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Pilgrim nuclear plant shut down by loss of transmission lines

The Pilgrim nuclear power plant shut down automatically at 4:05 a.m. Tuesday after two transmission lines failed.

Governor Charlie Baker said the plant has a week's supply of power for its emergency generators and there is no threat to public safety. "No safety issue whatsoever," he told reporters at the state emergency command center in Framingham.

The power lines into Pilgrim are working, but the loss of transmission lines prevents the plant from delivering the electricity it generates.

Entergy, the owner of the plant, issued this statement:

"In response to degrading offsite electrical grid conditions during winter storm Juno, Pilgrim initiated a plant downpower to 20% in accordance with plant procedures.

"During the downpower, the distribution lines that Pilgrim uses to send electricity to the grid became inoperable due to an offsite issue, and the plant subsequently shut down safely as designed. The plant is currently being powered by the onsite emergency diesel generators and offsite power remains available from the 23KV power supply, if needed.

"All safety systems worked as designed. Plant conditions are stable and there is no threat to the safety of plant workers or the public."

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