



TOWN OF WELLFLEET
OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD

300 MAIN STREET **WELLFLEET** **MASSACHUSETTS 02667**
(508) 349-0300 **(508)349-0305 (FAX)**

www.wellfleet-ma.gov

January 24, 2022

Dear Deborah:

The Town of Wellfleet voted on January 11, 2022 to go on record as opposing Holtec International's plan to discharge one million gallons of radioactive water from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's reactor vessel and spent fuel pool into Cape Cod Bay.

As a community located along Cape Cod Bay with 3617 year-round residents and an estimated 30,000 seasonal residents and visitors, we are very concerned about the potential adverse impacts Holtec's proposed action would have on our residents' public health, the environment, and the local economy.

Cape Cod Bay is unique in that it is a semi-enclosed embayment that is not conducive to dilution and disbursement of pollutants. The cumulative effects of radiation combined with the enclosed nature of the bay translate into too many unknown risks to make the proposed discharge acceptable. From a human health perspective, the potential for bioaccumulation of radiation in shellfish and finfish that are used as food sources is of great concern to us. These health concerns also translate into potential threats to our coastal economy, with ramifications for our commercial fisheries and the many businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Wellfleet is known for our clean, recreational waters used by swimmers, surfers and boaters.

Wellfleet's shellfish industry provides a year-round living to many families. These families rely on shellfish for some or all of their income. Wellfleet have 157 Commercial Shellfish Permit Holders, 158 licensed aquaculture sites and 9 active fishing vessels, and a total of 299 individuals who derive their income from shellfish. Wellfleet ranked 7th in the Commonwealth in Ex Vessel Value in 2018. We also have 867 recreational shellfish permit holders. A release of radioactive water endangers the cleanliness of our marine products. A perception that our products are somehow tainted will significantly impact our industry's immediate and long-term viability and greatly endanger the livelihoods of those who derive their income from shellfish.

Designated as a State Ocean Sanctuary in 1970, Cape Cod Bay is recognized for its ecological diversity and significance. Its marine and coastal habitats support many commercially important fish and shellfish species and state and federally listed birds and marine mammal species. In late winter and spring, the bay serves as a rich feeding ground for the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Discharging the contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay is not the only option available to Holtec. Instead of releasing the water into the bay, the company has other alternative actions to take, including storing the

water at the site or trucking the water to another location. There is too much at stake to gamble with the health of the region's environment and its residents by permitting Holtec to use Cape Cod Bay as its dumping ground simply because it is cheaper for the company to do so.

We, therefore, state our strong opposition to any plans by Holtec International to discharge water containing radiation or other contaminants into Cape Cod Bay.

Sincerely,

The Town of Wellfleet