

**NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL (“NDCAP”)  
Monday, February 22, 2021  
Virtual Meeting Due to Covid-19  
Meeting Minutes**

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

- John T. Mahoney, Representative of the Town of Plymouth (Chair)
- Richard Grassie, Minority Leader of the House Appointee
- Pat O’Brien, Representative of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
- Dave Noyes, Compliance Manager, CDI
- Pine duBois, Speaker of the House Appointee (Vice Chair)
- John Moylan, Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Site Vice President
- Paul D. Smith<sup>1</sup>, Representative of UWUA Local 369
- Mary Waldron, Old Colony Planning Council
- Mary Lampert, Senate President Appointee
- Jack Priest, Department of Public Health, Radiation Control Program
- John G. Flores, Governor Baker Appointee
- Richard Rothstein, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
- David Johnston<sup>2</sup>, Department of Environmental Protection
- Samantha Phillips, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Kevin O’Reilly, Speaker of the House Appointee
- Robert Jones<sup>3</sup>, Executive Office of Health and Human Services
- Susan Whitaker, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- David C. Nichols, Governor Baker Appointee
- Robert Hayden, Department of Public Utilities

**NDCAP MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

- Sean Mullin, Minority Leader of the Senate Appointee
- Richard Quintal, Town of Plymouth Selectboard

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Gerard Martin, Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Regional Office, Bureau of Waste Site Management
- Seth Pickering, Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, Waste Site Management
- David Noyes, Representative of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
- John Drobinski, ERM

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<sup>1</sup> Designee of Richard Sherman (Representative of UWUA Local 369)

<sup>2</sup> Designee of Secretary Theoharides (EEA)

<sup>3</sup> Designee of Secretary Sudders (Executive Office of Health and Human Services)

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**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Ms. duBois requested clarification on pg. 3, line 17 of previous minutes, a section discussing the number of soil absorption systems being removed. Mr. Johnston clarified that 12 will be removed. Ms. duBois also requested clarification of pg. 4 line 13, asking whether the item “holding biweekly meetings” was with meant to include regulatory stakeholders. Mr. Johnston confirmed.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 2021 NDCAP meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**HOLTEC UPDATE**

Mr. O’Brien provided an update of work since the January 2021 meeting. Holtec continues to work on vessel internals segmentations; 154 of upper riser tubes have been segmented, and lower riser tube segmentation is in process, in addition to other work. Mr. O’Brien noted the largest development in last month was the removal by Eversource of overhead 345kV Transmission lines from the main transformer to the switchyard on February 17th.

Mr. O’Brien also discussed with the panel Holtec’s progress with outbuilding and tank demolition, providing a granular update of progress on the components of outbuilding and tank, such as the exterior storage tank demolitions, condenser bay, and hydraulic control unit removal, in addition to several buildings. Mr. O’Brien flagged that they will be beginning removing all fuel from the spent fuel pool this year. Mr. O’Brien also provided a site characterization timeline update. A final review is expected on March 31<sup>st</sup>, with LSP amendment of ESA Work Plan expected on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. O’Brien then provided an updated of Holtec’s fuel campaign. Thirty-four casks (all fuel from the spent fuel pool) will be removed in the campaign. Preparation and mobilization will begin in May, fuel loading is planned for June, with all fuel and GTCC Containers to be on fuel pad by January 2022. Lastly, Mr. Noyes provided an update of 2020 NRC inspection activities.

Mr. Rothstein asked at what point the main control room will be demolished and whether there will be another place the Met tower readout is transmitted to. Mr. O’Brien clarified that staffing in the main control room will continue until all fuel is on the pad. Mr. O’Brien also explained that in Holtec’s agreement with the Attorney General the company can take down the Met tower at any time and rely on National Weather Service data. Mr. O’Brien noted the company has decided to keep the tower until all fuel is on the pad, and at that point decide if and when the tower will come down.

Ms. Lampert raised several issues regarding the NRC and training [some parts inaudible]. Mr. O’Brien and others responded to her concern.

**Approved**

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**IWG UPDATE**

Mr. Johnston noted that Ms. Turco flagged a recent question regarding what corrective actions need to be implemented. Mr. Noyes answered, explaining that there is a very low threshold for corrective actions in the program. The company has also added extra thresholds for safety that are not mandated by NRC regulations.

Mr. Johnston gave a brief IWG update, noting he expects more in March in several specific areas. Mr. Johnston said he hopes to have more on split sampling in March as well.

Ms. Lampert asked Mr. Johnston to clarify what he meant by “split.” Mr. Johnston clarified that IWG has not fully determined how they will treat split samples yet. Ms. Lampert asked if they will do independent samples. Mr. Johnston explained the process, noting independent samples are possible if needed. Ms. Lampert expressed that she hopes forthcoming March report is comprehensive.

