



**STATE OF VERMONT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 17, 2010

Darrell Roberts, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

**Re: Follow-up Questions on the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station**

**Dear Director Roberts:**

Thank you and other staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for participating in a telephone conversation with our legislative committees on February 12, 2010.

As we indicated during that discussion, our committees have several follow-up questions for the NRC regarding the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) and the current releases of tritium and potentially other radionuclides. Those questions are provided below.

- 1) John White of the NRC's Region I indicated that the testing results to date show tritium levels at below a three millirem (mrem) standard used by the NRC.
  - a) Could the NRC please translate the three mrem standard into picocuries per liter (pCi/l) so that committee members can obtain a sense of how the current readings in pCi/l relate to the three mrem standard?
  - b) Using the highest pCi/l readings of tritium to date found in monitoring wells at the VYNPS, how much water would one have to drink to reach the three mrem standard?
- 2) What options for action are available to the NRC if the three mrem standard is exceeded? How would the NRC decide the option or options to pursue?
- 3) Does the NRC consider tritiated water to be low level radioactive material?

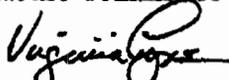
- 4) At what point in remediation would tritiated water become low level radioactive waste?
- 5) Do the NRC standards for liquid effluent apply only to planned releases of liquid effluent containing radioactive material?
- 6) Does the NRC have authority to enforce criminally an unplanned release of liquid effluent containing radioactive material from a nuclear energy plant? If so, under what circumstances would that authority apply?
- 7) Does the NRC have standards concerning the managerial competence of a licensee for a nuclear plant?
  - a) If so, what requirements do those standards impose on a licensee with respect to knowledge and maintenance of underground pipes associated with the plant?
  - b) At what point would the NRC intervene to determine if standards for licensee managerial competence are being met?
- 8) Does the NRC require that licensees maintain drawings or other information showing or describing all above ground and underground structures and facilities at a nuclear plant?
- 9) Does the NRC require that licensees provide the NRC with information showing or describing all above ground and underground structures and facilities at a nuclear plant?

We would appreciate the NRC's response to these questions at its earliest convenience. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

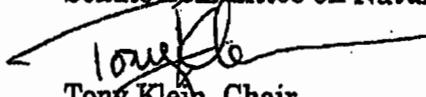
Sincerely,



David Deen, Chair  
House Committee on Fish, Wildlife, and Water Resources



Virginia Lyons, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy



Tony Klein, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy