.

7                       Threatening gestures or statements will  
8           under no circumstances be tolerated and will be cause  
9           for immediate ejection from the meeting. If you feel  
10          that you've been threatened please let me know or  
11          please tell one of the NRC staff present at this  
12          meeting.

13                      So a few minor housekeeping matters. The  
14          restrooms are located through those middle doors and  
15          they are straight across that hallway where the tables  
16          are for registration. And as I mentioned already  
17          where the exits are.

18                      And while cameras are permitted please try  
19          not to obstruct the view of other audience members and  
20          if you would be so kind to please silence your cell  
21          phones at this time.

22                      At this point I would like to offer  
23          elected officials or any official representatives of  
24          any elected officials that are here tonight on their  
25          behalf the opportunity to stand and be recognized.

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1                   So is there anyone who just wants to  
2 introduce themselves?

3                   MR. MURATORE: Good evening. I'm Matthew  
4 Muratore, State Rep for Plymouth.

5                   MS. JANDA: Good evening.

6                   MR. MURATORE: And with me is Kathleen  
7 LaNatra, State Rep for the 12th Plymouth District that  
8 includes Plymouth and Monica Mullen is here from Vinny  
9 DeMacedo's office.

10                  MS. JANDA: Thank you. Any other elected  
11 officials who want to be recognized at this point?  
12 Okay. So at this point I'm going to introduce the NRC  
13 staff that's assembled on the dais here.

14                  I will start with David Lew. Mr. Lew is  
15 the Regional Administrator for NRC Region 1. Prior to  
16 that he served as the Deputy Regional Administrator  
17 for Region 1 and had been in that role since January  
18 2011.

19                  Prior to his appointment to the NRC Senior  
20 Executive Service in February of 2004 he was a  
21 resident inspector at Oyster Creek and Indian Point 2  
22 and a senior resident inspector at Indian Point 3.

23                  To Mr. Lew's left is Anthony Dimitriadis.  
24 Mr. Dimitriadis is the Branch Chief of Project Branch  
25 5 which is responsible for oversight of Pilgrim and

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1 FitzPatrick Nuclear Plants.

2 Mr. Dimitriadis had previously served as  
3 Branch Chief of Projects Branch 1 responsible for  
4 oversight of Calvert Cliffs, Nine Mile Point and Ginna  
5 (phonetic). Previous to that he served as Branch  
6 Chief of Plant Support Branch in the Division of  
7 Reactor Safety managing inspections associated with  
8 security and emergency preparedness.

9 Mr. Dimitriadis has worked for the NRC  
10 Region 1 for 28 years and has previously served as an  
11 inspector and senior inspector. He graduated from  
12 Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science degree in  
13 Physics.

14 And to Mr. Dimitriadis's left is Elise  
15 Burket. Ms. Burket is the Senior Resident Inspector  
16 at Pilgrim. Prior to that Ms. Burket worked as a  
17 reactor inspector in the Division of Reactor Safety in  
18 Region 1.

19 Prior to joining the NRC in 2008, Ms.  
20 Burket served as a nuclear surface warfare officer in  
21 the U.S. Navy for seven years. She currently is a  
22 Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserves and serves  
23 as the officer in charge of her reserve unit.

24 She was recalled to active duty in 2015  
25 for a 10 month deployment to the Middle East. And to

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1 Ms. Burket's left is Mr. Bruce Watson.

2 Mr. Watson is the Chief of the Reactor  
3 Decommissioning Branch in the Division of  
4 Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs  
5 in the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and  
6 Safeguards.

7 He has been with the NRC since March of  
8 2004. He has extensive experience in decommissioning  
9 of reactor and material sites and was the technical  
10 lead for the license terminations at Trojan, Maine  
11 Yankee, Rancho Seco and Big Rock Point.

12 Now let me turn it over to Mr. Lew, Region  
13 1's regional administrator.

14 MR. LEW: Okay, thank you, Donna. First,  
15 let me welcome everyone to the NRC's annual assessment  
16 meeting. I recognize that the majority of you today  
17 are most interested in making statements and asking  
18 questions.

19 And to be respectful of your time and your  
20 interests Tony will make a presentation here that  
21 should take less than ten minutes. Before I turn it  
22 over we recognize that there is a great interest in  
23 decommissioning.

24 As a result we have Bruce Watson who as  
25 our Decommissioning Branch here, he will help answer

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1 some of those questions. But we also have Ray Powell  
2 who is one of my branch chiefs.

3 He is sitting in the second row here to  
4 the left. And he will be responsible for the  
5 oversight of Pilgrim once the plant shuts down.

6 You may have met both gentlemen earlier in  
7 January when they were in Plymouth to meet with the  
8 public on the post shutdown decommissioning activities  
9 report as well as present to the Nuclear  
10 Decommissioning Citizen's Advisory Panel.

11 And the information on those two meetings  
12 are available on our website as well as YouTube.  
13 Unfortunately, we will not be able to answer specific  
14 decommissioning question as it relates to Pilgrim's  
15 license transfer as that is still under review and  
16 pre-decision.

17 And as many of you know, there has been  
18 contentions for which a hearing is requested and being  
19 considered by the Commission. However, we will be  
20 able to answer process questions as well as past  
21 operating experience from decommissioned sites.

22 So with that I'm going to turn it over to  
23 Tony.

24 MR. DIMITRIADIS: Okay, thank you, Dave.  
25 Good evening, everyone. I will go through six slides

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1 to discuss Pilgrim's performance in 2018. If you can  
2 go to Slide 3.

3 Based on the inputs that I'm going to  
4 present here the NRC determined that Pilgrim operated  
5 safely in 2018 and showed performance improvement.  
6 It's also important to note that the site showed a  
7 marked improvement in site safety culture.

8 In reviewing Pilgrim's performance for  
9 2018 we took into consideration all of the inspections  
10 and noted that Pilgrim successfully met all of the  
11 commitments outlined in the Confirmatory Action Letter  
12 or as we say the CAL. I'll refer to that term later  
13 on.

14 Also part of our assessment we reviewed a  
15 number of performance indicators to evaluate how the  
16 plant performed in the past year. So in 2018 Pilgrim  
17 had no performance indicators that were greater than  
18 green and additionally Pilgrim had no inspection  
19 findings that were greater than green.

20 Therefore, we determined that Pilgrim  
21 operated safely in 2018. We came to this conclusion  
22 by following our process.

23 We collected all of the inspection  
24 information from the past year and in March of this  
25 year we determined that Pilgrim's performance was

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1 representative of Column 1 performance.

2 This determination was based on our, based  
3 on inspections as well as the five team CAL  
4 inspections. Next slide please.

5 To give some background on how we got  
6 here, in 2015 the NRC placed Pilgrim in Column 4 of  
7 the NRC's action matrix due to the identification of  
8 low to moderate or white safety findings and  
9 performance indicators.

10 The NRC's reactor oversight process action  
11 matrix basically has five columns that identifies the  
12 range of NRC and licensee actions where Column 1 is  
13 normal oversight where no additional oversight is  
14 required.

15 As performance of a plant declines in  
16 general its assessment can go into the action matrix  
17 from Column 1 to Column 5. As licensee's performance  
18 degrades the NRC may transition a plant in the action  
19 matrix from Columns 2 to 3 to 4 or to 5 where  
20 increasing additional NRC engagement is required  
21 beyond the normal inspection program.

22 In this case Pilgrim was placed in Column  
23 4 back in 2015 and we began enhanced oversight which  
24 means a lot of additional inspections. Column 4 of  
25 the NRC's action matrix means that the plant while

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1 safe to operate had reduced safety margins.

2 And you can get more information about  
3 what Column 4 is all about in our Inspection Manual,  
4 Chapter 03035. Issues that contributed to this change  
5 in columns included their electrical switch yard  
6 reliability concerns and ineffective corrective  
7 actions specifically to address the multiple  
8 complicated scrams experienced at the plant in the  
9 previous years including one involving a failed safety  
10 relief valve.

11 This all pointed to a poor site safety  
12 culture which we define as the core values and  
13 behaviors resulting from a collective commitment by  
14 leaders and individuals to emphasize safety over  
15 competing goals to ensure protection of people and the  
16 environment.

17 Following Pilgrim's placement in Column 4  
18 we performed a series of comprehensive diagnostic team  
19 inspections called the supplemental inspections as  
20 part of our review process for plants in this  
21 category.

22 These inspections provided an in-depth,  
23 independent review of what led to the decline of plant  
24 performance and assured continued safe operation. In  
25 2017, we completed our supplemental inspections.

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1           And that report was issued in May of 2017.  
2           Later that year in August of 2017 we issued what I  
3           referred to earlier as the CAL, the Confirmatory  
4           Action Letter that outlined Entergy's commitments and  
5           the individual actions associated with each focus area  
6           which we independently evaluated through direct  
7           inspections.

8           In 2017 we saw progress and improvement in  
9           Pilgrim's performance.    However, we had not yet  
10          determined whether this progress and improvement was  
11          sustainable in large part because there was a lot,  
12          there was remaining, there remained significant work  
13          to be done to address the underlying causes.

14          So despite observing improved performance  
15          we kept Pilgrim in Column 4 in 2017 or what we call  
16          the multiple repetitive degraded cornerstone column of  
17          the reactor oversight process.   Next slide please.

18          This slide reflects what we did in 2018.  
19          In 2018 Entergy corrected all of the issues that led  
20          to moving Pilgrim into Column 4.   For example, Entergy  
21          addressed and we closed all of the white findings the  
22          last of which was closed in June of last year, 2018.

23          We examined Entergy's actions by  
24          conducting five team inspections to evaluate such  
25          actions that Entergy implemented over the course of 14

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1 months. We call these inspections the CAL follow up  
2 inspections that I referred to earlier.

3 And we completed the last of these type of  
4 inspections on January 16th of this year, 2019.  
5 Through these CAL inspections our NRC staff inspected  
6 and verified that all 156 action items, individual  
7 action items were closed, complete and effective.

8 Based on this work we determined that  
9 Entergy has demonstrated sustained performance  
10 improvement at Pilgrim in 2018, satisfactorily  
11 completed the work necessary for us to close the  
12 Confirmatory Action Letter and addressed the issues  
13 that led us to placing Pilgrim in Column 4 including  
14 the associated underlying causes.

15 As a result we have moved Pilgrim from  
16 Column 4 to Column 1 of the action matrix. Next slide  
17 please.

18 We committed a significant portion of our  
19 inspection effort in assessing Pilgrim's safety  
20 culture. Our inspections included focus groups, one-  
21 on-one interviews and direct inspections to verify  
22 corrective actions.

23 Based on these inspections we determined  
24 that Entergy has indeed demonstrated a marked  
25 improvement in safety culture. And this is something

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1 that we think is very, very important which is why I  
2 focused on it a little bit.

3 Over the course of 2018 we saw a  
4 significant improvement with respect to effective and  
5 timely corrective actions. That's another piece of  
6 that.

7 As part of the site's recovery plan  
8 Entergy took significant actions to train the site's  
9 management on appropriate risk recognition and  
10 decision making.

11 For example, site procedures were revised  
12 to ensure the risk of significant plant impacts,  
13 whether it is weather, equipment failures or changes  
14 on the grid have been and are appropriately considered  
15 during decisions related to plant operations and  
16 maintenance.

17 Lastly, Pilgrim staff increased their  
18 focus on effective and consistent use of human  
19 performance tools through training and increased  
20 management observations of field activities which  
21 helped reduce the number of human performance events.  
22 Next slide, please.

23 And coming to our assessment we considered  
24 the observations and insights from nearly 11,000 hours  
25 of inspections at Pilgrim in the last year. All

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1 findings were of very low significance or as we say  
2 green.

3 Performance indicators were all green with  
4 improving trends. The frequency and significance of  
5 equipment problems declined.

