

October 11, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV **/RA/**
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: TRITIUM IN SEWAGE FROM A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITY

The Columbia Generating Station, under contract with the Department of Energy (DOE), processes the sewage from area 400 of the Hanford Reservation. The sewage contains tritium below the State of Washington's guidelines for safe drinking water. The tritium is in the aquifer from which the DOE facility obtains its drinking water. The tritium comes from past DOE activities on the Hanford Reservation. The personnel at the DOE facility use the water for sanitary purposes and then sends the sewage to the Columbia Generating Station sewage treatment plant. The sewage containing the tritium is then processed by the sewage treatment plant, the sewage is removed and the water containing the tritium is returned to the same aquifer from which it came.

The State of Washington Department of Health which regulates the sewage treatment plant questioned if this was regulated under the 10 CFR Part 50 license for the Columbia Generating Station. The NRC's position is since the tritium in the sewage is not produced by an NRC regulated facility (the tritium is from DOE activities) it is not covered by Energy Northwest's Part 50 license (the Final Safety Analysis Report states that the State of Washington regulates the sewage facility). Therefore, since Washington is an agreement state and it already regulates the sewage, the State of Washington should regulate the tritium, not the NRC. This was communicated to the State of Washington (see attached e-mails).

Docket No. 50-397

Attachments: 1. E-mail to State of Washington
2. E-mail from the State of Washington

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DATE	10/11/01	10/10/01	10/11/01

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From: Jack Cushing
To: lynn.albin@doh.wa.gov
Date: 10/3/01 7:27AM
Subject: Tritium

Lynn

The NRC position is since the tritium in the sewage is not produced by an NRC regulated facility (the tritium is from DOE activities) it is not covered by Energy Northwest's part 50 license (the FSAR states that the State of Washington regulates the sewage facility). Therefore since Washington is an agreement state and it already regulates the sewage the state of Washington should regulate the tritium not the NRC.

If you need anything else, you can call me at 301-415-1424.

Jack Cushing
Project Manager for the Columbia Generating Station

From: "Lynn Albin" <albinclm@mindspring.com>
To: <JXC9@nrc.gov>
Date: 10/3/01 7:37AM
Subject: Fw: Tritium

Thank you and good morning! I will put your note into the files in case it ever comes up again.
Thank you for your time and help on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lynn Albin