

TOWN OF BOURNE

Town Administrator
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Glenn Cannon, Acting Town Administrator
Email: gcannon@townofbourne.com

February 4, 2022

Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP)
Via email NDCAP@state.ma.us

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
1 Winter St.
Boston, MA 02108

Deborah Szaro, Acting Region 1 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Christopher T. Hanson, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Opposition to Discharge of Radioactive Water from Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

To whom it may concern:

The Bourne Board of Selectmen read news reports in late November about Holtec International's plan to remove water from the spent fuel pool and discharge the radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay.

The Bourne Board of Selectmen voted on December 14, 2021, to go on record opposing any plan to discharge radioactive water from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's reactor vessel and spent fuel pool into Cape Cod Bay.

In addition, the Board requests that that the Town of Bourne and the Bourne Board of Selectmen be notified by MassDEP, EPA, the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of any proposed use or actual use of an NPDES permit for the discharge of radioactive water in the waters of the Cape Cod Canal or Cape Cod Bay.

As a Cape Cod community, we are very concerned about the potential adverse impacts any discharge of radioactive water would have on our region's public health, the environment, and the local economy.

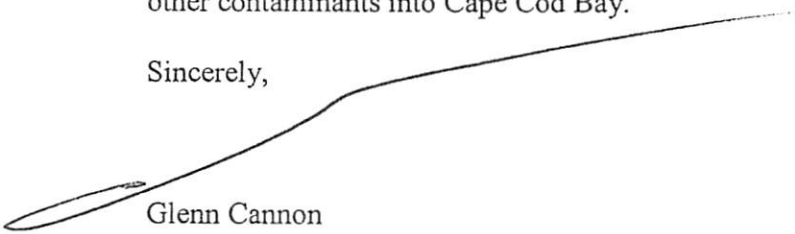
Designated as a State Ocean Sanctuary in 1970, Cape Cod Bay is recognized for its ecological diversity and significance. Its marine and coastal habitats support many commercially important fish and shellfish species, as well as state and federally listed birds and marine mammal species. In late winter and spring, the bay serves as a rich feeding ground for the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Yet Cape Cod Bay's ecological bounty also underscores its environmental fragility. Cape Cod Bay is unique in that it is a semi-enclosed embayment that is not conducive to dilution and disbursement of pollutants. The cumulative effects of radiation combined with the enclosed nature of the bay translate into too many unknown risks to make the proposed discharge acceptable. From a human health perspective, the potential for bioaccumulation of radiation in shellfish and finfish that are used as food sources is of great concern to us. These health concerns also translate into potential threats to our coastal economy, with ramifications for our commercial fisheries as well as the many businesses that rely on tourism dollars.

Discharging the contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay is not the only option available to Holtec. Instead of releasing the water into the bay, the company has other alternative actions to take that include storing the water at the site, employing evaporation, or trucking the water to another location. There is too much at stake to gamble with the health of the region's environment and its residents by permitting Holtec to use Cape Cod Bay as its dumping ground simply because it is cheaper for the company to do so.

We therefore state our strong opposition to any plans to discharge water containing radiation or other contaminants into Cape Cod Bay.

Sincerely,



Glenn Cannon
Acting Town Administrator

Cc:
Governor Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey
Attorney General's Office
1 Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Senator Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Representative William Keating
2351 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

State Senator Julian Cyr
State House, 24 Beacon St. Room 312-E
Boston, MA, 02133

State Senator Susan Moran
State House, 24 Beacon St. Room 506
Boston, MA, 02133

State Representative David Vieira
State House,
24 Beacon St. Room 167
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State Representative Steven Xiarhos
State House
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Christopher T. Hanson, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Michael S. Regan, Administrator
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