



TOWN OF DUXBURY

BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWN OFFICES
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Duxbury Board of Health Resolution Opposing the Release of "Low-Level Radioactive Water" from the Pilgrim Reactor by Holtec

The Duxbury Board of Health ardently opposes the release or dumping ("over boarding") of Low-Level Radioactive Water from the Pilgrim Reactor into Cape Cod Bay.

The risk for damage to Duxbury shell fishing, aquaculture, maritime, and tourist-based economy is untenable. Health hazards from exposure to, or ingestion of, long-lived radionuclides such as cesium-137 (half-life= 30.17 yrs.), strontium-90 (half-life= 29 yrs.), cobalt-60 (half-life= 5.27 yrs.), tritium (half-life = 12.3 yrs.) and plutonium are both cumulative severe, and unacceptable. There is an increased risk for cancer as well as possible harm to pregnant women and their fetuses.

All of these radioactive compounds have already been found in the surface water, groundwater, and soils at Pilgrim at levels exceeding "background" levels. Additionally, a longer-term risk to our sole source aquifer water supply, especially from tritium which isn't removed by existing filtration procedures used in purification attempts.

We therefore urge Holtec to adopt the safest possible disposal method for the nearly million gallons of low-level radioactive water that they must remove from the Pilgrim site during the continuing decommissioning process currently underway.

We also urge our state representatives and senator to support the bills before the MA House and the Senate which adds language to a state law regulating "crimes against public health." The revised law would prohibit the deposit, disposal, or discharge of any solid or liquid radioactive material in coastal or inland waters.
