

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES

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LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

# United States Senate

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April 17, 1996

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

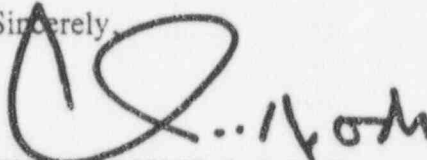
Dear Mr. Rathbun;

Please permit me to bring to your attention the inquiry I recently received from my constituent Ms. Rosemary Bassilakis regarding the high level of tritium releases from the Haddam Neck Nuclear Power Plant located in East Haddam, Connecticut. Ms. Bassilakis bases her concerns on the 1992 Nuclear Regulatory Annual Report entitled, "Radioactive Materials Released from Nuclear Power Plants."

Ms. Bassilakis is most concerned that the large liquid tritium releases have had and will have adverse health effects on residents living along the effluent pathway. I would appreciate your advising me as to the reason why the Haddam Neck Reactor has had high levels of tritium releases into the Connecticut River during its operating life.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this matter. I look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
United States Senator

CJD/bmc  
Enclosure

In Reply: Connecticut Office  
Attn: Barbara McCredie

9605140237 960509  
PDR ADOCK 05000321  
P PDR

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

54 Old Turnpike Road  
Haddam, CT 06438  
(860) 345-8431

April 10, 1996

Dear Senator Dodd :

About three weeks ago, I mailed to you a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. Allan Wang, the Haddam Neck Reactor Project Manager. In the letter, dated March 9, 1996, I discussed Haddam Neck's large liquid tritium releases in the Connecticut and the adverse health effects which can be associated with tritium exposure. I have not yet received a response from Mr. Wang although he assured me on the phone I would receive one the first week in April.

I would like for you to keep abreast of this issue and advocate for me if necessary. I am concerned that the commission will not take this issue seriously as they allowed the large tritium releases to occur. The reactor could have lessened our communities tritium exposure by changing their bad, leaky fuel rods, but there was no financial incentive for them to do so. Now that the reactor will be going to a 3 year fuel cycle, they needed to change their rods from stainless steel to zirconium. Unfortunately this will not mean an immediate decrease in tritium releases as tritium has a half life of 12.5 years which means that the tritium in the primary cooling loop will be there for a long time.

I would also like for you to do what you can to have a health study done in the effluent pathway of the Haddam Neck reactor. The reactor has been releasing large amounts of liquid tritium into the river for nearly 29 years, in addition to routinely releasing other radionuclides into the air and water. Unfortunately air inversion studies done before the reactor went on line show that air inversions occur here nearly 50% of the time. Air inversions trap air in the valley hereby limiting dispersion.

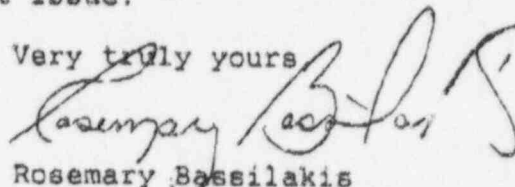
I am very concerned about the health of the people in my community and other communities in the effluent pathway. The state of Connecticut does not keep a birth defect registry, does not keep track of Downs' syndrome nor does it study cancers in the effluent pathway of any of the reactors in our state. I am aware that the state did do a cancer study in 1995 for the years 1989-1991 for all the towns in Connecticut. What I can not stress enough is that a study (involving birth defects and

cancers) needs to be done in the effluent pathway, the pathway in which the radionuclides travel.

I apologize for the handwritten salutation. It is very time consuming, as I am sure you know, sending letters to the appropriate people.

Thank you very much for your time and for what I hope to be your assistance with this very important issue.

Very truly yours



Rosemary Bassilakis

cc: Denny Galloway; Supervising Radiation Control  
Physicist-CT Dept. of Environmental Protection  
US Senator Joe Lieberman  
US Senator Christopher Dodd  
US Representative Sam Gedge  
Haddam Selectman Marge Debold  
CT Representative Terry Concannon  
CT Senator Eileen Daily