



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE

June 2, 2010

Commissioner David O'Brien
Department of Public Service
112 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Commissioner O'Brien,

In light of the latest discovery that the underground piping at Vermont Yankee is leaking tritium and numerous, more dangerous radioactive isotopes including strontium-90, we formally request that the Department of Public Service use all reasonable means to mandate that Vermont Yankee retrofit its piping to either relocate them above ground and/or have full access to the underground piping by using underground vaults for the remainder of Vermont Yankee's current license period.

Over the past several years, there have been numerous leaks originating in the Advanced Off-Gas (AOG) drain lines. The source of these leaks was from either the underground piping or non-readily accessible pipes. At least one other nuclear power plant, Oyster Creek in New Jersey, has taken steps to seal all of its buried piping in monitored vaults or bring pipes above ground in response to its own tritium leak.

It is clear that the leak discovered late last week did not develop quickly. Considering the inaccessibility of the pipes, we are concerned about the length of time this current pipe has been leaking. We are also concerned that there may be other potential leaks not discovered to date. The fact that the most recent leak was missed during the intense scrutiny of inspections of the AOG system is extremely disturbing. Entergy's management of the reactor has repeatedly failed to demonstrate competence and has not exercised the necessary degree of administrative control and oversight.

Bringing all of Vermont Yankee's pipes above ground and/or accessible by vaults is the only way that we can be assured that there will be no more missed leaks over the remaining two years of its license. Ensuring more accessible access to visibly inspect the pipes is of paramount importance.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,


Senate President Pro-Tem Peter Shumlin


Speaker Shap Smith