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T. Michael Twomey  
Vice President, External Affairs - Wholesale

January 26, 2011

**By FedEx and Electronic Mail**

The Honorable Elizabeth Miller  
Commissioner  
Vermont Department of Public Service  
Drawer 20, 112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MONTPELIER, VT.  
05620-2601  
2011 JAN 27 A 10: 16

Re: Recent Tritium Levels at Vermont Yankee

Dear Commissioner Miller:

As you know, Vermont Yankee communicated to various stakeholders last week the fact that it had received positive indications for tritium in a previously unaffected groundwater monitoring well (GZ-24) located about 150 feet to the north of the area affected by the leak that was identified in January 2010 and is the subject of ongoing remediation efforts. The purpose of this letter is to address any concerns you or others may have as to (1) when Vermont Yankee learned of the recent test results of samples taken from GZ-24 and (2) whether Vermont Yankee personnel were aware of such results during the recent hearings in Docket 7600 (which were held before the Public Service Board January 11-13, 2011).

As discussed below, Vermont Yankee personnel first became aware of elevated sample results on January 15, 2011, and it took some additional time to confirm those results. In any event, as of the close of the hearings in Docket 7600 on January 13, 2011, Vermont Yankee did not have any indication that GZ-24 had produced samples with detectable levels of tritium

GZ-24 was installed as a groundwater monitoring well in November 2010. The chart on the following page shows that initial samples collected from this well (on a roughly weekly sampling schedule through December 20, 2010), did not show any detectable levels of tritium through and including January 12, 2011. A sample collected on December 28, 2010, for which the results were not available until January 15, 2011,<sup>1</sup> showed concentrations of tritium up to approximately 2,400 picocuries per liter, a level below any regulatory reporting requirements.

<sup>1</sup> This delay in test results until January 15, 2011 was due to an equipment failure. On December 28, 2010, technicians at Vermont Yankee discovered that the machine used to analyze well samples was in need of repair. Therefore, samples were unable to be analyzed until January 11, 2011, when the machine was repaired.

Once the results of the elevated tritium levels were confirmed, Vermont Yankee management was notified on January 16, 2011, and the sampling schedule was expedited. Additional samples collected after December 28, 2010, showed levels ranging between 2,752 and 9,177 picocuries per liter.

GROUNDWATER-MONITORING WELL GZ-24		
DATE OF RESULTS	DATE OF COLLECTION	REPORTED ACTIVITY (pCi/L)
11/18/10	11/15/10	< MDA
11/23/10	11/22/10	< MDA
11/30/10	11/29/10	< MDA
12/06/10	12/06/10	< MDA
12/16/10	12/13/10	< MDA
01/12/11	12/20/10	< MDA
01/15/11	01/04/11	2,752
01/16/11	12/28/10	2,441
01/17/11	01/10/11	2,984
01/19/11	01/17/11	7,435
01/21/11	01/20/11	9,177
01/21/11	01/21/11	4,329
01/22/11	01/22/11	2,523
01/23/11	01/23/11	8,316
01/24/11	01/24/11	5,708

It is worth noting that GZ-24 is not a drinking-water well but, rather, was installed to monitor for tritium, and the sampling results do not indicate a risk to the public's health and safety.

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Vermont Yankee will continue to evaluate the sample results from well GZ-24 and other wells. In addition, we are actively investigating to determine the cause of the elevated sample results. We will provide you with an update when we have more information.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Michael Twomey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T. Michael Twomey

cc: Michael Colomb