

Nancy McNamara

From: Patrick Mulligan [Patrick.Mulligan@dep.state.nj.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 3:19 PM
To: Nancy McNamara
Subject: Press Information

Here is what we sent to our PIO, let me know if you have any concerns.

"The DEP has been involved with Exelon and the NRC since the leak of water containing tritium was first reported to the DEP hotline on 4/15. Over the course of the last 2 weeks, we have kept abreast of Oyster Creek's efforts to locate the source of the leak, isolate it, and prevent further contamination of the aquifer. Oyster Creek has put in several additional wells to monitor the concentration of tritium in the aquifer in an effort to determine the extent of the plume in the groundwater. The DEP has provided support to the site in locating the additional wells and have received split samples from some of the monitoring wells for analysis in an independent laboratory contracted by the state.

Oyster Creek is evaluating the dose potential to the public based on the concentrations of tritium found in the monitoring wells. It is important to note that based on current laboratory results of the tritium in the aquifer and the movement of ground water at the site that we do not expect this to be a public health or safety issue. The groundwater (aquifer) affected by the tritium release is not a source of drinking water further minimizing the risk of adverse health effects to the public. Oyster Creek has been careful to monitor the intake and discharge canal and none of these samples have shown any elevated levels. During excavation of underground piping suspected to be the cause of the leak, standing water was pumped out of the excavation into a tanker on site, so that the water containing tritium would not leave the site. "

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