

On January 24, 2006, Entergy collected groundwater samples at various off-site locations, including the Algonquon outfall, an adjacent stream from the neighboring LaFarge Gypsum facility, and the Trap Rock Quarry to monitor for plant-related radioactivity. Subsequent analysis of the samples indicated no detectable plant-related radioactivity, including tritium and strontium-90 (Sr-90).

In mid-February 2006, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation identified that its October 21, 2005, sample taken from MW-111 (one of the monitoring wells that samples the on-site location having the highest concentration of tritiated groundwater) was determined to contain a small amount of Sr-90, i.e. about 3 pCi/l. Strontium-90 was not detected in samples of MW-111 taken by the NRC on October 14, 2005; and Entergy on October 21, 2005, nor in other on-site wells that were sampled at various times. The EPA drinking water limit for Sr-90 is 8 pCi/l.

Entergy recently completed and sampled water from two wells (MW-36 and MW-37), that were positioned to determine if contaminated groundwater was migrating under the discharge canal. Measurements from these wells indicated about 47,000 and 30,000 pCi/l of tritium, respectively. Based on these results and its preliminary hydrological characterization of the site, Entergy concluded that some contaminated groundwater likely will or has migrated to the Hudson River. Accordingly, Entergy performed a preliminary radiological assessment, based on very conservative assumptions of flow rate, concentration, and volume that supports the conclusion that this condition, if actually occurring, will not result in any impact to public health and safety. Entergy is expected to provide NRC with a final radiological assessment for review in March 2006. To-date, radiological environmental measurements have not identified any plant-related radioactivity beyond the site boundary.

Entergy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and NRC are continuing splitting on-site and off-site groundwater and surface water samples. On February 7 and 8, 2006, split samples were taken of several on-site groundwater monitoring wells at Indian Point (including MW-111), and various off-site locations, including surface water on the Indian Point waterfront where groundwater migration is expected to occur. Results from these samples, including Sr-90 analysis, are expected by Mid-March.

On February 28, NRC held the Special Inspection exit meeting with Entergy representatives, based on Entergy's completion of activities designed to gain a preliminary understanding of the extent and source of leakage that resulted in the on-site groundwater contamination. The meeting was attended by representatives of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Health, and Public Service Commission. The inspection determined that, based on review of the licensee's performance against regulatory standards and requirements, and radiological assessment of the currently understood conditions, public health and safety has not been adversely affected; and the dose consequence to the public, that can be attributed to current on-site conditions, is negligible with respect to NRC regulatory limits. The details of this inspection will be documented in a NRC Inspection Report and discussed at a public meeting within the next few weeks. Notwithstanding the completion of this inspection effort, NRC will continue to inspect and review Entergy's efforts to resolve the conditions that resulted in the contamination of groundwater as previously described in the [12/16/05 Ongoing Activities](#).