



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 REGION I
 475 ALLENDALE ROAD
 KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

February 13, 2003

Irene Meisel
 Environmental Engineer
 P.O. Box 463
 Parker Ford, PA 19457

SUBJECT: POTTSTOWN LANDFILL

Dear Ms. Meisel:

This refers to your letter addressed to Mr. Ron Furlan, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, dated January 15, 2003, concerning the elevated tritium levels in the Pottstown landfill's leachate. You provided us a copy of your letter and requested that we become involved with the landfill. The NRC is aware of the elevated (above usual environmental levels) tritium levels at the Pottstown landfill because of monitoring conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Elevated levels of tritium are common in landfill leachates. While the exact cause of these elevated levels is not known, it is expected that they are caused by the disposal of exempt and generally licensed devices containing tritium. The dose to the public from these disposals is small and was considered in the decision to allow distribution of these devices.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulate municipal landfills. They closely monitor the performance of landfills including materials found in the leachate.

The NRC does not regulate facilities such as the Pottstown landfill. If you would like further information regarding the Pottstown landfill, please contact:

Terry Derstine
 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 Southeast Regional Office
 555 North Lane
 Suite 6010
 Conshohocken, PA 19428
 (610) 832-6036

I hope this information is helpful to you.

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML030510296.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy w/o attach/encl, "E" = Copy w/ attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	DNMS/RI	N	DNMS/RI	DNMS/RI		
NAME	S Tullio SXT4		J Kinneman	Original Signed by John D. Kinneman		
DATE	2/13/2003		2/13/03	2/13/03		

John D. Kinneman, Chief

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY
 Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2
 Division of Nuclear Materials Safety