**QUESTION DOCUMENT**

Mr. Mahoney raised the issue of a list of questions that was circulated to the panel.

Ms. Lampert noted most of the questions were for Mr. O’Brien and in the future can be directed right to him. Ms. duBois, noted Mr. O’Brien could answer some of the questions now. Mr. O’Brien addressed a question about cask warranty, giving an overview of cask components.

Ms. Phillips gave an overview of the All Hazards Plan development process.

Mr. O’Brien addressed a final question from the document about when sampling will occur in the site temporary staging area. Mr. Priest added that the staging area is not a historically radiologically impacted area.

The idea of restructuring and establishing separate working groups for main topics (site cleanup, waste storage and safety, and finance) was raised by Mary Lampert and discussed. Ms. Lampert believes not enough time is allotted to each major focus area for a single two-hour meeting.

Mr. Rothstein expressed that he thought the consensus was not to have additional work group meetings but Ms. Lampert’s idea could be possible if conducted over Zoom. Mr. Johnston suggested meetings are refocused but not to add additional meetings. Ms. Lampert responded that she feels there is not enough time to address all concerns of audience. The issue was discussed further.

**Approved**

1 Ms. duBois noted she liked Mr. Johnston’s suggestions and proposed the group focus on site assessment  
2 for the coming months. Some brief discussion continued about potential approaches for different focus  
3 areas.

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8 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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10 Mr. Mahoney raised the next agenda item of moving to a schedule of one NDCAP meeting every other  
11 month to improve efficiency of work and reduce organizational burden for the state. Mr. Mahoney  
12 asked for comment. Ms. duBois discussed the projected timetable for LSP report.

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14 The merits of the proposal were discussed; Several panel members expressed support for this proposal.  
15 Ms. Lampert strongly disagreed out of concern for public access. Mr. O’Brien argued that since the  
16 conclusion of the AG agreement, the pace of work has slowed and a monthly meeting is not necessary.  
17 Ms. Lampert expressed she does not want to streamline the public out of the process and advocated for  
18 having guest speakers and more opportunities for public input.

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20 Ms. duBois noted that there are many ways to educate the public through existing channels and panel  
21 members should develop proposals themselves. Ms. duBois noted she is not getting a lot of assistance  
22 on the meeting agenda, and if meetings are concentrated on work at hand all parties will get more out  
23 of it, including the public. If more is needed, Ms. duBois requests panel members develop proposals and  
24 add them to the agenda.

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26 Mr. O’Brien motioned for NDCAP to meet every two months and to vote. Mr. O’Reilly seconded the  
27 motion. Ms. Lampert moved to open up comments from members of the public and then take a vote  
28 afterward. The motion was not seconded.

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30 Mr. Mahoney noted that he believes NDCAP still retains the autonomy to add additional meetings in the  
31 future if warranted. Ms. Waldron noted that the learning curve for the audience is steep and engaging  
32 public is important. Mr. Flores noted the lack of agenda items and expressed support for the proposal.

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34 Chair Mahoney called the motion for a vote. The motion passed.

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36 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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38 Ms. Turco of the audience expressed disappointment and discouragement about what she perceives as  
39 a lack of transparency in adopting 2-month meeting intervals and also suggested adding a guest speaker  
40 from another state to talk about waste storage. Ms. duBois responded by emphasizing that the change  
41 was an effort to improve efficiency and not a move to restrict information. Ms. duBois expressed that if  
42 more input is needed NDCAP will add more meetings.

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Approved

1 Mr. Johnston expressed that the scope of these meetings should be focused on specifically  
2 decommissioning Pilgrim and not address what may become unrelated issues by bringing in multiple  
3 speakers on different topics. Ms. Turco reiterated her concern about waste storage.

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5 Henrietta Constantino of the audience expressed support for Ms. Turco's points and emphasized the  
6 difficulty for members of the public of developing an understanding of nuclear decommissioning. Ms.  
7 Constantino also expressed that she believes the idea of using dry casks for storage has not been  
8 resolved.

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10 Mr. Lampert expressed support for the working group model as it allows for better public education. Mr.  
11 Lampert also expressed frustration that the questions he submitted are not being fully addressed by the  
12 panel and suggested meetings be expanded if working groups are not used.

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14 Mr. Rothstein expressed that the panel does not have all the technical expertise it needs and suggested  
15 the group be able to draw on a group of experts. Working groups and meeting structure were debated  
16 further.

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18 Mr. Mahoney requested any agenda items that should be added to the agenda for the March 15 NDCAP.  
19 Ms. duBois asked if there were any concerns regarding proposed website updates. Mr. O'Reilly  
20 suggested several additions.

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22 The meeting was adjourned at 8:36