

June 5, 2007

Mr. Michael Doherty
31 Santiago Drive W.
Toms River, New Jersey 08757-6404

SUBJECT: UNITED WATER COMPANY PUMPING STATION

Dear Mr. Doherty:

I am responding to your May 2, 2007, letter to Chairman Dale E. Klein regarding your concern that a nearby water treatment facility (United Water Company/Suez) may be expanding and possibly installing filtration equipment for the removal of radioactive particles from the water on land that may be susceptible to settling. We have no specific information about this facility's expansion, but that is not unusual because many commonly used filtration systems may fall under an exemption in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations, i.e., 10 CFR 40.13, "Unimportant Quantities of Some Material."

Filtration of uranium using ion exchange resins is becoming common practice and is safe. Even under accident conditions (e.g., in this case if the tank ruptures due to settling), it is likely to result in minimal, if any, health and safety impacts. The uranium is tightly bound to the resin (which is usually similar in consistency to kitty litter) and should be able to be cleaned up relatively easily. Uranium itself presents minimal impact to public health and safety unless ingested or inhaled, which is unlikely while it is attached to the resin. Therefore, the impact of such an operation, even after a spill is not expected to result in a significant impact to public health and safety.

In this case, the facility is subject to NRC requirements only if the facility concentrates the uranium above 0.05 percent by weight of the uranium (which will likely happen if they use ion resin exchange filtration). However, if the facility possesses less than 15 pounds of uranium at any one time, the facility could operate under the general license in 10 CFR 40.22, "Small Quantities of Uranium," and would not be required to notify NRC.

If the facility is filtering radium or radon, the NRC does not have jurisdiction over these materials for this type of operation and you should contact: Paul Baldauf, Assistant Director, Radiation Protection Programs, Division of Environmental Safety, Health & Analytical Programs, Dept. of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 415, Trenton, NJ 08625-0415, PH (609) 984-5636 FX (609) 633-2210

M. Doherty

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We will followup to ensure that the facility is aware of any applicable licensing requirements. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Ted Carter, of my staff, at 301-415-5543 (e-mail at thc1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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DATE	06/01/07	06/04/07	06/05/07	06/05/07

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