6 As I mentioned in an earlier slide, our  
7 assessment concluded that Pilgrim's actions to address  
8 the underlying causes were completed satisfactorily.  
9 We arrived at this conclusion based on our independent  
10 verification that all 156 actions in the CAL were  
11 completed.

12 Based on the sustained improvement  
13 demonstrated Pilgrim was returned to normal NRC  
14 oversight, or as we say Column 1. Our oversight of  
15 Pilgrim will continue through decommissioning. Next  
16 slide, please.

17 We will continue our inspections with a  
18 strong focus on safety and security until shutdown to  
19 ensure that Pilgrim sustains its safety performance.  
20 We will maintain strong oversight through the  
21 shutdown, decommissioning and fuel storage.

22 After Pilgrim shuts down and transitions  
23 to decommissioning we expect some level of  
24 decommissioning activities to commence at the site.  
25 Routine decommissioning inspections will be conducted

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1 once the fuel is removed from the reactor vessel.

2 We will continue our inspections into the  
3 decommissioning phase where we will examine areas such  
4 as the licensee's safety reviews, spent fuel pool  
5 safety, corrective action program, decommissioning  
6 performance and occupational radiation exposure just  
7 to name a few.

8 These inspections are conducted by  
9 inspectors who have specialized training and have been  
10 qualified in these core inspection procedures and are  
11 managed by our Decommissioning Branch, Ray Powell  
12 which is the Branch Chief within the Division of  
13 Nuclear Material Safety.

14 This concludes my presentation. I just  
15 want to turn it back over to Dave Lew.

16 MR. LEW: Thank you. You can just get  
17 right into Q&A's at this point. Donna.

18 MS. JANDA: Okay, thank you, Dave. So  
19 just a few comments before we begin with the second  
20 half of the meeting.

21 As I noted as part of the introductory  
22 remarks the speaking order will be determined by  
23 numbers pulled from the container that was out in  
24 front of the room, the intent of which is that the  
25 speaker order be random. So when your number is

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1 called please queue up at the aisle microphone.

2 And if you need to have a microphone  
3 brought to you please just let us know, raise your  
4 hand and we will bring you the microphone. I do want  
5 to emphasize there is no prohibition against donating  
6 your ticket to others.

7 You are free to do so. However, both  
8 individuals must be present at the time the number is  
9 called and the donation must be announced at that  
10 time.

11 And if an individual has already spoken  
12 during the meeting as a result of someone donating  
13 their ticket to that person then that individual may  
14 also donate his or her ticket if called to someone  
15 else. But that individual may not use that ticket to  
16 speak again at that point.

17 And in an effort to give as many people as  
18 possible an opportunity to speak this evening please  
19 limit yourself to three minutes when speaking. There  
20 is a clock positioned at the edge of the stage that  
21 will count down three minutes for each speaker.

22 And at the three minute mark I will ask  
23 you politely to conclude. Note that the countdown  
24 clock will be paused if you ask a question in order to  
25 permit the NRC an opportunity to respond.

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1           The clock will resume once you resume  
2 speaking. So if possible, if you can just bundle your  
3 questions together so then the NRC will have an  
4 opportunity to answer all of your questions. Yes,  
5 ma'am.

6           (Off microphone remark.)

7           MS. JANDA: Well there may be an  
8 opportunity to ask additional questions after everyone  
9 has had a chance to talk. So I think we'll --

10          (Off microphone comment.)

11          MS. JANDA: I'm not sure actually at this  
12 point.

13          (Off microphone comment.)

14          MS. JANDA: It's fine. That's fine. So  
15 the reason why we do it in this manner is everybody  
16 gets that opportunity to ask questions or make  
17 comments.

18                 And then if time is permitting we're going  
19 to give people probably another opportunity with some  
20 additional questions. But we really want to make sure  
21 everybody has that opportunity to ask their first set  
22 of questions.

23                 Right now that is the plan, correct, yes.

24          (Off microphone comment.)

25          MS. JANDA: It's not. My understanding is

1 it's not working at this point. I apologize for that.

2 PARTICIPANT: Did you switch the people  
3 that you normally hire to do this because we had it  
4 for the last several meetings and I don't understand  
5 why all of a sudden we don't have it.

6 MS. JANDA: Yes, my understanding is we  
7 did not switch. It's just there was some technical  
8 difficulty at this point with the closed captioning.

9 Okay, so before we begin with the public  
10 speakers we will start with any elected officials or  
11 their representatives who would like to speak or to  
12 offer prepared statements. I do have a list here of  
13 some that said they may want to speak. Rory Clark  
14 from Senator Markey's office.

15 MS. CLARK: Thank you. A statement on  
16 behalf of Senator Edward Markey. For years Pilgrim  
17 Nuclear Power Station has received the lowest operable  
18 safety rating from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

19 Now right as Entergy prepares to shutter  
20 the plant and sell it to new owners the NRC is saying  
21 that all of the safety concerns have been addressed.

22 The surrounding community has earned its  
23 skepticism of Entergy's safety record and it is up to  
24 the NRC to make sure the public is fully engaged and  
25 briefed on this latest step in Pilgrim's process,

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1 particularly as Entergy continues to receive  
2 exemptions from the NRC on safety requirements and as  
3 Entergy and Holtec work to get approval for their  
4 plans to decommission the plant.

5 After the NRC's last public meeting here  
6 in January Senator Warren, Congressman Keating and I  
7 wrote to the NRC asking them to address several  
8 serious financial and environmental questions raised  
9 by this community regarding the proposed sale of the  
10 plant.

11 I am disappointed that the NRC felt it was  
12 unable to offer a substantive response at this time.  
13 This plant may be about to decommission but it will be  
14 a part of this community for decades to come and this  
15 community deserves to be heard.

16 I will continue to fight to ensure that  
17 Pilgrim is held to the highest of safety standards  
18 before, during and after the decommissioning process  
19 and to ensure that this community's ongoing concerns  
20 are received and addressed.

21 I look forward to continuing to work with  
22 the, engage with the NRC, Pilgrim owners and operators  
23 and community stakeholders. Thank you.

24 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Hannah Benson from  
25 Senator Warren's office.



1 MS. BENSON: Hello. I have a statement  
2 here from Senator Warren. Senator Warren remains  
3 extremely concerned about Entergy's management of  
4 Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station as it moves towards  
5 decommissioning later this year.

6 She is disappointed in the Nuclear  
7 Regulatory Commission's recent actions that move  
8 Pilgrim from a Column 4 station, the worst safety  
9 rating a facility can have, to Column 1 without fully  
10 considering the local community's safety concerns.

11 Since Pilgrim entered Column 4 in 2015  
12 Senators Warren and Markey have sent six letters to  
13 the NRC raising concerns about a number of ongoing  
14 security issues at Pilgrim.

15 With the June 1st decommissioning of  
16 Pilgrim fast approaching and the license transfer from  
17 Entergy to Holtec International under review the NRC  
18 must take aggressive steps to hold Entergy and Holtec  
19 accountable, prioritize safety and environmental  
20 concerns and remain transparent with the community  
21 about any actions regarding Pilgrim Nuclear Power  
22 Station. Thank you.

23 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Michael Jackman  
24 from Representative Keating's office.

25 MR. JACKMAN: Thank you. Congressman

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1 Keating apologizes for not being able to be here  
2 tonight. He is in D.C. I am happy to be here to read  
3 a statement on his behalf.

4 I have long urged the NRC to hold Entergy  
5 to the highest inspectional standards so that the  
6 plant was not allowed to remain at the lowest level of  
7 allowable operational safety as it approaches the  
8 cessation of power generation operations.

9 As the June 1st date is now just over 60  
10 days away the decision by the NRC to move Plymouth  
11 Nuclear Power Station from Column 4 to Column 1 is  
12 welcome news but should not result in any reduction in  
13 the NRC's careful oversight of the plant's operation.

14 I believe it is also important to  
15 acknowledge the hard work of Pilgrim employees who  
16 live and work in our community and who have a stake in  
17 this plant's safe operation.

18 I will continue to work with them as well  
19 as with my fellow state, federal and local officials  
20 to hold the plant and its licensees accountable for  
21 the safety of the residents of the Ninth District of  
22 Massachusetts. Thank you.

23 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Matt Muratore for,  
24 representing various state officials.

25 MR. MURATORE: Good evening. Thank you

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1 all for coming out here again this year. My name is  
2 Matt Muratore. I'm the State Representative for the  
3 1st Plymouth District.

4 That includes the majority of the Town of  
5 Plymouth. And with me is Representative Kathleen  
6 LaNatra from the 12th Plymouth District which includes  
7 Plymouth, Kingston and surrounding areas.

8 I'm here to read a statement and ask a  
9 quick question. The statement is on behalf of the  
10 South Shore Delegation, the South Coast Delegation,  
11 the Cape Cod Delegation of State Representatives and  
12 Senators.

13 The Pilgrim Plant delegation of your state  
14 reps and senators met earlier today with  
15 representatives from the NRC. At that meeting we were  
16 briefed on the current status of the plant.

17 The delegation asked probing questions  
18 about the change in status and about the closure  
19 process including Holtec's financial stability. This  
20 delegation stands united in our efforts to pass  
21 legislation to help ensure the prompt and safe  
22 decommissioning of the power plant.

23 And the question we have is with the trust  
24 fund in place and the Town of Plymouth just finalizing  
25 a deal where they have two years of a pilot program

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1 can the trust fund money be used, decommissioning fund  
2 money be used to pay a pilot program, pay in lieu of  
3 taxes?

4 PARTICIPANT: That's a good question.  
5 Yes, taxes for property taxes are an indirect expense  
6 that can be used, decommissioning trust fund can be  
7 used for.

8 I'm not familiar with the pilot project.  
9 So I really can't comment on that.

10 MR. MURATORE: What it is, is payment in  
11 lieu of taxes so I think you've answered the question.  
12 Thank you.

13 MS. JANDA: Thank you. At this point are  
14 there any other elected officials or their  
15 representatives who would like to speak or offer a  
16 prepared statement?

17 MR. DORFLER: Assistant Attorney General  
18 Joseph Dorfler on behalf of the Massachusetts Attorney  
19 General's office. We don't have a statement at this  
20 time but wanted to note our appearance. Thank you.

21 MS. JANDA: Thank you. So now we're going  
22 to, we will start with our first speaker. We're going  
23 to read the numbers across in the rows. And the first  
24 person will be Number 15.

25 MS. DUBOIS: Thank you. I was 14, so

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1 Pine DuBois from the Town of Kingston and also the  
2 NDCAP.

3 And my question really has to do not with  
4 your recent decision to elevate Entergy's operations  
5 to Column 1, that's fine. My question has to do with  
6 your oversight during the decommissioning process,  
7 what you said would be robust.

8 But I would like you to explain the  
9 guidance that those inspectors will follow relative to  
10 our changing environmental conditions.

11 When I was here in January I think I, we  
12 had a little exchange about the way sea level is  
13 rising and the impact that can have on the facility  
14 not because of anybody's doing other than, you know,  
15 our collective world view of things.

16 But sea level is rising. Storms are  
17 increasing. Rain is falling harder. The ground water  
18 will rise. The sea will rise.

19 The so the question has to do really with  
20 where is the NRC at, at not only helping the industry  
21 but in your guidance for having rapid decommissioning  
22 and clean up of these sites so that they can be  
23 successful?

24 If you are delayed, if you do not adopt  
25 construction measures that will enable the kinds of

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1 work that you have to do, if you will instead and this  
2 is the point I was trying to make in January, if you  
3 will instead let everything wash everything out to sea  
4 then in our minds and in our belief living here and  
5 relying on that sea that's not an effective and robust  
6 clean up.

7 So where is the NRC guidance there? You  
8 know, we just had, you know, the deluge in Nebraska,  
9 you know, flooding some nuclear facilities. You know,  
10 it happened in New Orleans.

