



MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-2200
www.mass.gov/ago

October 5, 2022

Dear Chair Mitchell and West Tisbury Select Board:

Thank you for your message expressing concerns about the fact that Holtec is considering discharging wastewater into Cape Cod Bay from, among other sources, the spent nuclear fuel pool at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim).

We, like you and other members of the public, are concerned about this option for disposing of the wastewater, and we are working closely with our partner agencies to more fully understand it and the potential risks it would pose to the environment and public health, among other things. However, as you may know, the joint federal and state Clean Water Act permit for the facility expressly prohibits such a discharge and any such discharge would thus be unlawful under the current joint permit. For your reference, we have included the relevant text from the current permit next.

The joint federal and state Clean Water Act permit for Pilgrim expressly prohibits:

- (i) “[t]he discharge of pollutants in spent fuel pool water;”
- (ii) “[t]he discharge of pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activity, including activities, physical alterations, or additions associated with the dismantlement and demolition of plant systems, structures, and buildings;” and
- (iii) “[d]ischarges of pollutants associated with contaminated site dewatering, pipeline and tank dewatering, collection structure dewatering, or dredge-related dewatering, and including . . . physical alterations or additions resulting in the discharge or pollutants associated with the dismantlement and decontamination of plant systems and structures and/or demolition of buildings.”

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with our Office. If you have any further questions or concerns that you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to pass them along. To do so, please e-mail them to Carly Pusateri at carly.pusateri@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Schofield".

Seth Schofield
Senior Appellate Counsel
Energy and Environment Bureau

