Attorney General Maura Healey

Office of the Attorney

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Dear Attorney General:

As you know, Holtec, the owner of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, threatens to dump more than one (1) million gallons of Pilgrim’s radioac*t*ively contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay.

In settling its litigation with the Commonwealth, Holtec AGREED to “comply with all applicable environmental and human-health based standards and regulations of the Commonwealth.” The laws and regulations that prohibit Holtec’s threatened dumping include:

1. MGL ch 270, Sec. 16 - It is a crime to deposit or discharge “waste or other material of any kind … or in or upon coastal or inland waters….”
2. MGL ch 131A; 301 CMR 27.05 and 27.06 – Cape Cod Bay, Plymouth Bay, Kingston Bay, and Duxbury Bay are protected Ocean Sanctuaries. Holtec cannot dump commercial or industrial waste (radioactive or non-radioactive) into them, particularly if the dumping would adversely affect marine fisheries.
3. MGL ch 22E, Sec. 5 - Holtec is “liable, without regard to fault” to both the Commonwealth and to any person damaged by a radioactive release or the threat of one.

I am writing to ask that you take every available action to enforce these and any other laws or regulations that prohibit what Holtec has threatened to do.

Dumping Pilgrim’s radioactive water into our bays would cause incalculable economic damage and would harm both the environment and public health.

The fishing and aquaculture industries correctly fear that dumping will contaminate the water, and millions of oysters, lobsters, mussels, clams, and fish. Holtec’s planned dumping will have similar serious impacts on boat and other marine industries, to say nothing of real estate, tourism, and our beaches, on which the livelihoods of our towns depend. These industries rightfully believe that public perception of radioactive contamination of our waters could destroy their hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars of investments and businesses.

Holtec does not have to dump. It has another option, to ship Pilgrim’s contaminated water out of state to a licensed facility, just as Vermont Yankee plans to do with its two (2) million gallons of radioactively contaminated water.

Please take action to force Holtec to take that option.

Respectfully,