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Pilgrim could be next; why take the chance?

In March 2011, loss of power for cooling water triggered meltdowns at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Explosions sent a massive plume of radioactive material spreading across the countryside. About 160,000 people were evacuated. Fortunately for them, they didn't have to get across the Sagamore or Bourne bridges.

Four years later, 70,000 people are still unable to return to their homes because of radioactive contamination. Local agriculture is suffering because of concerns over radioactive crops. Thyroid cancer in the area has skyrocketed.

An estimated 6,000 children contracted thyroid cancer following the earlier Chernobyl nuclear disaster; 237 people suffered from acute radiation sickness, of whom, according to the World Health Organization's report, 28 died within three months.

Pilgrim Nuclear represents 2 percent of our grid's capacity, and when Pilgrim shuts down because of its numerous safety failures, our grid supplies the electricity we need without problem. Why do we want to continue to take these risks from an aging nuclear reactor that is the same design as the ones at Fukushima, and whose inspection record now ranks at the very bottom of all U.S. nuclear reactors? Let's instead focus on clean renewable energy as our strategy for the future.

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