

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LOCAL GROUPS URGE THE NRC TO KEEP PILGRIM SHUT DOWN

**PLYMOUTH, MA** - The blizzard "Juno" hit the East Coast and Plymouth, Massachusetts hard on Monday, January 26, 2015 and increased in intensity until it finally wound down on Wednesday, January 28th. This storm underlined many of the risks and problems associated with Entergy's Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station and Pilgrim was forced to shut down on January 27th. Pilgrim lost offsite power during the storm, requiring a switch to diesel powered back-up generators. This scramble with complications also included three additional failures:

1. The High Pressure Coolant Injection System had to be secured due to failure of the gland seal motor.
2. The station diesel air compressor failed to start.
3. One of the four safety relief valves could not be operated manually from the control room.

All of the problems experienced by Pilgrim during Juno coincide with the NRC's recent decision to continue to rank Pilgrim in a degraded cornerstone category. In 2014 Pilgrim was placed in this category due to a variety of problems and unplanned shutdowns in 2013. On January 26th, ironically the same day blizzard "Juno" hit the Plymouth area the NRC issued a new report stating that Pilgrim has "not provided the assurance level to fully meet all of the inspection objectives and have correspondingly determined that Pilgrim will remain in the Degraded Cornerstone of the Action Matrix by the assignment of two parallel White PI inspection findings." Even after a year of additional federal scrutiny and thousands of hours of inspection by NRC staff, Entergy still has not fixed the problems at Pilgrim and the plant remains one of the worst performers in the nation. In that report, Pilgrim's switchyard and transmission system are identified as vulnerable to harsh weather, especially winter storms. Pilgrim had already experienced similar problems during past storms and Entergy has yet to adequately address the problems. Given this, the NRC should have required Pilgrim to shut down as a preventive measure as Winter Storm Juno was forecast to hit the Plymouth area. On Monday, January 26th, five organizations representing thousands of citizens called for Pilgrim to be closed during the storm as a proactive measure, yet it was the storm itself that caused the scramble.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent a special investigation team to Pilgrim to determine what caused this unplanned shut down along with the complications with emergency equipment.

With all the problems that have plagued the Pilgrim facility over the years and especially the most current event this past week, Cape Downwinders, Pilgrim Coalition, Cape Cod Bay Watch and Concerned Neighbors of Pilgrim are urging the NRC to keep the Pilgrim reactor shut down and to strongly consider their mandate for public health and safety by not allowing this reactor to restart.

A gathering will take place this Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Plymouth Memorial Park (near Plymouth Rock) from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm to demonstrate strong opposition in restarting the Pilgrim reactor. All are welcome.



## **VALENTINE VIGIL TO KEEP PILGRIM CLOSED**

**Saturday, February 7, 2015 12:00-1:00 PM  
Plymouth Memorial Park by Plymouth Rock (south side of PM Park)**

**The Nuclear Regulatory Commission team is in Plymouth inspecting the Entergy shutdown and equipment failures following the latest scram. Pilgrim is now shut.  
Stop the restart!**

