

1                   **NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL (“NDCAP”)**  
2                                   **Monday, July 26, 2021**  
3                                   **Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting**  
4                                   **Meeting Minutes**

5  
6 Meeting called to order at about 6:30 pm by NDCAP Chair John Mahoney.

7  
8 **NDCAP MEMBERS PRESENT**

- 9
- 10       • John T. Mahoney, Representative of the Town of Plymouth (Chair) (in person)
  - 11       • Pine duBois, Speaker of the House Appointee (Vice Chair) (in person)
  - 12       • Mary Lampert, Senate President Appointee (in person)
  - 13       • Richard Grassie, Minority Leader of the House Appointee (in person)
  - 14       • David C. Nichols, Governor Baker Appointee (in person)
  - 15       • Seth Pickering<sup>1</sup>, Department of Environmental Protection (in person)
  - 16       • Robert Jones<sup>2</sup>, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (in person)
  - 17       • Jack Priest, Department of Public Health, Radiation Control Program (virtual)
  - 18       • John Viveiros,<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (virtual)
  - 19       • Robert Hayden<sup>4</sup>, Department of Public Utilities (virtual)
  - 20       • Susan Whitaker, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (virtual)
  - 21       • Pat O’Brien, Representative of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (in person)
  - 22       • John Moylan, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Site Vice President (virtual)
  - 23       • Richard Rothstein, Representative of the Town of Plymouth (in person)
  - 24       • Mary Waldron, Old Colony Planning Council (virtual) (left meeting at 8PM)
  - 25       • Paul D. Smith<sup>5</sup>, Representative of UWUA Local 369 (in person)

26  
27 **NDCAP MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- 28       • Kevin O’Reilly, Speaker of the House Appointee
- 29       • Sean Mullin, Minority Leader of the Senate Appointee
- 30       • John G. Flores, Governor Baker Appointee
- 31       • Richard Quintal, Representative of the Town of Plymouth

32  
33 **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

- 34       • Gerard Martin, Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Regional Office (virtual)
- 35       • David Noyes, CDI-Holtec (virtual)
- 36       • John Drobinski, ERM (virtual)
- 37       • Matthew Daly, ERM (virtual)

38  
39 **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

40  
41 The draft minutes from the May 24, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

---

<sup>1</sup> Designee of Secretary Theoharides (EEA)

<sup>2</sup> Designee of Secretary Sudders (Executive Office of Health and Human Services)

<sup>3</sup> Substituting for Samantha Phillips

<sup>4</sup> Designee of Matthew Nelson (DPU)

<sup>5</sup> Designee of Richard Sherman (Representative of UWUA Local 369)

1 Motion was made to approve which was seconded.

2

3 Ms. duBois clarified that Mr. Quintal was not present at the last meeting.

4

5 Ms. Lampert asked that the following items be added as follow-up questions:

6 • Page 4, line 10 -- question by Mr. Priest

7 • Page 4, lines 35-36 -- question by Mr. Noyes

8 • Page 5 -- MARSSUM should be spelled "MARSSIM"

9 • Page 4, line 22 -- question on analysis of groundwater flow directions and modeling

10 • Page 5, line 24 – characterization beneath and beside buildings

11 • Page 6, line 30 – Fukushima wells

12 • Page 7, line 14 – explanation of background levels by Mr. Priest

13 • Page 9, line 13 – patdown searches; would like clarification of NRC exemption

14 • Page 10, lines 43-47 – would like clarification of the date on which Holtec's amended site  
15 assessment work plan was made public

16

17 Ms. duBois suggested that the NDCAP discuss how to implement the new proposed format for tracking  
18 questions. No other changes were proposed to the minutes.

19

20 In response to Ms. Lampert's question about the amended site assessment, Ms. duBois clarified that the  
21 document was provided to her on June 2, 2021, after which the material was provided to EEA to post on  
22 the NDCAP website.

23

24 The May 24 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

25

## 26 **PROJECT UPDATE FROM HOLTEC**

27

### 28 General Holtec Update

29

30 Mr. O'Brien provided an update of activities at the site and showed a power point presentation.

31

32 Mr. O'Brien showed an updated timeline of activities. Demolition and segmentation work is continuing,  
33 as are waste reduction and waste management activities.