11 Where is the guidance? It is not in the  
12 SEIS and it is not in the GEIS. You have to implement  
13 some.

14 So given the inspectors are there are they  
15 going to run and hide or are they going to help adopt  
16 some construction mechanisms that is going to make  
17 sure that this decommissioning and the clean up is  
18 successful?

19 MR. LEW: So there was a number of  
20 questions there. I understand your questions in terms  
21 of how we deal with the change in flood heights. We  
22 have, you know, we have required licensees to  
23 reevaluate the flood heights relative to the operating  
24 plant.

25 We have confirmed through our inspector

1 that they are appropriately compensating for the flood  
2 heights there. With respect to dry storage, you know,  
3 we understand that pad is being moved up an additional  
4 50 feet higher.

5 Generally when we look at our oversight we  
6 do look at impacts on environmental, impacts on the  
7 particular facility and we will be inspecting  
8 accordingly. It's not specifically written in a  
9 specific SER.

10 But it's a part of what we review relative  
11 to changes in the environment.

12 MS. DUBOIS: To clarify, I guess, I think  
13 that generally speaking your guidance, as in a lot of  
14 construction guidance, is very exact. And it is very  
15 determinative of what tools and methods should be used  
16 in any sort of construction effort.

17 I do not know where that exists here. I  
18 suspect that it does not exist. And what I am asking  
19 and I'm not necessarily asking, Mr. Lew, for you to  
20 tell me right now today, I am asking that you direct  
21 your energies to address this major concern that is  
22 going to affect Pilgrim as well as the other  
23 facilities in the country.

24 MS. JANDA: Thank you. The next speaker  
25 will be Number 7.

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1 MS. LAMPERT: Yes, Mary Lampert speaking  
2 for Pilgrim Watch. I'll do it as quickly as I can.

3 The question really is how did Pilgrim,  
4 even though you tried to explain, go from 4 directly  
5 to 1 skipping any intermediate steps which I think  
6 would have been a little bit more believable?

7 I think the decision is more of a  
8 political decision not based on its performance. It  
9 seems clear to me that once again NRC commissioners,  
10 not the staff are once again acquiescing to the  
11 nuclear industry's push for fewer inspections at  
12 plants letting the industry self-assess its  
13 performance and cut back on what it tells the public  
14 about plant's problems.

15 The NRC Commissioners and industry  
16 representatives, NEI, say changes in oversight are  
17 warranted to reflect the industry's overall improved  
18 safety records.

19 And how would NRC show improved industry  
20 records to justify essentially a hands off policy  
21 giving out green findings across the board in the  
22 ropes that would show a justification for this policy?

23 And of course we know however, that  
24 deregulation hands off from the NRC in this case would  
25 compromise safety. And with an industry that can have

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1 huge consequences that's a very bad idea.

2 We have seen it in this administration  
3 whether it's FAA, whether it's EPA, across the board  
4 to deregulate.

5 Another high priority of NEI's Christmas  
6 list to the Commissioners was to eliminate press  
7 releases about low level, so to speak, safety issues  
8 at plants meaning the kind of problems that could  
9 trigger more inspections and oversight at a plant but  
10 not constitute an emergency.

11 That's to save money for the industry.  
12 The industry group also asked that NRC reduce the  
13 burden of radiation protection and emergency  
14 preparedness inspections.

15 All of this was laid out by the Associated  
16 Press in a March 15, 2019, report and they have a  
17 hyperlink in that report to the September 19, 2018,  
18 NEI letter to NRC regarding the rope and allowing  
19 essentially self-assessment.

20 And so I think you all have done a good  
21 job. Brian Sullivan is far, far better as a VP than  
22 we've seen here in a very long time. But it's the  
23 Commissioners that I'm very concerned about.

24 MR. LEW: Thank you, Mary. Just for  
25 clarification, the decision to move Pilgrim from

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1 Column 4 to Column 1 was not a Commission decision.

2 It was a decision made by the Commission  
3 staff. And just to be clear, you know, all of the  
4 plants that have been in Column 4, you know, the way  
5 we approach things is we call it the way we see it  
6 whether it was placing Pilgrim in Column 4 in 2015 or  
7 taking them out at this point.

8 And most plants have actually transitioned  
9 to Column 1, in fact. And those that did not the  
10 reason that they did not typically is because they  
11 still have an existing greater than green input, an  
12 existing white or existing yellow.

13 In this case Pilgrim does not have an  
14 existing input and in fact since we have put them in  
15 Column 4 there was no greater than green or very low  
16 safety significance, no greater than green performance  
17 indicator or finding.

18 So it was appropriate for us to transition  
19 from Column 4 to Column 1. Another thing I just want  
20 to add. I know I'm talking to much.

21 The other thing I want to add is one of  
22 the things that we, approach that we do is we want to  
23 ensure that they address the underlying conditions of  
24 what drove the performance decline back in 2015.

25 And so you saw that. Last year we saw

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1 improvement, progress and improvement but we weren't  
2 ready to say it was sustainable. This year we  
3 continue to see progress and improvement.

4 They have addressed the underlying issues.  
5 And so there's been a history through the CALs that we  
6 have issued as well as other documents.

7 And our goal is really to ensure that  
8 these plants do not jump in and out of Column 4. We  
9 want them to address the underlying issues and for us  
10 to have a level of confidence before we take them out  
11 of Column 4. We call it the way we see it.

12 MR. LAMPERT: Jim Lampert, Duxbury.

13 MS. JANDA: Excuse me, Mr. Lampert, you're  
14 Number 8 just to be sure?

15 MR. LAMPERT: I am.

16 MS. JANDA: Okay, thank you.

17 MR. LAMPERT: That's what it says in red.  
18 I want to pick up where my wife left off a couple of  
19 things.

20 First off, the reasons the industry gives  
21 for wanting to back off that things are too burdensome  
22 and it gives them problems with the SEC I trust the  
23 NRC would agree are no reason at all to back off  
24 making the types of inspections you ought to be  
25 making.

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1           However, there are examples of backing  
2 off.   And probably one of the clearest is the  
3 decommissioning rule if you want to look at  
4 burdensome.

5           The basic justification for what looks  
6 like it's probably going to become the final  
7 decommissioning rule is this is costing Entergy and  
8 the NRC just too much time and we're going to save  
9 time for the public who before has spent time getting  
10 into things, never had any success but now they won't  
11 have to waste their time and money and effort.

12           Looking forward I'm concerned about  
13 inspections.   Pilgrim moved from 4 to 1.   They did so  
14 because they had a good vice president, and I am glad  
15 for a change, and because you had a lot of  
16 inspections.

17           What's going on as we get to  
18 decommissioning?   Resident inspectors are going to  
19 leave.   There aren't going to be any resident  
20 inspectors anymore.

21           We all know what happens when you put too  
22 much out to "self-regulation".   And if you think of it  
23 look at Max 8's and Boeing.

24           There are going to be a lot of things  
25 happening over the next 45 years that are going to be

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1 very important to people who live around here and I'm  
2 not going to be here for the next 45 years but heaven  
3 knows a lot of our, now I'm taking to groups children  
4 and grandchildren will be.

5 So let me ask just three or four  
6 questions. Will the NRC be there when fuel is being  
7 moved from the reactor into the spent fuel pool?

8 Will you be there when it goes from the  
9 spent fuel pool into dry casks and eventually when  
10 it's moved off site? Will you be there at the end  
11 when somebody goes around and tests to see whether the  
12 place is really clean?

13 I have no idea who at Holtec or at their  
14 partner, Lavalin has any near the competence or  
15 experience that Entergy finally stepped up to at the  
16 tail end here.

17 Holtec has never decommissioned anything  
18 in its life. Lavalin has never decommissioned  
19 anything in the United States. And let's face it, it  
20 had problems doing what it thought it knew how to do  
21 out at Santa Nofre (phonetic).

22 And its overall reputation in the world  
23 for doing the job and doing it honestly is not  
24 particularly great. So my final question and I guess  
25 it's to Tony is, you talked about increased oversight.

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1 I think what we need to know and we need  
2 to know pretty close to right now is specifically what  
3 oversight, what inspections? What are you going to do  
4 to keep track of what is going on during  
5 decommissioning when it's run by people who have never  
6 done it before?

7 MR. LEW: Thanks, Jim. So I'm going to  
8 ask our Decommissioning Branch Chief, Ray Powell to  
9 answer the questions associated with decommissioning.

10 As he's getting up I just want to clarify  
11 that relative to the question of will the NRC be there  
12 when they move the fuel from the reactor vessel to the  
13 spent fuel pool, that will still be under Tony's  
14 responsibility.

15 He will still have residence on site to  
16 observe the movement of the fuel from the reactor  
17 vessel to the spent fuel pool. At that point once we  
18 get a, I would expect the entity to provide us a  
19 letter certifying that they have removed all of the  
20 fuel from the reactor vessel.

21 At that point then it goes over to Ray  
22 Powell who has the responsibility for the inspections.

23 MR. LAMPERT: After that the resident  
24 inspectors are gone, correct?

25 MR. POWELL: Well let's talk about that.

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1 MR. LAMPERT: And also a question just a  
2 little layer we talked about the first transfers.  
3 There are at least three more of spent fuel by the  
4 time you get stuff out of here long after I'm dead.

5 MR. POWELL: Okay. Let me start at the  
6 beginning. As Dave mentioned, yes, we will be  
7 watching them unload the vessel into the pool. I've  
8 coordinated with Tony already.

9 We'll have one of my inspectors who are  
10 ASFC (phonetic) qualified even though it's not an ASFC  
11 loading campaign they are very familiar with fuel  
12 movements. They will supplement the resident  
13 inspector.

14 So, yes, we will be there. With respect  
15 to when it comes time for what I call an extended  
16 offload loading campaign I can't tell you that we're  
17 going to watch every cask.

18 We will pick and choose and we will be on  
19 site monitoring the activities. And I know you had a  
20 third question and it's escaping me.

21 MR. LAMPERT: The next move we've got it  
22 into the casks. Eventually we have to get it off site  
23 probably in new casks or new packaging. What's your  
24 involvement in oversight of that?

25 MR. POWELL: You know, that's in the

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1 future and a policy question. I don't know if you  
2 have any more information on that then I would on  
3 that, Bruce.

4 MR. WATSON: Yes. This is Bruce Watson.  
5 In the future we would be there to monitor and inspect  
6 the transfer of that fuel just like we do low level  
7 waste today.

8 So those programs would have to be  
9 developed along with when the DOE or if it turns out  
10 to be a private consortium at this point to an interim  
11 storage those types of containers and to make sure  
12 they're properly packaged and shipped.

13 Right now the dry storage containers are  
14 designed to be transported. And so we would expect  
15 that.

16 I wanted to add one more thing. Part of  
17 your question was who is going to verify that the site  
18 was cleaned up. That will be the NRC.

19 If you look at what we're doing right now  
20 at the Zion Plant, Lacrosse Plant and Humboldt Bay  
21 which is what we've been doing since Day 1 with large  
22 decommissioning projects, is we employ an independent  
23 contractor.

24 Right now it's Oak Ridge Associated  
25 Universities, also known as ORISE, Oak Ridge Institute

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1 of Science and Education. They do perform independent  
2 surveys for us.

3 They sample the soil and everything else,  
4 survey the areas to verify that the licensee has met  
5 the requirements that's going to be in their license  
6 termination plan. They also operate a world class  
7 laboratory for us and for the Department of Energy.

8 And so we have, we use that as the  
9 comparison or benchmark for all radiological  
10 measurements. So I think our program in that area is  
11 quite extensive.

12 There's an inspection procedure on it.  
13 It's publicly available on our website too. So I  
14 think between our NRC inspectors and our supervision  
15 of our contractor we have a very good program that  
16 will verify that the sites are cleaned up.

17 As you know, we've done ten of these sites  
18 and we're expecting to terminate both Zion 1 and 2,  
19 Lacrosse and Humboldt Bay probably by, I'm going to  
20 say mid 2020, okay. So we'll have 14 in the bank.  
21 So, thank you.

