



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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June 25, 2010

Samuel J. Collins, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

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Dear Regional Administrator Collins:

I am writing in response to your June 18, 2010 letter in which you outlined the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) actions regarding the tritium leak at Oyster Creek. I appreciate your pledge to work closely with the Department as we define the vertical and horizontal extent of tritium in the Cohansey aquifer and consider any additional actions that may be required during the remedial investigation.

Respectfully, I must disagree with your characterization that this environmental condition merely challenges "public confidence." The tritium has entered the groundwater of New Jersey, the Cohansey aquifer, one of the major aquifers in our state. Pipes from the Oyster Creek nuclear generating station had holes up to an inch in diameter, and over 180,000 gallons of water with tritium levels at 50 times the groundwater standard leaked into the aquifer. That is way beyond a public confidence issue. That is why I felt compelled to take action.

We are also committed to working closely with the NRC and will keep the NRC informed and provide our insights through our normal channels of communication as we investigate the path of the plume and the ultimate disposition of the tritium.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Martin
Commissioner