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August 30, 2026

The Honorable JB Pritzker

Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Great Lakes Compact Withdrawal Approval, Pioneer Units 1 and 2, NRC Docket Nos. 50-616 and 50-617, NRC-2026-0265

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Illinois draws its drinking water for Chicago and the surrounding metropolitan area, home to over 9 million people, directly from Lake Michigan, and the proposed withdrawal of 36 million gallons per day combined with 1,380 megawatts of continuous thermal discharge into that shared resource has received no environmental review covering operational impacts and no Great Lakes Compact approval.

Holtec International's Pioneer Units 1 and 2 propose to withdraw 36 million gallons per day from Lake Michigan without the Great Lakes Compact approval federal law requires and before the environmental review covering those impacts exists.

As a Technologist, I am acutely aware that in any complex system deployment, there is a required sequence which product managers and cybersecurity professionals follow. Prerequisites must be satisfied before the next phase begins. You do not deploy before you test. You do not build before the foundation analysis is complete. You do not authorize construction before the environmental review exists. The production-level impacts of skipping prerequisites are devastating.

The NRC has defined a legal order of operations for nuclear reactor deployment codified in 10 CFR Part 50 and 10 CFR Part 51.

The required sequence for this deployment:

1. File Environmental Report meeting 10 CFR 51.45 specification.
2. NRC prepares Environmental Impact Statement.

3. Draft EIS published for public comment.
4. Final EIS issued.
5. LWA issued.
6. Construction begins.

What is actually happening:

1. Environmental Report filed December 31, 2025. Four chapters. Construction impacts only.
2. NRC called it comprehensive February 27, 2026.
3. NRC initiated the EIS it should have had before acceptance: June 15, 2026.
4. NRC issued excavation wall exemption August 28, 2026. Construction begins.
5. Draft EIS: fall 2026. Not yet published.
6. Final EIS: after public comment on the draft. Does not exist.
7. LWA requested: December 31, 2026. Before the final EIS exists.

Steps 4 and 6 in the actual sequence occurred before steps 3, 5, and 6 in the required sequence were complete. Construction is beginning before the environmental review exists and is a fundamental violation of the prerequisite chain that protects public safety and environmental integrity.

The Palisades implementation is the national deployment template. How order of operations is handled in this proceeding sets the precedent for every subsequent SMR-300 deployment across the country. If construction authorization is granted before the required environmental review exists and before Great Lakes Compact approval is obtained, that sequence becomes the standard for places like Utah who is taking keen notes on the deployment process.

I request for you to confirm whether Compact approval has been sought and to withhold approval until the full environmental review is complete. My Brother lived in Illinois and loved fishing in your waters before passing away after a tree fell on his trailer while camping in July of 2015. I appreciate you protecting the waters he loved to fish in.

Respectfully submitted,

January N. Walker

Executive, Infoton, Inc.

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Petitioner, Pro Se, NRC Docket Nos. 50-616 and 50-617

Primary Source References:

Environmental Report, ADAMS ML25365A988: [nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A988.html](https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A988.html)

Full Application Package, ADAMS ML25365A983: [nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A983.html](https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A983.html)

NRC Acceptance Notice, 91 FR 9892 (February 27, 2026):

[federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/27/2026-03943](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/27/2026-03943)

NRC EIS Notice of Intent, 91 FR 36015 (June 15, 2026):

[federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/15/2026-11915](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/15/2026-11915)

NRC Exemption Issued August 28, 2026: [federalregister.gov/documents/2026/08/28/2026-17626](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/08/28/2026-17626)

Public Law 110-342, Great Lakes Compact: [congress.gov/110/plaws/publ342/PLAW-110publ342.pdf](https://www.congress.gov/110/plaws/publ342/PLAW-110publ342.pdf)

10 CFR 51.76(b): [ecfr.gov/current/title-10/chapter-I/part-51/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR900488578baa903/section-51.76](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-10/chapter-I/part-51/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR900488578baa903/section-51.76)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL gov.illinois.gov. The browser's address bar also displays 'Request Submitted'. The website header features the Illinois state seal and the text 'ILLINOIS.gov', 'Office of Governor JB Pritzker', and navigation links for 'AGENCIES' and 'SERVICES'. A search bar is visible on the right. Below the header, a dark blue navigation bar contains links for 'About', 'Newsroom', 'Transparency', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area has a purple sidebar on the left with links: 'Contact Us', 'Contact the Governor', 'Assistance Request', 'Greeting or Recognition Letter Request', 'Military Retirement Letter Request', 'Proclamation Request', 'Scheduling Request', and 'Voice An Opinion'. The main content area on the right has a red horizontal line above the heading 'Request Submitted' in large blue text. Below the heading, a message reads: 'Thank you for contacting Governor JB Pritzker. Your message has been received and will be reviewed.'