22 MR. POWELL: And I think the last part of  
23 your question was there an inspection presence, what  
24 I can tell you is it will be commensurate with the  
25 level of activity at the site.

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1           And to give a more concrete example than  
2 just those words, if you look at what BY (phonetic) is  
3 doing they have now entered active decommissioning.  
4 I basically have an inspector on site for all key  
5 activities.

6           And right now it's averaging about one  
7 week a month. If it needs to be more it will be. If  
8 it needs to be less we'll adjust.

9           The contrary would be someone like Crystal  
10 River 3. They are in safe store. They haven't done  
11 anything in quite some time other than some rad waste  
12 shipments.

13           So we go down there about twice a year  
14 because that's commensurate with the level of activity  
15 at the site. And all this is spelled out in  
16 Inspection Manual, Chapter 2561.

17           Understand, but it will give you  
18 references in that to the procedure Bruce referenced  
19 and the information though, understand, but it is  
20 readily available.

21           MS. JANDA: Okay. The next speaker is  
22 Number 3.

23           MS. TURCO: Hi. Diane Turco with Cape  
24 Downwinders. It's my understanding that multiple  
25 repetitive degraded is kind of what Column 4 is all

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1 about.

2 So I don't know what planet you're on  
3 because what I'm reading is something very different  
4 and it's from your reports, okay. Pilgrim's repeated  
5 shutdowns are costly.

6 This is from 2018. They lost \$63 million  
7 in 57 days. That equals a poor safety culture.  
8 They're not going to put money into fixes.

9 They aren't and it's being proven by these  
10 shutdowns because of degraded equipment. We also see  
11 ongoing problems with valves, parts being installed  
12 backwards.

13 Valve closure causes an automatic shutdown  
14 at Pilgrim. Pilgrim powers down a day after favorable  
15 report. A fleet-wide order to prevent willful  
16 misconduct issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
17 to Entergy because of willful misconduct.

18 And that happened at Pilgrim when a worker  
19 did not do his rounds and falsified the records.  
20 That's not the first time. It's happened many times.

21 So now the whole fleet has an order to put  
22 a plan together to prevent willful misconduct. And  
23 then hundreds of Pilgrim tasks were downgraded. They  
24 went from, they were reduced because of a backlog of  
25 work from adverse to non-adverse.

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1                   That was in 2018. You can't tell me  
2 Pilgrim is now in Column 1. These are from your  
3 reports.

4                   Specifically, 2018 Entergy personnel  
5 failed to implement work order requirements on  
6 feedwater regulating valve. That caused the scram.  
7 That's happened many times, okay.

8                   Entergy did not take effective corrective  
9 actions to address issues in a timely manner  
10 commensurate with their safety significance. Entergy  
11 should still be in Column 4.

12                   And why you moved them up to Column 1, I  
13 mean maybe, you know, maybe you're miracle workers or  
14 something. But the reality is it should have stayed  
15 in 4.

16                   It's still a threat to our communities.  
17 Last thing, January 4th was a scram, loss of off site  
18 power. We know that happens during many storms and  
19 Pilgrim scrambled.

20                   We wanted Pilgrim to be shut down. Their  
21 procedures are to shut down early but they don't  
22 follow procedures and you don't enforce them because  
23 they're not regulations.

24                   And you actually said when you inspected  
25 that you said, let's see, Entergy had a documented

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1 difficulty following, the inspectors also determined,  
2 "it was not reasonable to foresee or correct the cause  
3 during a storm".

4 So if operators cannot foresee the loss of  
5 off site power during a predicated and reported severe  
6 storm they shouldn't be operating a nuclear reactor.  
7 And you're not doing your job.

8 So we're calling on the NRC to be  
9 abolished just like the Atomic Energy Commission. And  
10 that it be replaced with an authority that is  
11 transferred to federal and state intergovernmental  
12 agency independent of the nuclear industry including  
13 representation by state and local stakeholders who  
14 will have full authority for public health and safety  
15 for their communities.

16 MR. LEW: Diane, I wasn't sure whether  
17 those were statements or questions. But I will  
18 address a few things, if I may.

19 First is those are issues that we  
20 identified and were in the NRC report. And so just to  
21 give you a little bit perspective in terms of how we  
22 come to some of the conclusions and so forth, you  
23 talked about the January trip, January 2018.

24 So it was about 14 months ago. And our  
25 conclusion was that was an issue that was caused by

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1 something miles from the plant, not owned by Entergy.

2 When we look at that particular issue and  
3 we look at the switch yard I think over the years in  
4 response to what we have provided oversight is, and  
5 one of the bigger contributors into the, Entergy  
6 being, Pilgrim being placed in Column 4 was the  
7 vulnerability of the switch yard.

8 In that case it was not caused by the  
9 switch yard. That was caused by something outside the  
10 switch yard.

11 And the modifications that they  
12 implemented, the procedures, the processes, the human  
13 performance in fact improved the robustness of the  
14 Pilgrim switch yard. In fact, there were no scrams  
15 that were caused by the Pilgrim switch yard in the  
16 last three winter seasons.

17 And they went beyond that. And just to  
18 give you a sense of why we think the safety culture  
19 improved and the conservative decision making. They  
20 engaged Eversource, the company that owned the grid  
21 and the equipment.

22 They worked with them in terms of ensuring  
23 that the lightning lines that caused the trip was  
24 addressed more holistically in terms of doing  
25 inspections and so forth. So that's just a piece of

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1 what that reflects.

2 And also I will offer that we don't look  
3 at how much money they lose or not. In some cases if  
4 they're shutting down they are shutting down to fix  
5 things.

6 And that, and from a safety point of view  
7 that is in my mind not a bad thing.

8 MS. TURCO: The off site line was based on  
9 Entergy's procedures to shut down if there's a  
10 possibility of loss of off site power, not the switch  
11 yard but loss of off site power.

12 And that storm was advertised all over the  
13 news, the National Weather Service loss of power to be  
14 predicted in this area and they didn't shut down.

15 MR. LEW: Yes, so, you know --

16 MS. TURCO: So they didn't follow the  
17 procedures. But the issue is you can't enforce them  
18 following their procedures. If it was a --

19 MR. LEW: No, I would disagree. They did  
20 follow their procedures. And we can get into --

21 MS. TURCO: Okay, no. I'll show you the  
22 procedures, yes.

23 MR. LEW: -- more of a discussion on this.

24 MS. JANDA: Okay, thank you. The next  
25 speaker will be Number 4.

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1 MS. DICKINSON: Good evening. My name is  
2 Elaine Dickinson and I am also with Cape Downwinders.

3 And with the closing of Pilgrim the most  
4 pressing issue today is how to deal with the  
5 radioactive waste in a manner that keeps with the  
6 NRC's mandate of protecting people and the  
7 environment.

8 Selling Pilgrim to Holtec produces so many  
9 unanswered questions. The casks, all casks are not  
10 created equal. Thin, cheap casks are not as robust as  
11 the thicker casks used in Europe.

12 Moving the waste to an area across the  
13 country opens more dangerous scenarios with  
14 potentially devastating accidents. Putting the waste  
15 in indigenous communities that do not want it is  
16 racist.

17 And remember just because Holtec says they  
18 will accomplish the decommissioning in a very short  
19 time wouldn't it be foolish to think that haste is  
20 best when dealing with this potentially lethal  
21 material.

22 In '75, 1975 the Atomic Energy Commission  
23 was abolished by an Act of Congress. A new agency was  
24 created, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, your  
25 agency with the mandate of protecting public health

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1 and safety.

2 As your website banner says, protecting  
3 people and the environment. The citizens demand you  
4 uphold your mandate or be abolished as your  
5 predecessor was and replaced with an agency that will.

6 By transferring Pilgrim's license to  
7 Holtec, a company that has never decommissioned a  
8 reactor before and which is joining with SNC-Lavalin,  
9 a Canadian company under investigation for corruption  
10 and bribery, seriously I ask you how can you uphold  
11 your mandate by transferring the license to such a  
12 company?

13 If there was no suitable company to do  
14 this dangerous work why not allow Entergy to do the  
15 decommissioning and take care of the waste that they  
16 have produced? The community is watching.

17 MR. LEW: So I take that as a statement?

18 MS. DICKINSON: That's a question. Is  
19 that a consideration? We've been to these  
20 decommissioning Commission meetings and it sounds like  
21 it's a done deal that Holtec is going to get it.

22 MR. LEW: Well again, I guess, you know,  
23 I think as I stated in the beginning we are not, it  
24 was under review. It's pre-decisional. Also there  
25 was contentions associated with that issue.

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1                   So we won't be answering those questions  
2 that are directly related to the license transfer.

3                   MS. DICKINSON: Well I'm just giving you  
4 things to think about then. Thank you.

5                   MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker will  
6 be Number 19.

7                   MR. GARRITY: Good evening. My name is  
8 John Garrity and I was the recovery manager at Pilgrim  
9 as we came through this series of inspections.

10                  And if you remember last time we were here  
11 I got asked the question why was it going to take so  
12 long for Pilgrim to return to Column 1. And I  
13 explained that it was going to be a systematic very  
14 detailed process of inspections that we would follow.

15                  That we were scheduled to come back to  
16 Column 1 right about this time frame. I also  
17 explained that we as Pilgrim Station were taking  
18 ownership of our problems which meant we had to work  
19 very diligently on our culture which is our core  
20 values.

21                  One of our core values which is just  
22 unmistakable is safety. So the NRC made sure that not  
23 only did we solve our technical issues which were  
24 relatively easy to show compared to our cultural  
25 issues, and then they made sure that we took the time

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1 to understand and correct the underlying root causes  
2 of these issues.

3 That took a lot of time. And I personally  
4 was involved with all five inspections. And I can  
5 tell you those inspections were not performed by  
6 politicians.

7 They were performed by engineers. And if  
8 you deal with engineers they deal with facts. So we  
9 dealt with the facts. We dealt with the causes.

10 And then at the very last inspection was  
11 our safety culture inspection. And that one took the  
12 longest because it's the hardest.

13 It's very hard to prove to people that you  
14 care about safety, that you understand you own the  
15 issues and that you, us were responsible for creating  
16 them, correcting them and making sure they didn't come  
17 back.

18 So I feel proud of the people that worked  
19 on that project. I'm very confident that we corrected  
20 the issues.

21 But I'm more confident that we learned how  
22 we got there so that we will not go there again. So  
23 thank you very much.

24 MS. JANDA: Thank you. The next speaker  
25 will be Number 17.

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1 MS. CORRIGAN: Hi, Joanne Corrigan  
2 (phonetic). I live here in Plymouth. I can actually  
3 ride my bike down to the power plant. I have a couple  
4 concerns.

5 And apparently there are those of us who  
6 are skeptical that Pilgrim went magically from Column  
7 4 to Column 1. And I have a problem with trying to  
8 believe that since their corrective action plans that  
9 they've had over the years they've failed this, this  
10 didn't work, they didn't know how to fix it.

11 And they didn't give them six months, a  
12 year, whatever to fix it. You guys gave them get to  
13 it when you feel like it which is why a lot of stuff  
14 never got done.

15 I was in the, I was an (inaudible) tech  
16 for 45 years. We had hospital inspections. If JCAHO  
17 finds out something was wrong, that we were doing  
18 something in any part of the hospital we had a  
19 corrective action plan with a set time frame which  
20 these guys never got which is why a lot of stuff  
21 didn't get done.

22 They have a laundry list of failures over  
23 there starting with the operators failing your own  
24 proficiency test, the equipment malfunctions numerous,  
25 the repairs not done or done incorrectly and the

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1 falsification of their medical physicals. That was a  
2 good one.

3 So the violation of their inspections and  
4 so many failures over so many years only resulted in  
5 a pass or a slap on the wrist by the NRC. Do you  
6 really expect us to believe that Pilgrim went from 4  
7 to 1 in a short time as if by magic?

