

Good evening, everyone. I am Jim Cantwell, State Director for Senator Edward Markey. I will be delivering a statement on behalf of Senator Markey.

**“When it comes to the decommissioning of nuclear power stations like Pilgrim, the public’s safety and wellbeing must always be the top priority.**

**As the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, I will continue to work with Senator Warren, and our colleagues in the House to push the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Holtec to prioritize public engagement, public safety, and public health over industry profits.**

**On Friday, May 6, I was pleased to chair a field hearing of the EPW Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety at Plymouth Town Hall. It was important that we hold the federal conversation on this important issue of nuclear decommissioning in one of the places most affected by it.**

**During this hearing, we received verbal testimony from John Lubinski from the NRC; Kris Singh, President of Holtec International; Massachusetts State Senator Susan L. Moran; and staff from the Massachusetts Attorney’s General Office and the Natural Resources Defense Council.**

**I also secured commitments from Holtec, including that:**

- (1) Holtec would not discharge any radioactive, contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay from the plant without the consent of stakeholders.**
- (2) Holtec would work with an independent body with marine experience to test the water in the pools.**
- (3) Holtec would provide a financial backstop to ensure full decommission and clean-up of the plant site; and**
- (4) Holtec would meet with union representatives from the Laborers, Ironworkers, Carpenters, IBEW, and Operating Engineers regarding an ongoing labor dispute.**

**These are critical commitments, and I will hold Holtec accountable to ensure that they are fulfilled.**

**Currently, my team is working with experts to identify an independent lab with marine experience that will be able to test Holtec's radioactive water.**

**I will continue to work with Senator Warren and Congressman Keating to amplify the concerns from Cape Cod Bay's communities and local stakeholders regarding the potential overboarding of water.**

**Additionally, I along with Senator Warren and Congressman Keating will also be sending a letter to Dr. Singh and Kelly Trice, President of Holtec Decommissioning International, urging Holtec to fulfill its commitment to meet with the labor unions involved with the decommissioning of Pilgrim and other stations.**

**As part of the field hearing record, I have also submitted follow-up questions for NRC Director Lubinksi and Dr. Singh.**

**In my questions to Director Lubinksi, I asked about the status of environmental reviews regarding the dumping of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay, NRC guidelines for cracked or leaking dry casks, and other issues related to the decommissioning rule.**

**In my questions to Dr. Singh, I asked him to clarify details about Holtec's current plan regarding the release of radioactive water into Cape Cod and to provide details about alternative options to discharging the water. I also asked Dr. Singh about Holtec's decommissioning timeline for Pilgrim, the company's dry cask inspection regime and its plans for addressing cracked or leaking dry casks, and whether Holtec would share the study it claims to have conducted roughly 20 years ago regarding the effect of discharge in Cape Cod Bay.**

**In the Senate, I will continue to encourage the NRC to strengthen its proposed decommissioning rule. This rule, which is currently open for public comment until August 30, serves as a critical opportunity for the NRC to reassert itself as an independent, impartial regulator worthy of the public trust.**

**Instead of simply approving this rule—which would allow the NRC and plant operators to cut corners on safety and limit public engagement at the expense of the communities near nuclear plants—I am working to make sure that the NRC takes this opportunity to improve its regulations.**

**By putting a stronger rule in place, the NRC can ensure that communities have a seat at the table when it comes to the decommissioning process, and better protect the safety and financial health of every community.**

**The families and businesses in communities with decommissioning nuclear power plants do not all claim to be nuclear experts, but they do have honest and legitimate concerns about how a decommissioning nuclear power plant affects their health, safety, livelihoods, and local economy, and it is well past time that the NRC and nuclear industry take their input seriously. The people closest to the problems must be the people closest to the solutions.**

**Thank you.”**