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United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Excerpt

I am writing because I was just informed that Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant would like to be able to dump other things into the Connecticut River besides their regular amount of "low level radiated water". I was told that if the public didn't react with a demand for a public hearing that they (Vermont Yankee) would begin this dumping. There are many many people that live down stream from Vermont Yankee that draw their drinking water from the Connecticut River. For Vermont Yankee to begin dumping more into the River would place these peoples lives in more danger. Also, this River water is used widely for irrigation for farmer's crops which would not only pose a threat to their lives but to all of us who in return buy their fruits and vegetables.

Please demand that Vermont Yankee hold a public hearing so that the public may express their opinions. These hearings should be well announced to the citizens of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut so that they may be well informed of what is being dumped into their water. These people have the right to know what they are drinking.

Also, how come the state of New Hampshire, which poses primary responsibility for regulating discharges into the river, has been throwing away the daily notices of Vermont Yankees discharges. (A pact was made between the two states long ago that has New Hampshire owning the entire Connecticut River along its border to its natural high-water mark on the Vermont side). Terrence Frost, New Hampshire's Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission's chief aquatic biologist and director of Permits and Enforcement is quoted by the New Hampshire Times 10/3/79 as saying "They (Vermont Yankee) send us daily notices of their discharges. We used to file them; now we throw them away. We haven't taken any action on the matter because we regard the discharges as innocuous." How can radiation be innocuous?, when the dose

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level received by a human being keeps on getting lowered. We seem to quickly forget that no matter how little it may seem that it continually accumulates in our systems, in the environment, until one day it will be one massive amount that we cannot deal with. What then?!

It is also written in the New Hampshire Times article that "The actual amount of cumulative radiation released by the Vermont plant into New Hampshire's river is unknown by anyone in New Hampshire - even the New Hampshire officials in charge."

This to me is extremely lazy. How can this be allowed. These notices are being sent to New Hampshire officials for an important reason, they shouldn't be disregarded so readily. New Hampshire should be made to file these notices away and to do some sort of monitoring system of the Connecticut River to determine what is being put into the drinking water of those living down stream. They were given a responsibility to carry out the protection of peoples health and safety and instead they are evading their responsibility by pretending there is no problem before they even attempt to look.

There is one other subject that I would like to bring up and that is about Vermont Yankee's torus, which is part of the emergency core cooling system. The torus is not properly tied down, and if there were to be an accident it could lift 5½" under the impact of a steam release, and then could not circulate, and therefore the emergency core cooling system would fail to operate. A meltdown could then possibly occur. They did some temporary repair work, but it still is not fixed. You folks (NRC) have given Vermont Yankee a safety waiver, which means that the power plant does not have to meet your own safety regulations. Please explain this. When Vermont Yankee did this temporary repair work on the torus in 1978 there were some cracks caused in it. Dale Brindenbaugh, a chief engineer for General Electric - who built Vermont Yankee - quit his job over his doubts that Vermont Yankee could not survive a loss of coolant accident, which would lead to a core meltdown.

I would very much appreciate an explanation/information on all my inquiries; and to please make sure that Vermont Yankee holds a public hearing in regards to more extensive dumping into the Connecticut River.

Thanks so much for listening

Sincerely,

Sara Cox
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c/c

c/c Govenor Hugh Gallen

Stacey Weaver Vt Yankee spokes person

Brendon Wittaker Vt's Secretary of Environmental Conservation

Terrence Frost Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission

Richard Playdon " " " " " "

Environmental Protection Agency

Roberta Pevear, Rep. Hampton Falls

Senator Durkin

Senator Humphrey

Congressman D'Amours

Congressman Cleveland

NH Dept. of Agriculture