



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

November 16, 2009

Ms. Katrina Stonorov Daly
1880 Pickering Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Dear Ms. Daly:

I have received your letter of October 30, 2009, (ML093060088) which forwarded your January letter to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). You included several questions relating to activities occurring at or near the Vincent Dam in Linfield, PA.

I have summarized your questions, as I understand them, in Attachment 1 to this letter. I have included a response to each question. Please note that a number of the activities are not under NRC regulatory authority. I have attempted to provide you with the appropriate authority where such information could be obtained.

Your letter to USACE expressed concern with radioactive material in sediments in the Schuylkill River. With regard to activity in Schuylkill River sediment, I have attached several pages of Exelon's Radiological Environmental operating program for Limerick for calendar year 2008 which specifically addresses this issue. The results of the analyses are shown on page C-7, in table C-IV.1. Those results shown with a 'less than' sign (<) indicate that the concentration of that radionuclide was too small for the instruments to detect. The Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program is reviewed by NRC specialist inspectors as part of our inspection program. I have attached an excerpt from the Limerick Generating Station Integrated Inspection Report 05000352/2009004 and 05000353/2009004 which documents our review of the 2008 REMP. The full REMP is available in the Publicly Available Records section of NRC's Agency Documents Access and Management System (www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html). The accession number for the Limerick 2008 REMP is ML091380100.

I trust that this letter is responsive to your concerns. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 610-337-5120.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul G. Krohn, Chief
Projects Branch 4
Division of Reactor Projects

Attachments: 1. Summary of Questions
2. USGS 01472104, Schuylkill River at Vincent Dam at Linfield, PA
3. Inspection Report 05000352/2009004 and 05000353/2009004 excerpt
4. Limerick 2008 Radiological Environmental Operating Report excerpt

Attachment 1

Questions from October 30, 2009, letter

Question 1: Can you tell me the status of the dissolved oxygen monitor that was “behind” Vincent Dam?

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) operates a water quality monitoring station at the former site of the Vincent Dam in Linfield, PA. The location of the station is the left bank of the river, approximately 100 ft upstream of the former location of the dam. The data from the station are publicly available on the USGS webpage. The station is currently not operating since it is used to monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen during the months of April through September, when high temperatures and seasonal low water flows are expected to result in elevated temperatures and low oxygen levels.

Question 2: Can you send me maps of before and after the dam?

The Vincent Dam was constructed by the Schuylkill Navigation Company prior to 1827, therefore pre-dam maps would be historic documents and not currently available. A large number of documents related to the Schuylkill Navigation Company have been placed in the Yocum Library at the Reading Area Community College. The collection is known as “Schuylkill Navigation Maps.” The college may be able to provide assistance with obtaining copies of the maps you desire.

NRC does not maintain current maps of rivers or river features. Current maps, showing the location of the dam and its associated pool, are available from a number of sources. Topographic maps are available from the U.S. Geological Survey. The most useful for fine detail are the “7.5 Minute” quadrangles. The one which shows the Vincent Dam is the “Phoenixville, PA” quadrangle. Its stock number is 40075-B5-TF-024. The address for obtaining copies or information is: USGS Information Services; Box 25286; Denver, CO 80255. Telephone inquiries can be made at 1-888-ASK-USGS (1-888-275-8747).

Question 3: Is the dam still there?

Based on recent news coverage, it appears that the removal of the dam was completed prior to the end of October of this year.

Question 4: Can you send me reports gained from this monitor?

The monitor results are publicly available on the USGS website. I have attached a copy of the latest results as Attachment 2. In the future, you can obtain them directly from the website, in real-time, using the URL address on the attached report. If you do not have internet access, your local public library may be able to assist you.

Question 5: Where are the dredge spoils from the dam?

NRC does not regulate dredging spoils, so we would have no knowledge of their disposal. The information you seek may be available from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. David J. Allard may be able to assist you with obtaining the information. His telephone number is 717-787-2480.

Communications Plan for letter issuance

Call Dave Allard before signing out letter to notify him we will be referring individual to him (SLO)

Provide courtesy copy to Limerick via the resident inspector's office

Call individual when letter is signed.

Talking Points:

- 1) NRC does not regulate dredging or dredging spoils disposition. The removal of the dam was performed under a contract let by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). They may be able to provide information on spoils disposal.
- 2) Water quality monitoring station is only in service April through September when high water temperatures are expected. Have provided printout of most recent results. Results are publicly available on the USGS webpage.
- 3) Sediment samples had elevated Cs-137 concentrations and no other nuclear power plant activation product or fission product was present. The calculated highest dose to an individual was 3.96×10^{-4} mrem. This dose represents 6.6×10^{-3} per cent of the dose limit in 10 CFR 50, Appendix I (3 mrem/year).
- 4) The Vincent Dam was constructed by the Schuylkill Navigation Company as part of over 100 miles of waterway for barging coal to Philadelphia. The waterway was completed in 1827. The dam has not been maintained for about a hundred years, and had become a hazard, which is why it was removed. Removal of the dam was completed in October of this year
- 5) Reading Area Community College may be able to provide access to maps of the area prior to construction of the dam. They have the collection of documents from the Schuylkill Navigation Company. Local stores or the USGS can provide current maps. The USGS topographic map which shows the location is the Phoenixville, PA quadrangle. NRC does not maintain copies of maps.
- 6) The address on the letter to the Corps of Engineers appears to be that for submission of public comments on the permit application by PADEP for the removal of the dam. Letters submitted on the public comments docket normally do not get individual responses, but are addressed in the final environmental report issued with the permit.

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