



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pilgrim nuclear plant 2019 closing date raises big safety concerns for interim period

TAKOMA PARK, MD, October 13, 2015 — The decision by Entergy to postpone shutdown of its failing Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, MA until as late as June 2019, raises very significant public health and safety concerns for the interim period of continued operation, according to Paul Gunter, a spokesperson with Beyond Nuclear.

“While the planned closure of another outdated and dangerous nuclear power plant is welcome news, the decision to postpone the Pilgrim shutdown until 2019 puts surrounding populations at unacceptable risk,” said Gunter, Director of Reactor Oversight at Beyond Nuclear. “This is a reactor design with a containment that is guaranteed to fail in the event of a severe accident. It is a Fukushima waiting to happen on U.S. soil.”

Pilgrim is a General Electric Mark I boiling water reactor that is practically identical to the three Fukushima Daiichi atomic power plants that failed to prevent and contain multiple severe nuclear accidents on March 11, 2011. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already given Pilgrim its lowest safety rating among all operating reactors in the U.S.

“Entergy is going to request that federal regulators waive compliance with critical post-Fukushima safety upgrades that are already part of its operating license,” Gunter continued. “Pilgrim has deadlines to comply with Fukushima upgrades that are going to come sooner than June 2019,” he said.

“If Entergy is going to operate this plant for another three years, and without spending any money on required Fukushima upgrades, then it should close immediately,” Gunter concluded.

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Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic. The Beyond Nuclear team works with diverse partners and allies to provide the public, government officials, and the media with the critical information necessary to move humanity toward a world beyond nuclear. Beyond Nuclear: 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Info@beyondnuclear.org. www.beyondnuclear.org.