

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL (“NDCAP”)

Monday, November 27, 2023

Hybrid Meeting (in-person and virtual)

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at about 6:30 pm by Ms. Pine duBois.

NDCAP MEMBERS PRESENT

- Pine duBois, Speaker of the House Appointee (Vice Chair) (in person)
- Mary Lampert, Senate President Appointee (in person)
- James Lampert, Speaker of the House Appointee (in person)
- Mary Jo Gatslick, Minority Leader of the Senate Appointee (in person)
- Michael Fortini, Minority Leader of the Senate Appointee (in person)
- Henrietta Cosentino, Plymouth Select Board Appointee (in person)
- Kevin Canty, Plymouth Select Board Appointee (in person)
- David C. Nichols, Governor Baker Appointee (in person)
- Andrew Gottlieb, Governor Baker Appointee (in person)
- Seth Pickering,¹ Department of Environmental Protection (in person)
- Jack Priest, Department of Public Health, Radiation Control Program (in person)
- David Bryant, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (in person)
- John Slocum, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (virtual)
- David Noyes,² Holtec Decommissioning International (in person)
- John Moylan, Holtec Site Vice President (in person)
- Kelly O’Brien, UWA Representative (in person)
- Mary Waldron, Old Colony Planning Council (virtual)

NDCAP MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- Jennifer Barrelle, Department of Public Health (virtual)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

- Gerard Martin, Department of Environmental Protection

REORGANIZATION OF THE PANEL

Ms. duBois indicated that, under Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016, reorganization of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (“Panel”) should take place annually.³ Ms. duBois noted that the last time reorganization took place was approximately a year and a half ago.

Mr. Lampert was nominated for the Chair position by Ms. Lampert. She indicated that his advocacy, experience, and knowledge of issues pertaining to decommissioning makes him qualified for the position.

¹ Designee of Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

² Replacing Pat O’Brien (Holtec)

³ [Session Law - Acts of 2016 Chapter 188 \(malegislature.gov\)](https://malegislature.gov/Session-Law-Acts-of-2016-Chapter-188)

Mr. Priest was nominated for the Chair position by Ms. duBois. Ms. duBois believes Mr. Priest can effectively lead the Panel and understands the issues involved with decommissioning. Mr. Priest respectfully declined the nomination.

Ms. Gatslick volunteered for the Co-Chair position. She is well-versed in licensing, emergency planning, security, and hazardous waste management. Also, she has spent 31 years at the station, has familiarity of the site's layout and past practices.

Mr. Canty was nominated for the Vice Chair position by Mr. Lampert. Mr. Lampert stated that Mr. Canty possesses the skills to be an effective leader including the ability to be impartial. Also, Mr. Canty understands the industry side of nuclear power which would be of value to the Panel.

The following took place:

- Ms. Cosentino seconded Ms. Lampert's nomination of Mr. Lampert for Chair.
- Ms. Cosentino seconded Mr. Lampert's nomination of Mr. Canty for Vice Chair.
- Mr. Fortini seconded Ms. Gatslick's volunteered nomination for Vice Chair.

Discussion ensued about how many members would be needed for a vote to pass. Ms. duBois read from the legislation, and stated that a majority of the entire Panel is needed (here, 10 votes).

The first vote failed. No one received the required 10 votes.

Mr. Gottlieb asked for a revote for Chair. Upon receiving 10 votes from members of the Panel, Mr. Lampert became the Chair.

Mr. Lampert asked for a vote for Mary Gatslick for Vice Chair. Upon receiving 10 votes from the members of the Panel, Ms. Gatslick became the Vice Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES REVIEW & APPROVAL

One correction was made by Mr. Noyes.

Ms. Gatslick indicated that, on page 6, the statements made by an unnamed individual during public comments should be amended. She agreed to send the corrected text to Mr. Lampert.

The motion to approve the minutes as amended was seconded, then approved.

Discussion ensued about the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. A suggestion was made to invite the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to make a presentation.

HOLTEC – HDI PILGRIM DECOMMISSIONING UPDATE

Mr. Noyes provided an update.⁴ In summary:

Due to uncertainties with disposition of the water, segmentation of the reactive pressure vessel has been delayed to December 2028 and partial site release has been delayed to September 2035.

⁴ [Corporate PowerPoint Presentation \(mass.gov\)](#)

Demolition of the demineralized water storage tank has been completed. Two condensate storage tanks are scheduled for demolition by December 15, 2023. The remaining underground storage tanks are scheduled to be removed by the Spring of 2024.

For reactor internal segmentation:

- Control rod mechanism housing has been removed.
- Core shroud and reactive vessel internals have been removed to the lower portion of the shroud.
- Removal of the 20 jet pumps and packaging is ongoing – 5 cuts have been completed.
- B and C waste packaging and staging are scheduled to be completed by January 2024.

Once reactor internal segmentation activities are complete, water in the reactor cavity can be drained into the Torus.

