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February 14, 2013

Dear sir or madam:

I'm writing to call your attention to two important issues that are being underreported in the news media. Attached is a synopsis pertaining to these compelling news stories.

1. We are now entering a period of increased solar storm activity. The Homeland Security report and other studies cited in the attached synopsis note the potential severity of solar storm derived voltage surges on our highly interconnected electric power grid.
2. Nuclear power plants are especially vulnerable to severe solar storms, including the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP), which now has 3,279 spent fuel assemblies in a poorly designed spent fuel pool.

I have recently been reviewing the extensive literature on the threat of solar storms to our highly interconnected electric power grid, including the potentially disastrous impact on the safety of all nuclear power plants. The general public needs to be informed about the potentially catastrophic impact of severe solar storms on our social infrastructure (digital networks, transportation, manufacturing, water and sewer systems, public safety, etc.) given the possibility of the widespread loss of electricity for months or even years.

An urgent question for New Englanders to address involves the long term safety issues at all nuclear reactors, including the vulnerable Mark I designs at Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee power plants, given that backup generators may have to function for months or even years given the possible disruptions to the electric power grid.

Given our near total dependence on digital information communications technology grids, the probability of a severe solar storm raises important public safety issues. The news media needs to do a thorough analysis of the impact of severe solar storms.

Thank you for your attention to these compelling issues.

H. G. Skip Brack, curator

The Environmental History Department of the Davistown Museum has a longstanding interest in environmental chemicals, including anthropogenic radioactivity. After the nuclear accident in Japan in 2011, the museum published *Fukushima Daiichi: Nuclear Information Handbook*.