



SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 10, 2019

The Honorable William R. Keating  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Keating:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of September 11, 2019, to Chairman Svinicki regarding the incorporation of public input into the Commission's decision making process, particularly during decommissioning, as well as your co-sponsoring of the Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2019. You note the requirement under the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act for the NRC to hold public meetings on best practices for community advisory boards in areas near decommissioning nuclear power plants. The NRC held one of these meetings in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on September 11, 2019.

You request that the NRC "review its own regulations and policies to allow greater and more meaningful input from the public in its deliberations around decommissioning plants." As one basis for your request, you describe concerns expressed at meetings of a citizens advisory panel regarding the license transfer proceeding involving the renewed facility operating license for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station as well as the general license for the Pilgrim Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (Docket Nos. 50-593 and 72-1044).

Given the reference in your letter to the Pilgrim license transfer proceeding, it would be inappropriate for the Chairman to comment at this time. The Pilgrim license transfer application is the subject of a contested adjudication pending before the Commission, and the Commission must remain impartial during the pendency of the adjudication.

A copy of your letter and this response will be served on the participants in the Pilgrim license transfer proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook".

Annette L. Vietti-Cook