



Entergy Nuclear

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Michael J. Colomb
Site Vice President - VY

October 11, 2011

Harry L. Chen, MD
Commissioner, Department of Health
Office of the Commissioner
108 Cherry Street – PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070

Re: Fish and Connecticut River Sampling

Dear Commissioner Chen:

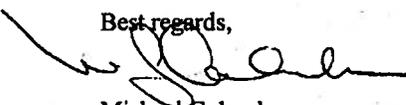
I write in response to your recent letter, in which you asked Vermont Yankee to increase its frequency of fish sampling and Connecticut River water sampling. At this time, we do not believe there is any need to alter our current sampling schedules for fish or water from the Connecticut River.

I understand that the Vermont Department of Health's ("DOH") positive finding of strontium-90 ("Sr-90") in a recent fish sample has raised concerns. As you know, Sr-90 is present throughout the environment due overwhelmingly to atomic weapons testing and the incident at Chernobyl.¹ As such, it is unlikely that DOH's positive finding is attributable to Vermont Yankee as opposed to these other sources. Accordingly, we do not believe that increasing our sampling frequency will yield any more meaningful information about Sr-90 in fish than our current sampling every 60 days already provides.

We also do not believe that our weekly sampling schedule of the Connecticut River needs to be increased. The DOH found only very low detectable levels of tritium in split samples of the river, and the test results of our independent lab found that tritium levels in the split samples were below minimum detectable levels. In addition, Vermont Yankee meets all sampling protocols recommended by technical experts providing input to our environmental monitoring program. Given these circumstances, we do not believe that an increase in our sampling schedule is warranted.

Lastly, I want to reaffirm that we meet or exceed all environmental monitoring requirements of the NRC, which has exclusive authority to regulate radiological safety and any radiological discharges by Vermont Yankee. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



Michael Colomb

¹ In fact, according to the NRC and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, approximately 16.8 million curies of Sr-90 were dispersed into the atmosphere from nuclear testing through 1980. United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR 2001). In comparison, the total annual release of Sr-90 by all U.S. nuclear plants is typically only 1/1000th of a curie. NUREG/CR 2907 Vol. 12 "Radioactive Materials Released From Nuclear Power Plants, Annual Report.