



Shut Pilgrim Speak Out October 22, 2015

One of the most basic responsibilities of government is to keep its people safe. For too long our government has been putting the safety of 4+ million residents within 50 miles of the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant at risk.

Now thanks to changing economics, as well as the tireless efforts of Pilgrim Watch, Cape Downwinders and countless others, Pilgrim will finally be closed.

But our work is not done. Far from it.

First, it's still not safe. Four years is too long to wait. **Shut it NOW.**

Second, we have to make sure that the staff who know how to safely decommission the plant don't jump ship now for new jobs. **We need the A team in place for this important work.**

Lastly, we need to replace that energy generation. We need to replace it NOT with more natural gas pipelines, NOT with Canadian hydropower, but with **affordable and reliable wind and solar power right here in New England.**

Locally generated clean energy means we keep jobs and energy dollars here, and we provide stable electricity prices for the next twenty years.

Our legislature is considering legislation right now that can do this! There are three pieces we need to get it done:

- 1) **Double the Renewable Portfolio Standard**, to drive demand upward for local clean energy projects;
- 2) **Eliminate artificial caps on solar**, so that the incredible growth of this local industry can keep expanding, bringing with it jobs, economic growth and price stability.
- 3) **Commit to long term contracts with offshore wind** – Cape Wind was a blip in the road. We have three additional offshore leases that are in the process of being developed, but their developers need the security of long term financing.



And once they're built, that's it! The sun and the wind are free, unlike any fossil fuel we are currently relying on.

As with so many issues, our challenges here are not technical. We have the know-how, we have the technology.

What we need now is the political will. Will our elected leaders display as much courage as the people in this room who have gotten us this far? Will they vote for a clean energy future not just for future generations, but for our own generation?

Close Pilgrim NOW. Ensure safety during decommissioning. And replace the energy with clean renewables that bring price stability and stop warming our planet.

Thank you.

Emily Norton

Director

Massachusetts Sierra Club