



Town of Barnstable Town Council

367 Main Street, Village of Hyannis, MA 02601
508-862-4738 • 508-862-4770
E-mail: council@town.barnstable.ma.us
www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Councilors:

February 7, 2022

Matthew Levesque
President
Precinct 10

Paula Schnepf
Vice President
Precinct 12

Deborah Szaro, Acting Region 1 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Administrator Szaro:

Gordon Starr
Precinct 1

Eric R. Steinhilber
Precinct 2

Paul Hebert
Precinct 3

Nikolas Atsalis
Precinct 4

David W. Bogan
Precinct 5

Paul C. Neary
Precinct 6

Jessica Rapp Grassetti
Precinct 7

Jeffrey Mendes
Precinct 8

Tracy Shaughnessy
Precinct 9

Kristine Clark
Precinct 11

Jennifer L. Cullum
Precinct 13

Administrator:
Cynthia A. Lovell
Cynthia.Lovell@town.barnstable.ma.us

Administrative
Assistant:
Kelly Crahan
Kelly.Crahan@town.barnstable.ma.us

On February 3, 2022, the Barnstable Town Council voted to go on record as opposing Holtec International's plan to discharge radioactive water from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's reactor vessel and spent fuel pool into Cape Cod Bay.

As our community is located along Cape Cod Bay with 44,477 year-round residents and 150,000 seasonal residents and visitors, we are very concerned about the potential adverse impacts Holtec's proposed action would have on our residents' and visitors' health, the environment and the local economy.

While Holtec has agreed to postpone this discharge during 2022, the proposed delay does not eliminate the damage such discharges will do to the economic interests of those who make their living from marine-related industries and to public health. Disposing of radioactive contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay will undoubtedly have immediate impacts on economic and environmental assets such as aquaculture, the fishing industry, recreational boating and tourism. However, the unforeseen long term impacts may be even more dire for the delicate ecosystems along our coastline, an invaluable resource to the Town of Barnstable, Barnstable County and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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 that include storing the water at the site, employing evaporation, 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.

The Barnstable Town Council therefore supports the requests that have been made by the Barnstable County Board of Regional Commissioners to federal and state officials to take the following actions to prevent Holtec from moving forward with its plan to discharge radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay and other protected coastal waters:

1. Enact legislation that would ban the discharge of radioactive contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay and other protected coastal waters.
2. Request that Governor Baker direct the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enforce and, as required, amend existing

regulations to ban the discharge of radioactive contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay and other protected coastal waters.

3. Request that the Massachusetts Attorney General enforce existing Massachusetts laws and regulations and the terms of the Pilgrim Decommissioning Settlement Agreement.

It is vitally important for all of us to protect our natural resources as well as the economic interest of our citizens. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew P. Levesque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Matthew P. Levesque
President, Barnstable Town Council