



State of New Jersey ²³¹²²⁸

Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402
December 8, 2003

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner
Tel. # (609) 292-2885
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Ime E. McGreevey
Governor

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 October 29, 2003 letter requesting that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) support your position that the color coding used in the NRC Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) does not adequately reflect the severity of the tritium leak at Artificial Island.

As you know from the information we have been providing on our website, the DEP has been very active regarding this matter. I have also expressed my concerns directly to Chairman Diaz of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). At his direction we had nuclear engineers onsite and other radiation and geological professionals involved from the time we were first notified of this incident. As further evidence of our continuing involvement, enclosed you will find a copy of comments we have provided to PSEG on their Remedial Investigation Work Plan.

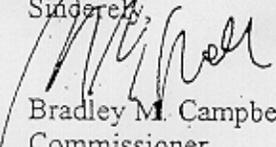
As I believe you are aware, PSEG's remedial investigation is ongoing. We will pursue this matter until the source of the leak is identified and the leakage terminated. Further, we will take appropriate action should we identify any impact to the environment or the public health.

As you know, the NRC has responsibility for inspection, oversight and compliance of all commercial nuclear power plants and, the NRC has a process for determining the severity of inspection findings. According to the NRC, the leak 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 designate additional resources to oversight at the plant.

Since the NRC is acting within its procedures and regulations to characterize the leak, we are unable to support your request to the NRC for a "white finding." I think that it is also important to note that the NRC has devoted considerable resources to this issue and these resources have not diminished since the completion of the recent special investigation. Given that we are preempted by federal authority, we cannot issue penalties regarding this leak.

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 maybe reached at 609-984-7700.

Sincerely,


Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

Enclosure