



State of New Jersey

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January 12, 2004

Mr. Norm Cohen, Coordinator  
The UNPLUG Salem Campaign  
321 Barr Avenue  
Linwood, New Jersey 08221

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am writing in response to your December 15, 2003 letter requesting follow-up to several points in my December letter regarding the Salem Nuclear Plant.

In response to your request for more timely information, all data and correspondence pertaining to the tritium leak at Salem will be placed on our website.

As you know, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has responsibility for the inspection, oversight and compliance of all commercial nuclear power plants and has a process for determining the severity of inspection findings. According to the NRC, the leak in question does not exceed 3,000 pCi/l tritium offsite, the threshold set in the Offsite Dose Criteria Manual (OCDM). If this limit was exceeded, then the NRC would take enforcement action and allocate additional resources to oversight at the plant.

Since the NRC is acting within its procedures and regulations to characterize the leak, we cannot argue that this leak requires more than a green finding. As you are aware, a color change to white would normally be the threshold for the allocation of additional resources.

PSEG's remedial investigation is ongoing. We continue to pursue this and have commented on aspects of the Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP), a copy of which was sent to you with my December 8, 2003 letter. The final RIWP will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) sometime in January or early February. As I have previously assured you, we will take appropriate action should we identify any impact to the environment or the public health.

The NRC also has the responsibility of assessing the safety culture at Artificial Island through its inspection process. The Department has been and will continue to be an active participant in the NRC inspections at all the nuclear power plants in New Jersey.

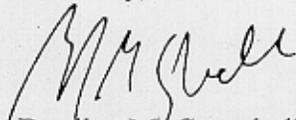
You indicated that PSEG kept no records on the spill and, as such, should be considered for a fine under some New Jersey environmental law. Enforcement actions for lack of proper record keeping involving radioactive spills onsite fall under the jurisdiction of the NRC, not this

Department. As identified in the NRC Inspection Report dated October 15, 2003, the NRC cited PSEG for ineffective implementation of NRC requirements. The licensee is in the process of taking corrective measures in this area.

You also indicated that PSEG records should be made available under the federal and state Community Right To Know (CRTK) programs. Because tritium is a byproduct of the nuclear fission process, and hence subject to NRC regulation, it is not identified on the CRTK list of hazardous substances. Therefore, PSEG is not required to provide records on tritium under CRTK.

Thank you for your interest in this matter of mutual concern. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr. Kent Tosch, Chief of the Bureau of Nuclear Engineering. He can be reached at (609) 984-7700.

Sincerely,



Bradley M. Campbell  
Commissioner

Enclosure