34

35 Holtec is proceeding to the final fuel campaign. NRC was on-site last week, and will observe the "dry  
36 run" of transport from the lower ISFSI to the upper ISFSI pad. Holtec anticipates completion before the  
37 end of November, after which Greater Than Class C ("GTCC") waste containers will be conveyed to the  
38 upper ISFSI pad.

39

40 A question was asked about the timing of GTCC waste container movement. Mr. O'Brien responded that  
41 there is no defined timeframe.

42

43 Additional questions were asked about the procedure and timing for moving spent fuel casks to the ISFSI  
44 pad. Mr. O'Brien responded that the fuel campaign is 24 hours/7 days a week, but was not sure about  
45 the frequency of movement from the lower to upper ISFSI pads. Approximately 2.5 casks are planned to  
46 be moved to the upper pad each week. There are fuel casks on the pad currently (for storage reasons),  
47 but they are not filled with spent fuel yet.

1 In response to a question from the panel, Mr. Moylan stated that about four dry runs have been  
2 conducted since last week, and that no issues have arisen that would jeopardize the project.

3  
4 The Town of Plymouth Selectman Chairman Quintal toured the site last week, as did representatives of  
5 the Duxbury Selectboard and Duxbury Nuclear Matters Committee.

6  
7 Environmental Update

8  
9 Mr. Noyes reported that the first semi-annual report is due shortly to DEP and EPA under the NPDES  
10 permit consent order. In the October timeframe, Holtec will come into compliance with respect to  
11 “differential water temperature” requirements for cooling water.

12  
13 Site Characterization

14  
15 Mr. Daly of ERM provided an update on the iterative site characterization work that is ongoing.

16  
17 The official Notice of Responsibility (NOR) was issued by DEP in June 2021 regarding exceedances of soil  
18 and groundwater standards. This brings the site into the M.G.L. c. 21E Massachusetts Contingency Plan  
19 (MCP) program. DPH also has requested split sampling for specific locations for radiological  
20 contamination.

21  
22 Additional site characterization work continues at the main parcel. This work is to address the data gaps  
23 identified in the environmental assessment work plan. Multiple locations have been identified for  
24 sampling work through soil borings and monitoring wells.

25  
26 A question was asked about how Holtec will ultimately assess compliance with the 10mrem radiological  
27 standard. Mr. O’Brien explained that site characterization work is iterative but will culminate in a final  
28 site assessment. The site cannot be released until the NRC confirms compliance with regulatory  
29 standards, and until Holtec complies with the agreement with the Commonwealth through the Attorney  
30 General’s Office (AGO). The site is currently subject to the “residential” standard for cleanup.

31  
32 Another question was asked about any effect of radon gas during the cleanup process. Mr. Noyes  
33 responded that Holtec is currently looking for radionuclides associated with plant operations. So, if there  
34 is radon present, this is not a compound that would be pulled into the characterization process because  
35 it is not associated with plant operations.

36  
37 Mr. Priest clarified that the site is subject to the “residential farmer” standard, which is the most  
38 conservative standard for cleanup. This assumes that an individual could reside at the site, and could  
39 also grow and eat crops there. There is no groundwater present at the site.<sup>6</sup>

40  
41 Further questions were asked about the impact on surrounding areas, including the Whipple and Evans  
42 farms as stated in prior reports from Entergy, and the limited number of radionuclides being  
43 investigated. Ms. Lampert asked how the cumulative impact of radionuclides would be assessed.

44  

---

<sup>6</sup> This was clarified at the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to be “no drinking water wells” on the site.

1 In response to questions, Mr. Priest confirmed that the basement inventory model is included in the  
2 settlement agreement with Holtec. He also stated that a NUREG model is used, which accounts for  
3 movement of material in the soil.

