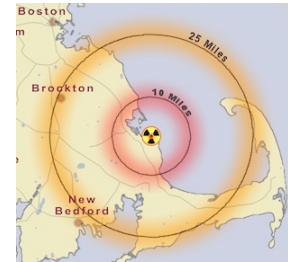


## Voting YES on #5 is a Vote to Include Truro in the Emergency Planning Zone around Pilgrim Nuclear

The Massachusetts Secretary of State's office approved a non-binding question asking voters if the emergency planning zone for the Pilgrim nuclear power plant should be expanded to include their towns.



The question asks:

*"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?"*

Legislation expanding the zone has been introduced every year since 1988, but never passed both the House and the Senate in the same year. This year's version expanded the zone to 20 miles to include the Cape, but died in the Joint Committee on Public Health.



Pilgrim Nuclear is directly across the bay from Truro

MEMA, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, has **"No Plans for Cape Cod"** for how to deal with an emergency at Pilgrim Nuclear and protect residents of Truro. To allow time for residents of Plymouth and nearby areas to evacuate, one or both of the bridges off the Cape will be closed, causing a gridlock of epic proportions across the entire Cape. Even worse, being in a car fully exposes you to the radioactive plume.



So the current plan is to "shelter-in-place," which essentially means to stay indoors with the windows closed, and to take a potassium iodide (KI) pill to protect the thyroid gland for 24 hours. This is presented in the *Radiation Emergency Reference Sheet*, which says the safest action is to: Stay Calm. Stay Indoors. Stay Tuned. An excerpt from that sheet is on the right below.

According to MEMA, “Generally, sheltering-in-place can provide significant protection for about 2 hours in small residential structures.” Federal government scientists estimate sheltering-in-place will only protect you from radiation by about 20% compared to if you went about normal activities.

The federal law that deals with emergency management and assistance states<sup>ii</sup>

“*Plume Exposure Pathway* refers to whole body external exposure to gamma radiation from the plume and from deposited materials and inhalation exposure from the passing radioactive plume. The duration of primary exposures could range in length from hours to days.”

That implies that the current plan for the Cape is to shelter-in-place, and take one KI pill. But in 24 hours, when that thyroid-only protection of the KI wears off, and the primary exposure from the radioactive plume could still be present, sheltering-in-place becomes much less effective than evacuation would have been.

Furthermore, there are no radiation monitoring stations on Cape Cod, which renders us blind to what would actually be happening to the environment around us in case of emergency.

Without a plan, many people will panic and try to self-evacuate and become stranded on Route 6 as they run out of gas, putting themselves and others at even greater risk.

**If the Emergency Planning Zone is expanded to include the Cape, then federal regulations would provide for the development of an emergency evacuation plan.**

from MEMA Reference Sheet

### **No Plans for Cape Cod**

Depending on the wind direction, Cape Cod could be subject to the effects of a general emergency at the PNPS.

Radioactive materials from a PNPS release could settle on buildings, crops and gardens, and water. Consuming contaminated materials could put you at risk.

Federal regulations provide for emergency evacuation plans for areas within the 10-mile EPZ.

Cape Cod lies outside the 10-mile EPZ so no emergency evacuation is planned.

### **Stay Calm. Stay Indoors.**

In the event of a radiation emergency that affects Cape Cod, residents and visitors should

- Stay calm
- Stay indoors
- Stay tuned: monitor the Emergency Alert System for official information

<sup>i</sup> Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Radiation Emergency Reference Sheet, For Cape Cod Residents and Visitors [http://www.bcrepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/BCREPC\\_Radiation-Emergency-Reference-Sheet-092214.pdf](http://www.bcrepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/BCREPC_Radiation-Emergency-Reference-Sheet-092214.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> See US Federal Register 44 CFR 350.2 – Definitions <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/44/350.2>