For Site Characterization:

- Oil and hazardous detections were identified on the site during groundwater sampling.
- 24 wells were sampled in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).
- Results from the samples are expected in December 2023.

For Regulatory and Licensing:

- On October 24, the NRC was notified of 5 low activity sources which were unaccounted for.
- The 5 sources include: 3 of Nick 63, 1 of Barium 133, and 1 of Tritium.
- The sources may have been disposed of as radioactive waste during cleanout activities.
- Causal analysis is in process to identify any concerns.
- No impact to health and safety of plant works or public due to low activity.

The total amount of waste shipped from the site to date is now 231,156 Cubic Feet.

Mr. Noyes indicated that several factors such as water and air temperature, air flow, and humidity play a role in evaporation.

The total remaining tritium in the water volumes at Pilgrim is less than 12 Curies.

According to Mr. Noyes, heaters in the reactor cavity and spent fuel pool were energized on November 22, 2023.

Ms. Gatslick asked whether Mr. Noyes could explain what is equivalent to 12 Curies. Mr. Noyes stated that it would be equivalent to one vintage exit sign from the 1950s.

Ms. Gatslick asked Mr. Noyes where the waste from the demolished tanks was sent. Mr. Noyes indicated that one of the tanks that had no contamination was recycled and the condensate tank's waste will be sent to Andrews, Texas to be disposed of as radioactive waste.

Mr. Nichols asked if the slides presented in the update could be printed and shared with individuals of the Panel ahead of meeting sessions. Mr. Noyes said he could provide a copy of the presentation to the Panel.

Mr. Nichols also asked:

- Whether the October 24 notification to the NRC was separate from the annual report.
- Whether the October 24 notification had an impact on finances.

Mr. Noyes explained that the notification was separate from the annual report and there were no impacts on finances. Mr. Noyes confirmed that notification to the state regarding finances was not required because certain thresholds were not triggered under the Massachusetts settlement agreement.

A discussion ensued among Mr. Priest, Mr. Pickering, and Mr. Noyes about financial impacts, the future of the workforce, demolition schedule, and water on the site.⁵ Mr. Noyes confirmed that this is the second extension of the decommissioning schedule for a total of 8 years. He indicated that Holtec will continue to move forward with internal structures (e.g., asbestos containing material); however, the large-scale demolition of the turbine building does not make sense without demolishing the reactor building at the same time.

A discussion took place among Mr. Gottlieb, Mr. Noyes, Mr. Priest, and Ms. Lampert regarding what Holtec would do if MassDEP decides to deny the request for permit modification. Mr. Noyes indicated that Holtec is entitled to due process and will likely appeal the decision.⁶

Mr. Lampert suggested that a discussion take place in the future about alternatives for disposition.

Ms. Lampert asked Mr. Noyes whether evaporation can take place in the torus. Mr. Noyes stated that evaporation could take place in the torus and release would take place through a monitored vent.

Mr. Gottlieb and Mr. Priest raised their concerns about evaporation and the delays.

Mr. Priest agreed with Mr. Lampert's earlier suggestion about having a discussion of alternatives.

A discussion took place among Mr. Gottlieb, Mr. Noyes, and Mr. Priest about evaporation and financial projections. Mr. Noyes indicated that several uncertainties exist to make determinations on the total amount of evaporation. Mr. Priest expressed his concerns about the delay and its impact of the decommissioning trust fund.⁷

Ms. Cosentino asked:

- How much water remains on the site
- How long did it take for the water to get to that amount

⁵ Minute markers 1:04:15-1:07:05 of video. See: [NDCAP Meeting: 11/27/23: Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel #Plymouth \(youtube.com\)](#)

⁶ Minute markers 1:08:00- 1:11:58 of video. See: *Id.*

⁷ Minute markers 1:17:30-1:21:49 of video. See: *Id.*

Mr. Noyes indicated that it took about nine months for the water to go from 1.1 million gallons down to 950,000 gallons. He estimated that about 950,000 gallons remain on the site.

Ms. Cosentino also expressed her concerns about finances.

Mr. Lampert asked whether it was possible for Holtec to run models to determine the rates of evaporation. Mr. Noyes stated he would take back the request.

Ms. Cosentino raised several concerns about the vent and suggested that data from the vent should be shared on a more frequent basis rather than once a year. Mr. Lampert suggested that Ms. Cosentino ask Mr. Pickering whether MassDEP intends to exercise its authority in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 21E to enforce monitoring of the vents.

INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP (IWG) UPDATE

Mr. Pickering provided an update. In summary:

Holtec must contact MassDEP if it intends to dispose of decommissioning-related wastewater by evaporation to determine applicability of air permitting requirements.

MassDEP has issued a tentative determination denying Holtec's request for a permit modification to discharge decommissioning-related wastewater. Also:

- A public meeting was held to discuss the permit modification.
- During the comment period, over 1000 comments were submitted to MassDEP.
- The comments have been posted on the MassDEP website and review is still ongoing.
- After review of the comments, MassDEP will finalize its determination.
- There is no prescribed time for the issuance of the final determination.
- The final determination can be appealed within 30 days of its issuance date.

