

Press Alert: August 6, 20015

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What: Forum

Where GCTV in Greenfield, MA When: August 8th 11:00 AM

EAST MEETS WEST: MAKING MASSACHUSETTS NUCLEAR FREE

Citizens Awareness Network and Cape/Massachusetts Downwinders are organizing a forum on August 8 to unite forces in Massachusetts to shutter the Pilgrim reactor and replace its power with sustainable energy solutions. Representatives from Cape Downwinders, Pilgrim Coalition CAN and others will participate in the forum. Included in the forum will be a video by Cape Cod Bay Watch.

With the release of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, the Pilgrim reactor is in trouble. The final version of the Power Plan does not include aid to existing nuclear plants at risk of closing because they can't compete with cheaper natural gas and renewables—a list that includes the Pilgrim reactor. "Obama's Clean Power Plan (CPP) now acknowledges that economically at risk nuclear reactors such as Pilgrim should not be considered part of a solution for a clean energy future," said Arlene Williamson of Pilgrim Coalition. The cost and risks are far too great to keep these old nuclear facilities up and running," Williamson stated.

CAN with Pilgrim Coalition and other groups submitted a petition to the NRC in 2013 to investigate the financial vulnerability of Vermont Yankee, Fitzpatrick and Pilgrim reactors. All owned and operated by Entergy. The groups were concerned about how Entergy's financial vulnerability effected the safe operation of these reactors. Vermont Yankee closed because of its financial vulnerability and now its economic limitations are adversely impacting decommissioning. Pilgrim is on the NRC's list of troubled reactors.

Pilgrim has been repeatedly cited for its degraded conditions. It is a systemically mismanaged reactor in need of closure. "As one of the worst operating nuclear reactors in the country, Pilgrim is a threat," said Diane Turco of MA Cape Downwinders."Whether one is for or against nuclear power, public safety must be a concern for all", Turco said.

Citizen groups in Massachusetts are uniting to make the closure of Pilgrim a reality. "Entergy Corporation is a sinking ship. Its Pilgrim reactor is not only dangerous, it is an obstruction to our ability to create a sustainable energy future for the Commonwealth," said Deb Katz of Citizens Awareness Network. "Working as a state wide effort to replace Pilgrim with renewable energy is essential" Katz said.

The forum will be held on Saturday August 8 at GCTV in Greenfield, MA at 11:00 AM.

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