

HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS' LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD CITIZENS FROM PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION

1987 A report of the Joint Special Committee on Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station chaired by Senator Thomas Norton and Representative Peter Forman called for the establishment of a 50-mile EPZ for the population adjacent to any nuclear power station operating in the Commonwealth. H5682 and H5382 were both engrossed by the House of Representatives, and reported favorably by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. At least one of these bills called for 50-mile EPZs.

1988 Representative Lawrence Alexander and others sponsored H5656 which called for the establishment of a 20-mile EPZ for the population adjacent to any nuclear power station operating in the Commonwealth.

A statewide which called for the shutdown of Massachusetts' two nuclear power plants failed in November after an industry campaign which admitted that Pilgrim had it's problems, but this wasn't fair to Yankee Rowe which was a model reactor. Facing expensive repairs three years later, Rowe closed.

1989 Robert O'Leary (then Barnstable County Commissioner) said, "The ten-mile evacuation zone is inadequate considering the unique geography of Cape Cod."

An article by Ernest Corrigan in the April 26 issue of the *Cape Cod Times* ("Bill expanding nuclear safety zone advances") reported, "This is the third year that the legislation has been filed. It has been approved in the House and the Senate, though not in the same legislative years." H2228 was to expand the EPZ to twenty miles. H4504, introduced by Representative Peter Forman and Senator Edward Kirby, was to include all communities in Barnstable County in "nuclear power plant areas". These were reported out of committee as H5754, which called for inclusion of Barnstable County in the EPZ. It read, in part, as follows [emphasis added]:

Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to immediately clarify and improve radiological emergency response planning and monitoring for licensed and operating nuclear power plants, therefore it is hereby declared to be an **emergency law** necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety.

1990 H5956 would have expanded the EPZ to twenty miles plus all of Barnstable County. This bill passed the House but died in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

1991 H1906 would have expanded the EPZ to twenty miles plus all of Barnstable County, however it was compromised in committee to 10 miles. According to an article in the Dec. 29 issue of the Cape Cod Times, "Representative Barbara Hildt said the new bill does away with EPZ expansion only because Boston Edison has informally agreed to work with the Cape Cod Commission to develop a warning system to alert the area in case of an accident." In a June 18 meeting with members of Citizens at Risk: Cape Cod, Representative Albert Herren, Chairman of the House Energy Committee, asked for support of the compromise. Previous bills, with stronger provisions, had all failed, he pointed out. He assured CAR:CC that this bill would certainly pass, he had determined that from informal discussion with Boston Edison Company. "If it doesn't pass," he said, "I'll kick their ass from Sandwich to P-town!", clearly referring to BECo. An aide added, "He's a real bulldog." The bill died in the House Ways and Means Committee.

1992 H1288 to expand the EPZ to twenty miles plus all of Barnstable County. H3886 to expand the EPZ to twenty miles plus all of Barnstable County. H3565 sponsored by Representative Al Herren; no expansion of the EPZ, improved monitoring. On Oct. 2nd, Kerry Cullen, an aide to Rep. Herren said that they were "already planning to re-file the legislation next year". Representatives Alexander and Costello, in previous years, fought for passage of their legislation well into December.

1992 **In November, 78% of Cape and Islands voted in favor of a State Senatorial District ballot referendum requesting Senator Rauchenbach to work to establish a radiological emergency plan for our area.**

1994 In September, the Assembly of Delegates passed two resolutions:

1. voicing support for a bill which calls for study of public buildings that could be used as shelters in case of a nuclear accident - it was co-sponsored by Representatives John Klimm, D-Barnstable, and Eric Turkington, D-Falmouth.
2. proposing that the legislature amend a nuclear emergency planning bill to include Cape Cod in Pilgrim's emergency planning zone.

Numerous bills were introduced after 1992, many by Representative Matthew Patrick, but I didn't document them for nearly a decade; none passed. - D. Agnew

2013 All 15 Cape towns passed the following referendum via Spring Town Meeting or Town Election (by a [2:1 average margin](#)):

Whereas, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ([MEMA](#)) Director [Kurt Schwartz has acknowledged](#) that Cape residents and visitors are “in harm’s way” in the event of a radiological accident at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth;

Whereas, MEMA has determined that Cape residents and visitors will not be evacuated but plans to relocate Cape citizens after exposure to dangerous radioactive materials released in an accident;

Whereas, citizens of the Town of _____ find this State response to Pilgrim’s threat to our health and safety unacceptable and in violation of the public trust;

Therefore, be it resolved that we the people of Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth respectfully **request Governor Deval Patrick to call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to uphold their mandate to shut Entergy’s Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth** because the public safety, particularly Cape and Islands residents and visitors, cannot be assured.

2014 Five Martha’s Vineyard towns overwhelmingly called for Pilgrim to be closed, as did the selectmen of the sixth town, with language similar or equal to the following:

We the people of the Town of _____, respectfully **request Governor Deval Patrick to call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to uphold their mandate to shut down Entergy’s Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth** because the public safety, particularly that of Cape and Islands residents and visitors, cannot be assured.

On November 4, 2014, in the Cape & Islands Senatorial District [74% of voters approved the question](#):

“Shall the state senator from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation to **expand the radiological Plume Exposure Emergency Planning Zone around the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth**, an approximately 10 mile-radius area, **to include all of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties?**”