



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

Division of Environmental Safety and Health
P.O. Box 424
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0424
Phone: (609) 633-7964
Fax: (609) 777-1330

January 17, 2008

Russell W. Goyette
7 Strathmere Street
Waretown, New Jersey 08758

Dear Mr. Goyette:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2007 expressing your concerns regarding Oyster Creek and the release of radiological liquid into the environment without public notification. I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns and to explain what measures the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) takes to ensure public health and safety and safeguard our environment in this regard.

As you are aware, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has the ultimate authority for licensing and regulating the nuclear industry. Under NRC regulation, all nuclear generating stations are permitted to discharge liquid (and gaseous) radiological effluents into the environment within strictly prescribed limits during normal operation. In 1989 the owners of the Oyster Creek Nuclear power plant also adopted a "zero liquid discharge" policy as part of their Environmental Stewardship Initiative. This policy required plant modifications to achieve this objective. While the Oyster Creek nuclear plant has committed to this policy under normal conditions, unplanned or abnormal releases can occur.


However, NRC regulation also requires that any unplanned or abnormal release that exceeds the prescribed limits must be immediately reported to the NRC and investigated. If the radiological release poses any threat to the public's health and safety, the DEP would recommend protective measures that would effectively reduce or eliminate public exposure. Further, Oyster Creek is required to report and document all gaseous and liquid releases during the calendar year in their Annual Effluent Release Report regardless of whether effluent release limits are exceeded. This report is available to the public on the NRC website and may be accessed through their public reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.htm>. A hardcopy of the report also is available through the Ocean County Public Library system.

With regard to radioactive releases from Oyster Creek, the DEP's Bureau of Nuclear Engineering (BNE) monitors for the presence of radiation in the environment around Oyster Creek using three different systems: (1) the BNE maintains a continuous radiological environmental surveillance and telemetry system (CREST) at sites in the immediate vicinity of

the power generating station; (2) the BNE collects and analyzes thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) on a quarterly basis, which approximate human dose; and (3) the BNE collects approximately 700 environmental samples each year through its Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP). These samples consist of air, water, fish/shellfish, sediment, vegetation and water, including background samples, and are analyzed using an independent contract laboratory. Details of the BNE's environmental monitoring program and results are available on our website at, <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/nees/index.htm>. I have enclosed a copy of our most recent "Environmental Surveillance and Monitoring Report" - for the environs of New Jersey's Nuclear Power Plant Generating Stations" (2006) for your review.

Thank you for bringing your concern to my attention. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Karen Tuccillo of my staff at (609) 984-7443.

Sincerely yours,



Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.
Director

c: Karen Tuccillo, NEES