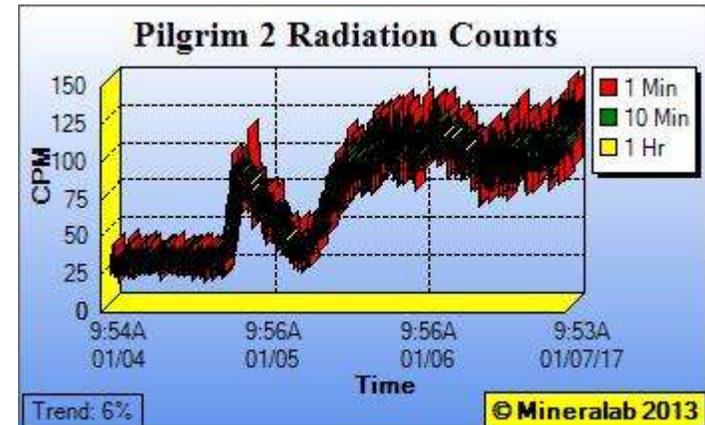
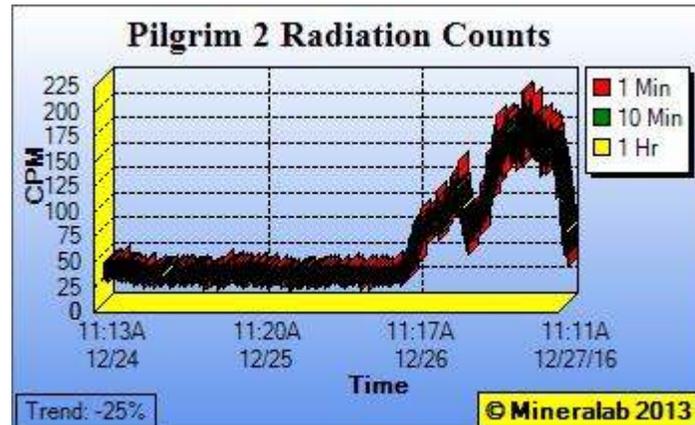


Update: 01/07/17 - Pilgrim Alerts

The **Pilgrim 2 Monitoring Station** in **Massachusetts** has been detecting elevated radiation levels, first during a two day period late last month, and then more recently, over the last 3 days:



For context, that station is located in Massachusetts, on the west coast of Cape Cod Bay, and about **15 miles SSE of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant**. The station operates an **ultra-sensitive, pancake tubed PRM-9000 Geiger counter** with a **normal baseline of about 35 CPM**. The detector is logistically situated on a window sill in the second bedroom of a house. You can see that readings during the periods in question reached as high as **150 to 200 CPM**, well above the **Alert** level.

The graph pattern shows steadily increasing radiation levels over a multi-hour time span, so we ruled out explanations such as connection glitches and the like. This appears to be a **genuine detection** from something. Given proximity to the Pilgrim plant, which has had issues recently with steam leaks, we looked for corroboration of the elevated readings from the **other 5 monitoring stations** in the Pilgrim sub-network, including one station only a couple of miles from the plant, but their **readings were all normal** over the same period.

So our focus turned to local explanations. The station operator indicated that there was no known radioactive material present, nor any persons undergoing medical tests or therapy that would make them temporarily radioactive. We then considered the possibility of Radon accumulation in the monitoring room itself, because the graph shows that familiar pattern. We asked the station operator to ventilate the room while still connected to the Geiger Counter and the Radiation Network, and to record the date and time. That **Radon theory proved out** because the detected radiation levels began dropping immediately, starting at 10:11 AM Arizona time (12:11 local time) on Dec. 27th (study the first graph above).

The pattern of increasing radiation levels repeated itself over the last 3 days, so in consultation with the Pilgrim group, we agreed to **take Pilgrim 2 offline temporarily**, until a new monitoring location can be found that is not prone to Radon accumulation.