4  
5 A further question was asked about how the existence of barrels or containers would be detected  
6 through soil sampling. Mr. Drobinski responded that soil sampling is occurring in areas identified as most  
7 likely to contain contaminated material, and that the subsurface investigation will look for containers in  
8 addition to releases.

9  
10 Ms. Lampert commented that she has circulated an analysis of how Holtec's site assessment work plan  
11 does not meet the requirements of the AGO's settlement agreement with Holtec. This was circulated to  
12 NDCAP and the AGO.

13  
14 Mr. O'Brien stated that the pace of work at the site will remain constant until demolition of smaller  
15 buildings is complete. However, the larger demolition work will be undertaken in 2024-25, where major  
16 portions of the turbine and reactor building will be demolished.

17  
18 **INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP (IWG) REPORT**

19  
20 Mr. Pickering presented an update of IWG activities. DEP and DPH are in the process of reviewing the  
21 revised environmental site assessment work plan provided by Holtec. The agencies are coordinating with  
22 AGO to provide a formal response. Holtec will then have 30 days after receiving comments to revise the  
23 work plan. Mr. Pickering could not provide a firm timeframe for when review would be complete.

24  
25 In addition, DEP and DPH continue to meet regularly with Holtec to discuss the cleanup effort and  
26 decommissioning work. Biweekly meetings are also occurring with the asbestos section of DEP.

27  
28 MEMA is continuing to attend monthly meetings with local public safety officials, and remains the  
29 official point of contact for the NRC.

30  
31 A question was asked about potential sources of PFAS contamination at the site.

32  
33 Mr. Martin of DEP stated that the assessment has only just begun. As more wells are added and the  
34 extent of PFAS is mapped, the company may have better idea of the source.

35  
36 Mr. Drobinski of ERM confirmed that the company has not yet identified any specific sources. The  
37 exceedance was just slightly above the drinking water standard and only detected in two wells. The  
38 investigation is ongoing.

39  
40 In response to a further question about risks to fish and other marine life, Mr. Martin stated that the  
41 MCP (c. 21E) standards for risks to ecological resources are much higher due to the dilution effect of the  
42 ocean and other factors.

43  
44 A question was asked about the resources devoted by DEP and DPH to oversee the decommissioning  
45 effort. Mr. Priest from DPH responded that he is the assigned staff from DPH, but that DPH would be  
46 able to address any staffing gaps that he may face. Mr. Martin from DEP similarly responded that he is  
47 responsible for reviewing Holtec's submissions, but that DEP would assign more staff as needed. Mr.

1 Pickering indicated that DEP is starting the process of getting a “fast track project” (or “alternative  
2 schedule project”) moving forward at DEP.  
3  
4

5  
6 **DUXBURY SITE VISIT**  
7

8 Ms. Lampert reported on the results of a site visit conducted by the Duxbury Board of Selectmen and  
9 Nuclear Matters Committee.  
10

11 Ms. Lampert commented that the group was impressed with the professionalism and cordiality of the  
12 Holtec personnel who accompanied the group. However, she later received an email from a member of  
13 the Holtec security team raising concerns about security gaps, and also received photos of two uninvited  
14 guests who were on site. These materials were sent to the AGO and Holtec.  
15

16 Mr. O’Brien commented that he has put these issues into a corrective action program. The company is  
17 looking into the allegations.  
18

19 **QUESTIONS FROM PANEL MEMBERS**  
20

21 Mr. Mahoney asked about how security protocols will evolve as fuel is loaded onto the pad. Mr. O’Brien  
22 and Mr. Noyes responded that security has been fully staffed since the third week of May<sup>7</sup>. Armed  
23 security is currently available 24/7, and is made up of highly trained professional staff. Security will  
24 complement every movement of fuel to the pad, and surrounding areas will be more restricted.  
25

26 Mr. O’Brien added that Holtec has received confirmation of approval for the visual screening plan.  
27 Holtec will be moving forward with this plan, which had to be approved by the state and the Town of  
28 Plymouth.  
29