8 Which leads me to believe that apparently  
9 Entergy hired Dumbledore and the Wizard of Oz and  
10 that's how it got done. But there's one problem over,  
11 after the other over there not to mention the nitwit  
12 decision to put the casks next to the ocean.

13 What on earth were they thinking? They  
14 didn't have to have big studies done. Just come down  
15 in any Nor'easter stand at the step end of Priscilla  
16 Beach. That wave comes up those 12 steps into the  
17 street across the parking lot into the street.

18 And they put those casks so close to the  
19 ocean with an area where we have Nor'easters,  
20 hurricanes, full moon high tides constantly and not to  
21 mention the sea level is rising.

22 So and then now they're going to put them  
23 along Rocky Hill Road so the terrorists can see the  
24 targets they need to hit with their RPGs.

25 So the past history of Pilgrim is

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1 indicative of the lack of interest and concern to keep  
2 us safe. Thank you.

3 MR. LEW: And thank you. I understand  
4 your skepticism. I would maybe offer this for you to  
5 consider and something that we look at.

6 It's beyond just having all the actions  
7 that were done under the Confirmatory Action Letter as  
8 well as the effectiveness review. But when I take a  
9 step back and I take a look in the last two years  
10 there were two scrams at Pilgrim.

11 One was outside their control, equipment  
12 that was miles from the plant and not owned by the  
13 licensee. But those two scrams, and one was an  
14 equipment failure.

15 But that's not abnormal in terms of what  
16 you see in other plants consistent with Column 1. But  
17 the more salient piece of it is when the plants did  
18 scram and you look at the response the equipment  
19 worked the way it should have.

20 Processes and procedures were followed.  
21 Performance of the operators were good. And that's an  
22 important data point, you know, in terms of how the  
23 plant responds to the scram.

24 And I just share that with you to sort of  
25 contrast that to 2015 when they had the scram and they

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1 had a safety-related valve that did not work as it  
2 should have. That there were risks, important  
3 equipment that did not respond the way they did.

4 The command and control was not as strong  
5 as it should be. So that's certainly an indication in  
6 terms of how they addressed those issues and looking  
7 at how the plant responded.

8 So, you know, certainly I just share that  
9 as a data point for you to consider.

10 MS. CORRIGAN: Well Pilgrim did not do  
11 what it had to do when it was generating and making  
12 money and making electricity. So I can't imagine when  
13 it goes offline how all of a sudden it's going to have  
14 this big concern to keep us safe.

15 In March, we knew about those storms. It  
16 was, March was one storm after the other last year.  
17 The third of March we had a huge nor'easter storm.

18 I went all the way to 495, nobody had  
19 power. I came down here to get to 495 and I couldn't  
20 even get down Rocky Hill Road there were so many trees  
21 down.

22 I got to the light here. All the power  
23 was out. The only reason I got out of here was  
24 through that little side road you have going to 3A and  
25 that's only because I have a little standard and I

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1 went off road into the mud and snow to get out of  
2 there.

3 And Entergy claimed they didn't lose off  
4 site power. They didn't lose any power at all. Well  
5 that's funny. They must have their own power source  
6 because none of the street lights were working and  
7 there was no power from here to 495.

8 They don't take into consideration where  
9 this plant is, the kind of weather we get here. So I  
10 don't know how if no one is inspecting them the whole  
11 time that they have to wait, what four years for the  
12 thing to cool down to take the rest of the rods out,  
13 right?

14 MR. LEW: Right. And I just want to be  
15 respectful of other's time. I don't want the  
16 conversation to go a little long, you know, being  
17 respectful.

18 And I'm looking at Donna to tell me to  
19 yank me off the mic. But just to share with you last  
20 year, 2018 was a significant winter season. It was  
21 tough.

22 In each of those cases we had inspectors  
23 on site ensuring that the licensee followed their  
24 procedures, appropriately addressed those issues.  
25 Yes, there was the January trip.

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1           There was also a delay in the start up  
2 that was for another trip. But we were there. And I  
3 just want to assure you that we were there and we  
4 observed and inspected throughout.

5           MS. JANDA: Okay, thank you. Next speaker  
6 is Number 1.

7           MR. GOLLINGHAM:       John Gollingham  
8 (phonetic). I'm really glad I got Number 1. I've  
9 read some NRC testing that acknowledges the potential  
10 for chloride stress corrosion cracking in the type of  
11 steel used in Holtec's dry cask storage system.

12           And because the casks are so close to the  
13 ocean do you include testing, did you include testing  
14 in your safety assessment of the casks?

15           MR. WATSON: Let me just speak to the fact  
16 that chloride stress corrosion is a known entity for  
17 attacking stainless steels.

18           The stainless steels are, the design of  
19 the casks and the thickness of the walls all take that  
20 into consideration along with long term monitoring of  
21 the containers.

22           MR. GOLLINGHAM:    So how do you, what  
23 monitoring is used?

24           MR. WATSON: Right now the industry and  
25 the NRC are developing testing requirements and

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1 surveillance requirements for looking at the casks.

2 Not long ago one cask was removed from  
3 Maine Yankee and tested and it had been there for, I  
4 think a dozen years. And so no signs of any corrosion  
5 or other activity.

6 MR. GOLLINGHAM: And what emergency plan  
7 is intact in case a cracked cask, right? I can't  
8 even, the plan of an event of a cracked cask, is there  
9 an emergency plan in place? What happens then?

10 MR. WATSON: Yes, the casks are inspected  
11 or at least the facility is inspected at least  
12 annually. There are plans in place for and the fact  
13 that if they were to detect a leak that actions could  
14 be taken.

15 MR. GOLLINGHAM: What actions?

16 MR. WATSON: One would be to make sure  
17 that the monitoring of the cask continues and see what  
18 kind of provisions could be made to have the cask  
19 removed and encapsulated or placed in another cask to  
20 ensure its integrity.

21 MR. GOLLINGHAM: It doesn't sound like  
22 anything is in place. And can a cracked cask be  
23 moved?

24 MR. WATSON: Well I guess you have to  
25 define crack. We expect a crack would be very minor.

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1           However, you know, to have a crack is extremely  
2           unlikely.

3                         There would have to be some kind of cause  
4           for that.   That's why we would inspect them and  
5           periodically to make sure that there is no corrosion  
6           or attacks on the particular metal for the long term  
7           storage of these casks.

8                         MR. GOLLINGHAM:       From my obsessive  
9           research the chloride stress cracking is like spider  
10          cracks.   It's not like a nice little crack that you  
11          can weld or anything like that.

12                        Holtec's president said if you could find  
13          a crack it couldn't be fixed.   So that's why I'm  
14          curious, I'm not hearing, you know, you have a plan in  
15          place because you can't fix the crack.   It's not a  
16          fixable crack.

17                        MR. WATSON:   And this is why I mentioned  
18          taking and putting the cask in another cask to ensure  
19          the integrity of the material.

20                        MR. GOLLINGHAM:   Are those casks going to  
21          be on site?   Are you going to have Holtec have those  
22          extra casks on site?

23                        MR. WATSON:   There's no requirement for  
24          that right now.

25                        MR. GOLLINGHAM:   It sounds like it would

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1 be important.

2 MR. WATSON: Well let me finish. Holtec  
3 is not the only manufacturer. New home facilities  
4 actually have a transfer cask which could be used to  
5 load an old cask into.

6 I was just out at Rancho Seco. They still  
7 have the old transfer cask there which is available  
8 for how they transferred it from the plant to the dry  
9 fuel storage.

10 MR. GOLLINGHAM: So there was a container  
11 at the Koeberg Plant in South Africa which was thicker  
12 steel than what is used in Holtec steel. And that had  
13 a through the wall crack within 17 years.

14 Can you talk to that? Do you know any  
15 more information on that?

16 MR. WATSON: I really don't know any  
17 information about that.

18 MR. GOLLINGHAM: It's in one of your  
19 documents.

20 MR. WATSON: Yes, I do decommissioning.  
21 I don't do spent fuel management. I'm trying to at  
22 least answer some of your questions.

23 That one I don't know the particular  
24 technical details on. But I would point out that  
25 there's been comments made that thicker casks are

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1 safer.

2 I don't know that's necessarily true. If  
3 you say this cask was thicker, so --

4 MR. GOLLINGHAM: Well that was my next  
5 question. Why are thick wall casks used in other  
6 countries and not in America? Why aren't we doing  
7 that?

8 MR. WATSON: The primary reason that we  
9 have thinner walled casks than those made in Europe is  
10 our casks are designed to be transferred. So they are  
11 intended to be able to place in a transfer cask so  
12 they could be shipped to a permanent repository.

13 MR. GOLLINGHAM: Well that's a concern of  
14 mine as well because if they sit by the ocean with the  
15 chlorine and now they're next to the road with more  
16 chlorine coming up with road salt if that steel  
17 becomes more vulnerable and you're not catching that  
18 cask and then you're shipping it across the country  
19 that's, right, it's not that funny. I mean I'm  
20 concerned about that.

21 MR. WATSON: Well fundamentally to do any  
22 type of radioactive material shipment you're going to  
23 ensure the integrity of the container before you put  
24 it in a transportation mechanism to be moved. That's  
25 part of our inspection procedures.

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1 MR. GOLLINGHAM: Promise?

2 MR. WATSON: It's part of our inspection  
3 procedures even for low level waste today.

4 MR. GOLLINGHAM: All right. My last  
5 question is how quickly would the public be informed  
6 if a cask cracked?

7 Are we going to be, are you going to keep  
8 that to yourselves or will the public be informed that  
9 a crack, that you have had an event?

10 MR. WATSON: There are emergency plan  
11 procedures in place for dry fuel storage facilities.  
12 I would assume those procedures would be followed.

13 Again, it's not my area. But I know they  
14 have plans in place for notification of not only the  
15 public but the NRC of safety issues.

16 MR. GOLLINGHAM: All right, thank you.

17 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker,  
18 Number 6.

19 MS. CARPENTER: I'm Susan Carpenter with  
20 the Cape Downwinders. And I'm concerned about the  
21 finances of all of this, about the decommissioning.

22 And one of the things that concerns me is  
23 several other companies have requested waivers to use  
24 decommissioning funds for other purposes. And I'm  
25 wondering has the NRC ever refused to grant a waiver

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1 to the industry?

2 PARTICIPANT: I guess to rephrase your  
3 question is have we ever denied an exemption. And  
4 specifically your question is for the separation or,  
5 of spent fuel management funds and decommissioning  
6 funds.

7 I think there was one. But I can't  
8 remember exactly. It may have been either withdrawn  
9 by the licensee. There was something that had to do  
10 with Vermont Yankee not too long ago.

11 But most exemptions are, the fact that  
12 most utilities or licensees at the time the original  
13 rules required one fund. And the rules were changed,  
14 I think, back a little while ago that you had to have  
15 separate funds.

16 But since they have a single fund under  
17 one trustee by an independent bank where the money is  
18 kept there is actually an accounting by the trustee  
19 that separates the two. So that's the equivalent  
20 almost of having separate trust funds.

21 So we've granted that exemption where they  
22 can show to us that we have two accounting and which  
23 money goes where and what it's for.

24 MS. CARPENTER: So it's not a common  
25 occurrence then? I mean it's been used for taxes Mary

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1 just said and a waiver was granted.

2 PARTICIPANT: I can tell you that the  
3 payment of taxes from the decommissioning fund are  
4 only allowed once the plant is in decommissioning.  
5 When they're operating they can't use those funds for  
6 any other purpose.

7 So they stay with the trustee in the bank.  
8 They are not allowed to release the money for anything  
9 but decommissioning funded activities.

10 MS. CARPENTER: And that's coming up quite  
11 quickly. Thank you.

12 MS. JANDA: Thank you. The next speaker  
13 is Number 16. My apologies for missing that. Okay,  
14 we're going to move on to Number 2 please.