Response actions under the MCP are ongoing. Phase Two Comprehensive Site Assessment is due to be submitted by April 21, 2024.

Holtec continues to conduct groundwater sampling and those results will be included in the status report submitted to MassDEP.

MassDEP, MassDPH, and the MassAGO met to discuss Holtec's site assessment work plan. Comments from the state will be provided to Holtec soon.

The MassDEP asbestos section continues to be actively engaged in overseeing demolition activities.

MassDEP continues to evaluate Holtec's request to change its wastewater disposal system to a Title 5 system.

Mr. Pickering indicated that there were no changes to the update with MEMA.

Mr. Lampert asked Mr. Pickering whether MassDEP would exercise its authority to require monitoring of the vent where evaporation is taking place. Mr. Gerard Martin stated that, under M.G.L. c. 21E, MassDEP cannot require sample collection unless the site is under the c. 21E program. If there is a permitted action, it is exempt from c. 21E since the permit will adequately regulate the action.

Mr. Nichols asked whether Holtec has indicated to MassDEP that Holtec intends to evaporate the water. Mr. Pickering stated that Holtec has not indicated an intent to evaporate the water as the ultimate disposal method.

Ms. duBois indicated that the air permitting guidance document sent to Holtec would be available on the NDCAP website in the next few days.

Mr. Nichols asked whether the state could prevent Holtec from evaporating the water. Mr. Pickering stated that he was not sure which regulatory authority would allow this.

Ms. Gatslick asked Mr. Pickering whether the Environmental Site Assessment (“ESA”) was going to be available. Mr. Pickering said the ESA would be available soon.

Ms. Gatslick asked the Panel whether there were any objections to sending a letter to the AGO asking for a timeline of when the ESA would be available. Ms. Lampert indicated that there should be a discussion on why there has been a delay on obtaining the ESA from the AGO.

A motion was made by Ms. Gatslick to draft a letter to the AGO and seconded by Mr. Canty. The contents of the letter will include asking when the ESA will be made available to the Panel and why delays have arisen.

A vote was taken and the motion passed with 10 votes, 2 opposed.

Mr. Lampert asked whether the report about the monitoring wells (slide 7) during the Holtec update could be made available to the Panel. Mr. Noyes advised that he could make the report available once results from the samples are received.

Ms. Lampert asked to clarify what is meant by ultimate disposal. Mr. Pickering stated he meant disposal of the reactor system water informally known as the remaining 950,000 gallons of water.

Ms. Lampert asked whether more heaters were added. Mr. Noyes said no.

Mr. Canty raised concerns about evaporation and asked whether the state can act preemptively to avoid evaporation. A discussion took place between Mr. Pickering and Mr. Canty about evaporation and MassDEP’s role.⁸ It would depend on permit requirements.

Mr. Gottlieb reminded the Panel and public that pollutants other than Tritium exist in the water.

Ms. Lampert stated that the sampling that took place earlier in the year did not capture the pollutants at the bottom of the pool. She also reminded the Panel and public that certain pollutants are heavier than others and likely sank to the bottom.

⁸ Minute Markers 1:49:00-1:52:00 of video. See: *Id.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Art Desloges provided an update on the citizens legislation he filed earlier in 2023.

Diane Turco expressed concerns about the evaporation taking place at the site. She then asked the Panel whether an independent investigation about the allegations listed in the anonymous letter could be conducted. Mr. Lampert indicated that her request requires a discussion prior to asking the Governor whether an investigation can occur.

Ms. Turco asked Mr. Noyes whether a copy of the design review feedback document could be made available. Mr. Noyes stated that the document is internal.

Paul Quintel asked Mr. Noyes how many trucks trips have been involved in transporting waste from the site since 2019. Mr. Noyes indicated that there have been at least 100 truck trips involved in transporting the waste.

Mr. Quintel then asked Mr. Pickering what more was MassDEP doing to ensure safety and transparency with regard to evaporation. Mr. Pickering indicated that Holtec was given guidance by MassDEP in accordance with state regulations.

Brian Campbell expressed his support for discharge and his dissatisfaction with offshore wind.

Jamile Graham thanked the Panel for its work.

Eileen Krakowski asked the following questions:

- Where was the waste material from the site being sent.
- Whether Mr. Noyes knows anything about the location receiving the waste.

Mr. Noyes indicated that the material was sent to a facility in Andrews, Texas and did not know much about that community.

Ms. Lampert mentioned that more indigenous individuals are located in Plymouth, Massachusetts than Andrews, Texas. The same is true for individuals who live below the poverty line. Ms. Lampert advised Ms. Krakowski to review the recent census data.

Ms. duBois clarified that the water containing tritium will not be sent to Andrews, Texas.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Lampert indicated that there was not enough time to discuss issues for 2024. He advised that the next meeting session in January should include the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 p.m.