30 Mr. Rothstein indicated that he had previously asked about disposition of the lower ISFSI pad after the  
31 completion of the fuel campaign. Mr. O’Brien confirmed that it will be decommissioned, and that it will  
32 not be a permanent fixture on the site. In addition, if spent fuel is ultimately taken over by the federal  
33 government, then the upper ISFSI pad will be decommissioned as well.  
34

35 Ms. duBois asked whether drones would be prohibited. Mr. O’Brien stated that the security plan most  
36 likely has a provision about drones.  
37

38 Mr. Grassie commented that a neighborhood watch program is critical for security. He also commented  
39 that NRC-supervised sites do not engage in force-on-force exercises, and that social media monitoring  
40 would be helpful.  
41

42 **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**  
43

---

<sup>7</sup> Dave Noyes corrected this statement by email to Chair and vice chair following the meeting that the security had been fully staffed by June 11<sup>th</sup>, and NOT in May, as he reported in this meeting.

1 A commenter from the League of Women Voters raised concerns about the two visitors who were able  
2 to gain access to the upper parking lot during the site visit by the Town of Duxbury. She also stated  
3 support for the idea of a neighborhood watch group.

4  
5 Mr. O'Brien responded that the parking lot is a public space, and that the visitors did not cross any  
6 security barriers.

7  
8 Another commenter (Diane Turco) reiterated that trespassors should not be allowed onto the property.  
9 She also asked about a request for information sent from the NRC relative to emergency planning at the  
10 Pilgrim site.

11 Mr. Noyes confirmed that Holtec has received the NRC request and is preparing a response. The request  
12 has to do with ambulance services provided for the site. Mr. Noyes stated that Holtec uses the Brewster  
13 ambulance service through the Plymouth fire department, and that this service is capable of  
14 transporting contaminated injured personnel.

15  
16 Another commenter (James Lampert) asked Mr. Pickering when the state will complete its review of  
17 Holtec's environmental site assessment work plan, and whether the state views the document to be in  
18 compliance with the AGO's settlement agreement. Mr. Pickering stated that he does not know how long  
19 the state's review will take, but that DEP and DPH will be coordinating comments through the AGO.

20  
21 At the end of public comments, Mr. Rothstein indicated that he has submitted his resignation to the  
22 NDCAP co-chairs.

23  
24 Mr. Mahoney stated that another resignation letter was received from Sean Mullin, and that the co-  
25 chairs will be formulating a plan to find replacements for both Mr. Rothstein and Mr. Mullin.

26  
27 **REVIEW OF TEMPLATE FOR MEETING MINUTES**

28  
29 Discussion followed regarding a proposed template for tracking questions raised during NDCAP  
30 meetings.

31  
32 Ms. Lampert stated that Mr. Lampert has also proposed a template and suggested that an  
33 amalgamation could be adopted by the panel. Mr. Priest stated that he would work with Mr. Lampert to  
34 come up with a document to send to the NDCAP co-chairs.

35  
36 Mr. Rothstein indicated support for continuing the practice of having detailed meeting minutes, which  
37 were helpful in preparing the annual reports.

38  
39 Mr. Jones commented that maintaining minutes is a requirement of the open meeting law, and would  
40 not be replaced.

41  
42 **CSG-East**

43  
44 Ms. duBois reported on her research into a group called the "Council of State Governments" (CSG)-East,  
45 which includes the Canadian provinces and Northeastern states. The chair of the energy and  
46 environment group is Senator Marc Pacheco. Ms. duBois would like to invite Senator Pacheco to an  
47 upcoming meeting to discuss alternatives for long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel.

1 The last NDCAP annual report also contained an invitation to Governor Baker to attend a meeting to  
2 hear concerns in this area. Governor Baker assigned this task to EEA Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.  
3 Ms. duBois suggested that Secretary Theoharides be invited to a future meeting.

4  
5 Ms. duBois also suggested that the panel reach out to NDCAPs in other states to create a public forum to  
6 discuss the issue of long-term spent fuel storage.

7  
8  
9

10

11 **WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT**

12

13 A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

14

15 The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 pm.

16

17 **MATERIALS PRESENTED AT MEETING**

18

19 July 26, 2021 - Pilgrim NDCAP meeting slides (from Holtec)