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UPDATED:Pilgrim Station makes anti-pollution group's naughty list

by Matthew Nadler on [November 29, 2012](#)

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station was named one of this year's "Dirty Dozen" by the Toxic Action Center, a Boston-based organization which works with communities on pollution issues.

Among the concerns the group raises in their report are the amount of water the plant removes from Cape Cod Bay, then returns to it, hot and polluted.

Pilgrim, the group states, pumps half-billion gallons of seawater through its system daily, which it claims is polluted with chemicals when it's returned to the bay. Those chemicals and the water's high temperature is harmful to marine life says Toxic Action Center.

Nuclear engineer Howard Shaffer, who has spoken in favor of nuclear power and was asked to offer his take on the report and was asked to offer his take on the report, argues that marine life reproduces quickly, so the

question is not how many fish have died, but whether their population has decreased over the the time Pilgrim Station has been in service. TAC does not reference that data, he adds.

As for the water temperature, he states that the water temperature is raised by 30 degrees before it returns to the bay, where it quickly returns to the surrounding temperature.

The Toxic Action Center also note the ongoing tritium leaks and what they say are increased cases of radiation-caused diseases in the the area. Shaffer states that tritium exists naturally in water and is harmless. He adds that what is leaking was detected by Pilgrim's mandatory monitoring system.

"Pilgrim releases radiation daily into air and water and is built with the same flawed Mark I reactor design as Fukushima Daiichi," said David Agnew from an active "Cape Downwinders" group and spokesperson for Pilgrim Coalition, an alliance of local groups across the South Shore and the Cape. "We need to heed the warning call of Fukushima and retire Pilgrim for good."

Shaffer called the charges against Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee Power Station "political spin." He added that nuclear power plants "have never used the environment as a dump" and unlike fossil fuel burning plants, have always been designed to contain their own waste.

Read the report

[25 Years of the Dirty Dozen Report 2012](#)

Read Howard Shaffer's commentary

[Dirty Dozen-commentarymjahcs2](#)

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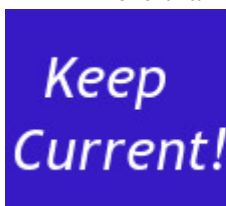
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'A Christmas Carol' at PBT this weekend. <http://t.co/G9WExS29>

What's Happening in Manomet and the Pinehills

Showing events after 12/10.

[Look for earlier events](#)

Monday, December 10

11:00am Family Story Time

Wednesday, December 12

1:00pm Manomet Knitters

Thursday, December 13

7:00pm Writers Workshop and Open Mic

Friday, December 14

6:30am Boys Basketball - Varsity - Pembro

Saturday, December 15

7:00pm A Christmas Carol

Sunday, December 16

2:00pm A Christmas Carol

Monday, December 17

6:30am Boys Basketball - Varsity - Sandwic



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