15 (Off microphone comment.)

16 MS. JANDA: Okay, thank you. Number 11.

17 MR. ROTHSTEIN: Richard Rothstein, Town of  
18 Plymouth and Member of the Massachusetts NDCAP. Let  
19 me first state that I'm not opposed to nuclear  
20 decommissioning trust funds being used for on site  
21 spent nuclear fuel management as may be necessary or  
22 appropriate.

23 That said, are there any current  
24 applicable NRC regulations or policies for existing  
25 nuclear power plants which are still operating or have

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1       been permanently shut down and undergoing  
2       decommissioning per their submitted PSDARs that  
3       mandate any monies recovered via lawsuits against the  
4       U.S. Department of Energy for on site spent nuclear  
5       fuel management be used by the licensee to fully  
6       reimburse the decommissioning trust fund if such  
7       monies were or will be used via exemptions granted by  
8       the NRC for such said purposes?

9               The basis for my question is NRC's October  
10       17, 2018, approval of Northstar's financial exemption  
11       request made for Vermont Yankee.

12              In that approval the NRC determined that  
13       Northstar's revised PSDAR demonstrated reasonable  
14       assurance existed that funds within the nuclear  
15       decommissioning trust when combined with other funds  
16       including a "anticipated future United States  
17       Department of Energy reimbursements" would be in  
18       excess of the amount needed to cover the estimated  
19       costs of radiological decommissioning and irradiated  
20       fuel management.

21              MR. WATSON: In the Vermont case part of  
22       their justification for maintaining adequate funding  
23       to do the decommissioning was that they were going to  
24       take credit for any monies that come from DOE go back  
25       into the trust fund to either complete the

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1 decommissioning or manage the spent fuel.

2 So that was a commitment they made and we  
3 agreed that was okay. Does that answer your question?

4 MR. ROTHSTEIN: Partially. I wasn't  
5 questioning the decision of the NRC.

6 My question is more related to regulatory  
7 policy in terms of even if the funding is deemed by  
8 NRC to be sufficient in that case or in the case for  
9 Pilgrim for any future exemptions that may be granted  
10 by the NRC is there a current or even a proposed  
11 regulatory requirement that such monies recovered from  
12 DOE be placed back into the DTF in the event that the  
13 licensee has needed to use any portion of the DTF for  
14 spent fuel management?

15 MR. WATSON: Well, I guess I'll have to  
16 answer your question this way. First of all, you're  
17 not supposed to be using decommissioning funds for  
18 spent fuel management without our prior approval such  
19 as in Vermont because they agreed to put the money  
20 back into the fund.

21 But there is no requirement to take the  
22 money that you get back from DOE back into the spent  
23 fuel fund in order to manage the spent fuel into the  
24 future.

25 However, there is a requirement that you

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1 maintain sufficient funds to make sure the fuel  
2 remains safely into the future and that it's properly  
3 managed and kept under good security.

4 MR. ROTHSTEIN: I'm satisfied with that,  
5 Bruce. What concerns me is why is there not an NRC  
6 regulation that spells that out even from a simple  
7 bean counting exercise to make sure those monies which  
8 were used for spent fuel management costs would go  
9 back in terms of recoverable funds from DOE?

10 I know you can't answer that totally. But  
11 it's more of a recommendation.

12 MR. WATSON: Yes, I understand that. The  
13 decommissioning trust fund is supposed to be  
14 independent and sufficient to reasonably, to give us  
15 reasonable assurance that they can complete the  
16 decommissioning fund.

17 And that's why we have a separation  
18 between the two funds designated for the two different  
19 issues.

20 MR. ROTHSTEIN: And please note I'm not  
21 questioning about NRC's ability to watch everything as  
22 carefully as you intend to do and do there, but having  
23 that regulation in place is just another belt and  
24 suspenders there. Thank you.

25 MR. WATSON: Thank you.

1 MS. JANDA: Next speaker is Number 13.

2 MR. AGNEW: No real concern. The  
3 industry's captive regulatory agency has raised  
4 Pilgrim from Column 4 to Column 1. I take that as a  
5 bad joke but also as a sign that things with our local  
6 Mark 1 BWR have been worse.

7 And I'm counting the 67 days until  
8 Pilgrim's final shutdown and the unknown number of  
9 days until the final defueling of the reactor and  
10 removal of all (inaudible) material from the pool.

11 As the Patriot Ledger wrote, "what the  
12 public and the regulators need to watch now is how  
13 well decommissioning is done." No cutting corners, no  
14 substandard materials, no shoddy work.

15 Given that Entergy seeks to hand off  
16 Pilgrim to SNC-Lavalin, a scandal plagued outfit  
17 facing fraud and corruption charges in relation to  
18 millions of dollars of bribes given to Libyan  
19 officials, it's not a great start.

20 Abuse of the populous by the nuclear  
21 industry will continue. How much abuse? At least as  
22 much as the public will tolerate.

23 After 47 years of Pilgrim polluting the  
24 environment with radionuclides Entergy Holtec wants  
25 the Commonwealth and its citizens to have no say

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1 regarding decommissioning claiming the would be  
2 interveners rely on speculation.

3 As if the corporations don't speculate  
4 with their own projections. It's ludicrous that the  
5 NRC has allowed Entergy to put nary a penny into  
6 Pilgrim's decommissioning trust fund in the 19 years  
7 they've been the licensed operator.

8 Entergy says that the fund has enough  
9 money. The Commonwealth needn't worry it's pretty  
10 little head. And they want to tap into the DTF to  
11 deal with the waste fuel, the pad, casks, transfer of  
12 the high level waste.

13 I guess they failed to speculate that  
14 these things would be needed. And by the way, Entergy  
15 expects the rate payers to pay Plymouth \$13 million  
16 for hosting their liability.

17 I wish we could trust the NRC to disallow  
18 these obvious attempts at theft. But as former NRC  
19 Commissioner Victor Gilinsky said, the Agency is a  
20 wholly owned subsidiary of the nuclear power industry.

21 I don't know if I mentioned, I'm David  
22 Agnew from Harwich.

23 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker,  
24 Number 9.

25 MS. CHIN: Hi, yes. I'm Rebecca Chin.

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1 I'm the co-chair of the Nuclear Advisory Committee for  
2 the Town of Duxbury.

3 I have a comment. I've been listening to  
4 what will happen with the NRC during decommissioning.

5 My concern is that you will actually have  
6 eyes on the ground and you will be protecting the  
7 public health and safety of the environment here which  
8 we care about.

9 My question is that when you do your final  
10 sampling and you send it to your labs to determine the  
11 clean up standard, are you going to have split samples  
12 so the Massachusetts Department of Public Health can  
13 also confirm those numbers?

14 MR. WATSON: Yes, this is Bruce Watson.  
15 I'll answer that. The state is welcome to take as  
16 many samples and do their own independent analysis as  
17 they choose.

18 We will be doing normally sampling on our  
19 own, independent sampling of the licensee. But we  
20 will also split samples with the licensee to verify  
21 the performance of their laboratory because our  
22 laboratory is world class.

23 It's always in the top one percent of the  
24 laboratories performing in the country. So, yes,  
25 there will be split sampling with the licensee to

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1 verify their lab work and also we'll be taking our own  
2 independent samples at the completion of the clean up  
3 to make sure that it meets our standards for meeting  
4 our unrestricted release criteria.

5 MS. CHIN: But you won't do split samples  
6 of your samples with the Massachusetts Department of  
7 Public Health? You're going to make them take their  
8 own samples?

9 MR. WATSON: It's up to them if they want  
10 to do that. But my point is that they're welcome to  
11 take their samples if they choose to. It's up to,  
12 whatever they would like to do we are willing to talk  
13 about that.

14 It just costs money to do that and it's up  
15 to them whether they want to expend the funds or not  
16 because we have a very good program, I'll say an  
17 excellent program for verification of the final status  
18 of the sites.

19 MS. JANDA: Thank you. The next speaker  
20 is Number 20.

21 MS. CALDWELL: So I'm almost 74 and I've  
22 been fighting all the problems with nuclear power  
23 plants it seems like more than half my lifetime. And  
24 when I was in graduate school it was the honor system  
25 and we were supposed to try and do our best and be the

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1 best.

2 And when we couldn't be the best then we  
3 would go back and try to be the best. And when we  
4 made a mistake we would try harder and harder and  
5 harder until somebody would tell us this is not good  
6 enough and then we would go back and try to be better.

7 And when I look at the Nuclear Regulatory  
8 Commission I am just so sad because I know you all  
9 want to be your best. I know you want to go home at  
10 night proud of what you've done.

11 And all that I hear at the Citizen's  
12 Advisory meeting or with you is failures when we  
13 couldn't live up to my expectations of what the best  
14 is. So this is my question.

15 How can we have nuclear power in the  
16 United States when we can't plan how to decommission  
17 a plant safely so that it can go 50 years into the  
18 future, 100 years into the future? We're just arguing  
19 about a few seven years of decommissioning and then  
20 the money runs out.

21 When are we going to tell the people of  
22 the United States that we don't know how we're going  
23 to decommission a plant? The people of the United  
24 States are not going to allow nuclear waste from one  
25 state to travel to another state.

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1           They'll be more massive riots about  
2 nuclear waste passing through any state than we've  
3 seen to date. So if they're not going to allow them  
4 to travel to any site that's forced to take it, it  
5 means that Pilgrim and Yankee and all the plants  
6 across the country have to be safe for storage.

7           But you said, this gentleman over here  
8 that we're worried about money. So we're worried  
9 about money.

10           We don't have enough money to really put  
11 in thicker steel or thicker casks or watch cracks or  
12 we don't even have enough money to go through what  
13 Entergy has done to find out where the spills and  
14 mistakes are.

15           How do I know that, because at the  
16 Citizen's Advisory meeting when we asked where are the  
17 spills and we keep saying where are the spills, where  
18 are the spills and they say it's a lot of paperwork to  
19 go through and find the spills.

20           So I guess this is rambling and I can see  
21 your faces. I guess I'm just really depressed about  
22 the bad state of the nuclear power industry.

23           And I don't see how we can hire Holtec.  
24 I don't see how we can hire Holtec who doesn't have  
25 the money to deal with a mistake or deal with a spill

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1 or deal with anything except the chaos we're in.

2 I'm sorry it wasn't written up. I'm just  
3 depressed about the future of the industry and  
4 Plymouth.

5 PARTICIPANT: I apologize if we had facial  
6 expressions. It was in an attempt to try and better  
7 understand. And I think what you're saying here is  
8 just a statement, rhetorical.

9 Was there anything specific you wanted us  
10 to try and answer?

11 MS. CALDWELL: No.

12 MS. JANDA: Ma'am. Could you give your  
13 name for the record? I'm sorry.

14 MS. CALDWELL: Irene Caldwell.

15 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker is  
16 Number 21.

17 MR. BURKE: My name is Kevin Burke. And  
18 I've been coming to these meetings off and on for over  
19 20 years. I've not been a true dedicated activist  
20 with regard to the nuclear industry.

21 And I thank you people who I follow in the  
22 newspaper for what you've done to keep this on track.  
23 And tonight I can tell you that I don't feel much  
24 confidence in terms of what's going to happen in the  
25 future.

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1 I see the ocean levels rising. I see not  
2 enough attention being paid to these casks and  
3 ultimately where they're going to go. I just don't  
4 understand how we ended up in the mess that we're in.

5 I read the newspaper about a woman who  
6 left the Cape in a banged up car and drove right up to  
7 the reactor. This was in the Globe. Where is the  
8 security?

9 I just, it's beyond me. I met a man down  
10 on the canal. He was an engineer over at the nuclear  
11 reactor and he had retired. And he had a cap on.

12 And it said Kellogg, Brown and Root. And  
13 I said to him isn't that the same firm that is  
14 involved in Iraq? He said, yes. I said do you work  
15 for them, where do you work?

