



File

DONALD T. DiFRANCESCO  
*Acting Governor*

**State of New Jersey**  
Department of Environmental Protection

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.  
Commissioner

Division of Environmental Safety, Health,  
and Analytical Programs  
Radiation Protection Programs  
PO Box 415  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0415  
Tel (609) 984-5520

September 7, 2001

Mr. Norm Cohen  
Coalition for Peace and Justice  
321 Barr Avenue  
Linwood, NJ 08221

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Subject: Pebble Bed Rumors

This letter is in response to your August 24, 2001 email regarding rumors surrounding possible construction of a pebble bed reactor at Artificial Island. You asked three specific questions which are answered below.

1. What has your Dept. heard about the rumor, officially or unofficially?

Our Monthly Report for June 2001 contains a summary of the Oyster Creek Citizens' Task Force meeting held on June 12, 2001, where Exelon presented the status of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor demonstration project. At the July 24, 2001, Ocean County public hearing on Emergency Preparedness you read part of that summary into testimony. The summary provided several reasons why Exelon was not planning to site a Pebble Bed reactor at the Oyster Creek site. One of the reasons was that the wholesale power market in Pennsylvania and New Jersey was not favorable.

On August 30, 2001, during a visit to Artificial Island, I asked PSEG management directly about the possibility of a Pebble Bed at Artificial Island. They responded that there were no plans for any new plants at that site.

There has been no other discussions, officially or unofficially, that we have been party to.

2. Who would I contact at the DEP other than you and who at the Office of State Planning?

Director Larry Schmidt, Office of Coastal Planning and Program Coordinator would be appropriate.

The Office of State Planning has a website, [www.state.nj.us/osp](http://www.state.nj.us/osp). You can obtain many contact options there.

3. What is BNE's position on pebble bed reactors?

We have taken no position. There is little detailed information available regarding pebble bed reactors. We would like to better understand their technology, but since there are none planned for New Jersey or surrounding states at this time, this is a low priority.

Sincerely,



Jill Lipoti, Ph. D., Assistant Director  
Radiation Protection Programs

Cc: Kent Tosch, NJ DEP  
Dennis Zannoni, NJ DEP  
Larry Schmidt, NJ DEP  
Robert Bores, Ph. D., NRC  
Gabe Salamon, PSEG  
William Stewart, AmerGen