



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 12-062

May 25, 2012

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AUTHORIZES STAFF TO RENEW OPERATING LICENSE FOR PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has authorized the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to renew the operating license of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass., for an additional 20 years. Staff expects to renew the license before Pilgrim's current operating license expires on June 8.

The Commission's authorization came in a Staff Requirements Memorandum issued today. The staff had requested authorization to renew Pilgrim's license although some contentions remain under adjudication before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Under NRC policy, a decision to renew a license before completion of the hearing requires Commission approval. The authorization specifies that if the renewed license is subsequently set aside on appeal, the previous license would be reinstated.

Without the license renewal, Entergy, the plant operator, could continue to operate the Pilgrim reactor after June 8 under "timely renewal" provisions in NRC regulations, which would keep the current license in effect while the adjudication continues. Renewal of the license means new license conditions take effect, requiring Entergy to implement age-management policies and programs designed to ensure safety during the period of extended operations.

The [Staff Requirements Memorandum](#) and the [Commissioners' votes](#) are available on the NRC website.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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