16 And he said I work over at the Pilgrim  
17 Plant. And I said give me an insight into how things  
18 are going over there. This was about five years ago.

19 He said well I'll tell you a little story.  
20 We use pumps to pump water. And we've got pumps  
21 coming in and the pumps didn't have the proper packing  
22 in them.

23 So I told my supervisor do not use those  
24 pumps because we have to get the packing that goes in  
25 there that keeps them watertight. So he had gone away

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1 on vacation and lo and behold he got a panicked  
2 telephone call they had taken, one of the pumps had  
3 broken down and they used this pump, supposedly new  
4 pump and put it in its place.

5 And they had a room full of radioactive  
6 water. Now you don't hear about any of this stuff.  
7 You hear about the anecdotal stuff and it really makes  
8 you wonder what the hell is going on.

9 So once again, I thank my concerned  
10 citizens for their dedication and I hope it just keeps  
11 us out of trouble. But just remember the thermal  
12 expansion of the ocean is out there and you can't stop  
13 that.

14 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker will  
15 be Number 14. Number 18.

16 MR. PERRY: My name is Doug Perry. I'm a  
17 resident of Plymouth and an employee of the plant.

18 And I just wanted to express my  
19 appreciation to my coworkers and friends at the plant  
20 for the hard work and dedication that it's taken over  
21 the last three or four years, I guess, to work through  
22 the recovery and also for the folks who preceded them  
23 and us and the 47 years of safe, reliable plant  
24 operation and, you know, I guess the contribution that  
25 Pilgrim has made to carbon-free energy here in New

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1 England over the last well 47 years. Thanks.

2 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker,  
3 Number 18.

4 MR. PERRY: I was 18.

5 MS. JANDA: You were 18, sorry, Number 12.

6 MR. DOVE: Hi, good evening, folks. My  
7 name is Dan Dove, a citizen here in Plymouth part time  
8 while I work at the power plant. I've been there  
9 approximately five years.

10 And I wanted to respond to some of the  
11 questions regarding the sampling. In my position I do  
12 what's called (inaudible) shipping. So I'm  
13 responsible for sending off the samples that you  
14 people are talking about.

15 And in regards to Massachusetts Department  
16 of Health and Public Safety I send them samples  
17 regularly. They are split samples. Chemistry takes  
18 the samples.

19 We send part to a lab that is a lab we  
20 choose and we also send them to Massachusetts  
21 Department of Health. So to say that you don't know  
22 what we're going to do, we already do it.

23 We're going to continue to do it in  
24 decommissioning. In regards to Oak Ridge National  
25 Labs and the ORISE facility I've been there. I've

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1 seen how they work.

2 It's a great facility. In regards to  
3 moving from Column 4 to Column 1 if you think three  
4 years is a short period of time, I don't think so.

5 It didn't take them that long when they  
6 said hey, we've got a bunch of problems here at  
7 Pilgrim. Did they move us from 1, 2 to 3 to 4? No,  
8 didn't happen that way.

9 So to go the opposite direction in three  
10 years I don't think is a big deal. Let's talk about  
11 costs. Things I know factually, I've worked for Plum  
12 Brook which was part of NASA at a decommissioning  
13 there.

14 And you want to talk about costs I'll tell  
15 you what costs cost. They did a study in 1976 and the  
16 good people said it's going to cost a million dollars  
17 to decommission that.

18 Way too much money, can't do it. Fast  
19 forward, waited until 1998. It cost \$250 million just  
20 20 short years later. We have a billion dollars in  
21 our trust fund.

22 Eight years may seem aggressive. You say  
23 Holtec has never done it before. Someone has to be  
24 first. You can't have one company do all the  
25 decommissionings otherwise people are just going to

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1 stack up.

2 So long story short, as an employee of the  
3 Entergy Company I'm proud to work there. I think we  
4 do a great job. I think our NRC oversight keeps us in  
5 check.

6 And you know what, we've created lots of  
7 tools. They're in this little book right here,  
8 Achieving and Sustaining Excellence. Human  
9 performance tools you can work with, you can live by.  
10 That's all I have. Thank you so much.

11 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker will  
12 be Number 10.

13 MS. GASLIC: Good evening. My name is  
14 Mary Gaslic (phonetic). I'm a resident of Plymouth.  
15 I've been here for 34 years. And for the sake of  
16 transparency I am also an employee of the Pilgrim  
17 Nuclear Power Station.

18 And I've worked there for 24 years. All  
19 right, this is the last public meeting we're going to  
20 have as an operating nuclear power plant. You know,  
21 it kind of saddens me.

22 It would have been nice to continue to  
23 provide clean, carbon-free energy until 2032. But  
24 that's not the case here. I was not surprised when  
25 the plant, I'm not surprised that the plant is back in

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1 Column 1.

2 The return to Column 1 was not because of  
3 fairy dust, by no matter but rather the hard work and  
4 the dedication of the employees and the individuals  
5 there. And I have seen it, I've been a part of it.

6 And so anybody to say anything else is a  
7 slap in the face to those guys that work there. The  
8 NRC annual assessment letter indicated that Pilgrim  
9 had demonstrated sustained improvement.

10 The plant had addressed all of the reactor  
11 oversight program items that had initially moved it to  
12 Column 4 and had completed all of the recovery plan  
13 items that were in the Confirmatory Action Letter.

14 I'll tell you what the best part of  
15 reading that letter was. You know what it was, it was  
16 reading those words Pilgrim will transition out of  
17 Column 4 and into Column 1.

18 As the plants sets down the road to  
19 decommissioning it still will be with NRC oversight.  
20 It's not like the wild west where anything goes.

21 The plant will be decommissioned under  
22 guidelines just as strict whether it's under safe  
23 store DCON (phonetic) the same vigor will be applied  
24 so that the process will be done safely and  
25 environmentally sound.

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1           And as a resident of Plymouth I'm not  
2           afraid of having dry cask storage in the town. I am  
3           however disappointed that the government has not lived  
4           up to the contract that they, the contract and  
5           supplied the nuclear industry with a final repository.

6           This has been an ongoing battle since the  
7           1980s. I implore you, the NRC, to grant the DOE's  
8           license application for the (inaudible) Project.

9           And I as a citizen promise you that I will  
10          tell my lawmakers to get off their duffs and approve  
11          it. Thank you.

12          MS. JANDA: Thank you. Next speaker will  
13          be Number 5.

14          (Off microphone comments.)

15          PARTICIPANT: All right, question.  
16          Entergy has said that if there's a problem with the  
17          casks that they would be putting an overpack over the  
18          cask as their way to resolve that. Are you aware of  
19          that situation?

20          PARTICIPANT: We're aware that the  
21          manufacturers are, that is their plan for any  
22          potential degradation of the casks in the future.  
23          Right now I don't have any physical evidence of that  
24          right now other than for the new home facilities.

25          PARTICIPANT: Okay. And has the NRC

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1 approved that?

2 PARTICIPANT: They have not submitted them  
3 for our approval yet.

4 PARTICIPANT: Okay, all right. Well  
5 Entergy is saying that's what they're going to do with  
6 the casks, the 17 on the pad now.

7 But I just want to go back to Mr. Lew.  
8 You mentioned when we talked before that, you know,  
9 that Entergy has taken care, during that January storm  
10 scam that Entergy has taken care of the switch yard  
11 and everything.

12 But my question was regarding off site  
13 loss of power. And you brought it back to the switch  
14 yard and that everything is fine there.

15 I want to read from your website, okay  
16 that they have to take action based on criteria by the  
17 National Weather Service forecast. This is from your  
18 website.

19 For the most severe cases the intent of  
20 the directed action is to reduce the risk of core  
21 damage due to a loss of off site power by reducing the  
22 plant's heat load before the loss of off site power  
23 occurs.

24 Second paragraph, when weather conditions  
25 indicate that the probability of loss of off site

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1 power is high the procedures change is now direct  
2 shutting the plant down and immediately placing the  
3 shutdown cooling system in service to cool down to  
4 less than 200 degrees.

5 That is your, on your website regarding  
6 loss of off site power and that didn't happen during  
7 that storm. And are you also aware during the March  
8 4th storm that the governor declared no, a travel ban  
9 and the local emergency directors said they could not  
10 implement their emergency plans?

11 And they sent that to the Massachusetts  
12 Emergency Management Agency which pushed it up to the  
13 NRC. So here we have a situation where our local  
14 emergency directors are saying they cannot protect the  
15 public, they cannot implement their emergency plans  
16 and the NRC sat on it for 40 hours until the MEMA  
17 reported back to them that it was all clear.

18 MR. LEW: So let me try and address and  
19 certainly 14 months ago I want to make sure, I want to  
20 caveat that I probably need to go back and take a look  
21 at it.

22 My recollection though relative to the  
23 January event was the only loss, when you talk about  
24 loss of off site power we ought to be clear in terms  
25 of are you losing all loss of off site power in that

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1 particular case.

2 My recollection and may look for some help  
3 here was only one line --

4 PARTICIPANT: That's true.

5 MR. LEW: -- of off site power was lost.

6 PARTICIPANT: Right, that's true, yes.

7 MR. LEW: And actually Brandon was  
8 actually, were you on site for --

9 PARTICIPANT: And shortly after that the  
10 second line went down, yes.

11 MR. LEW: Not in January, okay. So just  
12 a clarification that it was one line of off site  
13 power. The licensee then took corrective actions to  
14 shut the plant down. Relative to the --

15 PARTICIPANT: Loss of off site power, yes.

16 MR. LEW: -- MEMA that was back in March  
17 of 2018 --

18 PARTICIPANT: March, yes.

19 MR. LEW: -- you are talking about. And  
20 so when we receive the information and I believe Doug  
21 Tift (phonetic) who is also here received that  
22 information that evening about the question about  
23 evacuation I will offer that MEMA and FEMA worked  
24 through the night so not 40 hours, but worked through  
25 the night and made a determination relative to the

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1 ability to evacuate.

2 So that call goes to MEMA and FEMA. From  
3 the NRC's perspective, you know, certainly it's the  
4 role of MEMA and FEMA to make that determination. But  
5 from our perspective we establish a defense in depth  
6 approach.

7 And emergency preparedness is just one of  
8 those defense in depth. And from our perspective the  
9 short period of time that MEMA and FEMA took to make  
10 that decision and make that call was reasonable and it  
11 would be inappropriate based on that to order the  
12 plant to shut down.

13 And relative to defense in depth during  
14 that storm Entergy did in fact strengthen their safety  
15 defenses in terms of actions for severe weather,  
16 multiple actions that they have. And we were on site  
17 verifying that they completed those actions and  
18 ensuring that the plan continued to operate safely.

19 PARTICIPANT: Yes, and I was here, the  
20 inspectors were on site during the storm June '02 when  
21 it crashed, yes.

22 But so we see repetitive degraded nuclear  
23 reactor still operating, the valves are repetitively  
24 degrading. There is mismanagement. There is ongoing  
25 issues that should still keep it in Column 4.

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1           They're not resolved. But that's why we  
2 call for the abolishment of the Nuclear Regulatory  
3 Commission to be replaced by an interstate  
4 governmental agency.

5           MR. LEW: So if I can just ask Donna at  
6 this point just for transparency and how we want to  
7 move forward. Do you want to discuss how we want to  
8 move forward since we've gone through the first round  
9 of questions and we're continuing?

10          MS. JANDA: Yes. So before we go to any  
11 other questions and then I can answer that. Dave, we  
12 were going to offer up some more time because we still  
13 have time before the end of the meeting.

14          It's scheduled into 8:45. So if there are  
15 other people. But before we get to that, one sec. I  
16 understand there is a selectman who would like to make  
17 a statement. If that's the case please come forward.

18          MR. MAHONEY: Good evening, everyone.  
19 John Mahoney from the Plymouth Board of Selectpersons.  
20 My colleague Shelagh Joyce and third colleague is in  
21 the room, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen back  
22 there is Kenneth Tavares.

23          So in a meeting we were a little tardy.  
24 We got here late because we had a 5 o'clock meeting  
25 that ran a little late. But we appreciate everybody

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1 coming out.

2 Every time I see Bruce he knows this is  
3 one of his favorite stops throughout the course of the  
4 year and he tells me that all the time. But we  
5 appreciate the passion that is being shown by the  
6 individuals in the room.

7 You can tell and I certainly appreciate  
8 your patience with respect to answering their  
9 questions. But you can tell this is a significant  
10 thing not only to the community but to an entire  
11 region.

12 I would say it's one of the top issues in  
13 the state but certainly in the region south of Quincy  
14 and out to "P" (phonetic) Town it's, this is right up  
15 there. So we're looking forward to working with you  
16 in a partnership.

17 We want a safe and prompt decommissioning  
18 process. And one of the prior speakers referenced, I  
19 think evidenced based or everything was based on  
20 engineers.

21 Yes, we want it to be non-political and,  
22 you know, just a disciplined process moving forward so  
23 that, you know, ten years down the road, God willing,  
24 you know, this thing is behind us and we can move on.  
25 Thank you.

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1 MS. JOYCE: And if I could just emphasize  
2 as well transparency and communication are a priority  
3 as well. So we appreciate your time and your effort  
4 and look forward to the rest of the meeting. Thank  
5 you.

6 MS. JANDA: Thank you. Did we get your  
7 name, I'm sorry.

8 MS. JOYCE: My name is Shelagh Joyce, one  
9 of the Plymouth Selectmen.

10 MS. JANDA: Thank you.

11 MS. LAMPERT: Mary Lampert, Pilgrim Watch.  
12 Question to Bruce. I didn't quite get the details of  
13 your response to Rebecca Chin on the NRC's plan for  
14 environmental monitoring.

15 So help me out here. Do I understand that  
16 the NRC itself, and this would be a couple years  
17 before termination I guess, takes actual samples and  
18 sends it to the laboratory?

19 Do you also take some of the split samples  
20 from Entergy and send those for verification also to  
21 the laboratory then the results of your samples, the  
22 results of the split samples are they made public in  
23 a timely manner or do you put the results up on your  
24 website?

25 Next question is what Mass Department of



1 Public Health, how they would interface? Would they  
2 just send some of their samples and that would be  
3 ridiculous that they test in their own lab in Jamaica  
4 Plain or instead do they get a split from NRC's sample  
5 and a split from the split of, that sounds ridiculous,  
6 but of Entergy's sample to be able to see the results?

7 And would MDPH have to pay the cost of  
8 this or is there a procedure other than legislation in  
9 the State of Massachusetts to assess the licensee for  
10 the environmental monitoring? Last question, could  
11 you direct me to whatever regulation or NUREG  
12 discusses this?

13 MR. WATSON: Well I think I counted 15  
14 questions. But I lost count after 12. All kidding  
15 aside, the one thing I want you to realize is that the  
16 NRC environmental monitoring program which is in  
17 effect today continues all the way almost to the end.

18 And by that I mean at the end there is  
19 hopefully nothing to measure, okay. So we will do our  
20 independent sampling all through the process.

21 We will have our samples analyzed just  
22 like we would do today if the residents or the HP  
23 inspectors that inspect the plant will take samples  
24 and they'll be analyzed by our independent laboratory  
25 just like it is today.

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1           One of the things I wanted to, we don't  
2 necessarily publish results on the website. But they  
3 are referenced in inspection reports or discussed in  
4 inspection reports. So those are publicly available.

5           As far as the splitting samples with  
6 Massachusetts Department of Public Health, I think  
7 it's MPH, I was glad you brought this back because  
8 Rebecca Chin, yes, I had some more thoughts after you  
9 sat down.

10           And at Maine Yankee they had the state  
11 inspectors doing sampling and surveys. And we always  
12 compared results with them. I don't recall  
13 specifically splitting samples with them.

14           But we always compared results. The State  
15 of Connecticut also with Connecticut Yankee because I  
16 was involved, very much involved in Maine Yankee.

17           So we worked with the, they had, typically  
18 had two inspectors there frequently. I'm trying to  
19 think of the guy's name. Pat Dosties (phonetic) was  
20 the name, as a matter of fact. He was an employee of  
21 the state.

22           And one of his jobs was to follow up on  
23 the, just like we did on inspections and doing surveys  
24 and sampling. So, yes, there's an opportunity to do  
25 that.

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1           It depends on what the State of  
2 Massachusetts, MPH decides they want to do. They can  
3 discuss that with us. You know, we, I'm sure they  
4 have their own lab which you mentioned which I'm sure  
5 is a quality lab.

6           I'm sure they do the kind of, what we call  
7 the inter-comparison laboratory tests with blind  
8 testing to make sure they have a good quality control  
9 on their laboratory just like our lab does.

10           But as far as funding that's up to the  
11 state how they fund their own programs. There's  
12 nothing that I know that the NRC provides to them.

13           It's really their choice on what level of  
14 involvement they want to have in the decommissioning.  
15 So I think I answered most of your questions.

16           PARTICIPANT: And is there a NUREG?

17           MR. WATSON: There is an inspection  
18 procedure. We do talk about sampling I think in NUREG  
19 1757, Volume 2. That's a thick volume.

20           It's a lot of technical stuff. I'll admit  
21 that. And we're in the process of actually revising  
22 that. It's going to be even thicker for the stuff  
23 we've learned over the last ten years.

24           So, you know, it will definitely help you  
25 with your sleeping, at least it does me. Just

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1 kidding, anyway, there is some guidance on that.

2 I can't think of anything specifically.  
3 It covers a cadre of technical issues that also  
4 includes a verification and when we do sampling  
5 throughout the decommissioning process to validate the  
6 licensee's historical site assessment, the  
7 characterization actually going out and doing what we  
8 call in process surveys where we do them side by side  
9 with the licensee to see how good their program is  
10 with our inspectors and our experts.

11 And also do the split sampling to verify  
12 their lab works, they are getting quality results. We  
13 have had issues with contracted laboratories that some  
14 of the licensees have used, not specifically the  
15 utilities but other labs that, in material sites.

16 And also of course I just talked about the  
17 independent verification at the end to make sure that  
18 they've met our criteria for the actually terminated  
19 license.

20 (Off microphone comment.)

21 MR. WATSON: That would be when they  
22 complete that. The licensee will generally start that  
23 at the beginning of the decommissioning. And that is  
24 generally based on what's called the 10 CFR, yes, G  
25 file.

1 Yes, and that's the regulation that was  
2 put in place back in the 1990s. And it was  
3 established to capture data related to spills and  
4 other radiological events or mishaps so that the, it's  
5 basically established a record that's important to  
6 decommissioning.

7 I know there is a file there at Pilgrim.  
8 I've already talked with the residents about taking a  
9 good look at that and having our inspectors look at  
10 that.

11 So there is a large, fairly large file on  
12 that from issues that they've had through the years.  
13 So keep in mind when the plant goes into  
14 decommissioning many of the things that we do today  
15 when the plant is in operation continue into  
16 decommissioning.

17 And that includes the environmental  
18 monitoring program. Excuse me, it is the same, okay.  
19 That program continues.

20 And so that in association with the rules  
21 that we put into place, what we call the  
22 decommissioning planning rules in 2012 with the  
23 additional groundwater monitoring up close to the  
24 plant give us a good assessment on the radiological  
25 situation at the site as well as the licensee and for

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1 planning decommissioning.

2 So like I said, that rule was intended to  
3 detect leaks up close to the plant so that you detect  
4 it early so that the plant would know there is a leak  
5 to go fix it and most utilities have done that. So  
6 it's really to prevent large areas getting  
7 contaminated.

8 MS. JANDA: Is there anybody else who  
9 would like an opportunity to speak who hasn't had a  
10 chance? Sir.

11 MR. COUGHLIN: Joe Coughlin, resident of  
12 Plymouth. Also a member of the NDCAP. I want to  
13 thank Bruce for attending our NDCAP meeting the day  
14 after you all were here last January.

15 One of the issues that came up at that  
16 meeting was, and comes up at a lot of meetings, the  
17 adequacy of the DTF. A question was raised in that  
18 regard that if the licensee who says with their  
19 filings with you that the, they can do the full  
20 decommissioning job in compliance with your  
21 requirements based on the amount of funds in the DTF.

22 But if during that decommissioning process  
23 the funds in the DTF prove to be inadequate the  
24 question was raised in regard to that using this term.  
25 Could the corporate veil be pieced?

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1           Meaning that if there are other companies  
2 involved even though they're not the direct licensee  
3 could in essence they be gone after to acquire the  
4 additional funds that may be necessary to complete the  
5 decommissioning process so such a burden would not  
6 fall on the host community, such as Plymouth and/or  
7 the Commonwealth.

8           Bruce, I think you said at that time that  
9 the NRC's attorneys were looking into that issue. Is  
10 it possible to give us an update on where they may be  
11 in researching that?

12           MR. WATSON:       Yes.       Excuse me,  
13 unfortunately, you know, we have this, we're in  
14 hearing space with the contentions that have been  
15 filed.

16           So I kind of have to be careful here what  
17 I say just to be --

18           MR. COUGHLIN:   Sure.

19           MR. WATSON:   -- honest with you. Right  
20 now I'll tell you what the process is. And that is  
21 the regulations require at the end of March, March  
22 31st that the licensees report to us the status of  
23 those decommissioning funds for the previous year.

24           And so we take a look at those, what  
25 they're reporting to us. It can be verified through

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1 the independent trustee what those funds really are,  
2 true that they're there.

3 And so each year we will be doing an  
4 evaluation to ensure that the amount of funding is  
5 reasonable to complete the decommissioning. If we  
6 feel it's not we will address that to the licensee to  
7 come up with a plan on how they're going to recover  
8 that money in order to ensure that there are adequate  
9 funds or a reasonable amount of assurance that the  
10 funds are going to be there to complete the  
11 decommissioning.

12 So that review goes on annually. And also  
13 so that's fundamentally what we do to verify that  
14 there is adequate funding throughout the  
15 decommissioning.

16 MR. COUGHLIN: So would it be safe to  
17 assume that going through that process if in one of  
18 those annual updates the issue arose that there  
19 appeared not to be adequate funding to complete the  
20 decommissioning process and you then went back to the  
21 licensee to rectify that, that the NRC probably  
22 wouldn't care where the funds came from as long as the  
23 funds were made available to complete the process?

24 MR. WATSON: I would have to say that's  
25 probably a true statement. I don't know that we've

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1 had that happen to my knowledge because I haven't been  
2 following the financial parts very closely.

3 I know that we have one self-funded plant  
4 for an (inaudible) 1 that is kind of funded from the  
5 utility. It never had a decommissioning fund. It  
6 only operated for a couple years.

7 And that the utility has actually been  
8 directly funding that. And so they stopped  
9 decommissioning right now to allow the fund to grow  
10 back.

11 But they're about 90 percent complete on  
12 the decommissioning. And, you know, they did a  
13 significant amount of work to get there. And so now  
14 they're letting the funds grow.

15 MR. COUGHLIN: Thank you.

16 MS. JANDA: All right, thank you. Are  
17 there any other individuals who would like to speak or  
18 have any questions that haven't had a chance yet?

19 Okay, so I believe this will end the  
20 public meeting and I'm going to ask Dave if he has any  
21 final --

22 MR. LEW: Just a very, a big thank you to  
23 everybody. I do appreciate the respect that you've  
24 shown each other and the questions.

25 And certainly, you know, if you do have

1 any other questions, you know, as always we remain  
2 available to answer those questions either one on one  
3 or afterwards. Thank you.

4 MS. JANDA: Thank you very much for  
5 attending tonight.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
7 off the record at 8:17 p.m.)

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