



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

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Dr. Gordon Edwards, Ph.D.
53 Dufferin Road
Hampstead QC H3X 2X8

Dear Dr. Edwards:

Subject: Tritium Awareness Project

Thank you for your letter of March 11, 2009 in response to my letter of March 4, 2009 regarding the Tritium Awareness Project (TAP).

First of all, it is important to be clear that tritium measurements taken in the Ottawa River upstream and downstream of Chalk River Laboratories consistently demonstrate very low concentrations. These concentrations are well below the Canadian drinking water guideline which is based on recommendations from the World Health Organization and which were adopted by Health Canada. These concentrations are also below the U.S. drinking water standard and the California Public Health Goal. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) stands behind its conclusion that there is no health risk in drinking water containing tritium at such low concentrations. TAP's ongoing assertion that such low concentrations pose any health risk is a misrepresentation of the facts and is misleading to the public. All testing demonstrates that drinking water continues to be exceptionally safe.

The CNSC has established a public dose limit on the basis of recommendations from the International Commission on Radiological Protection. These dose limits, which are specified in our regulations, have been established for both members of the public and workers and are consistent with dose limits applied internationally. The CNSC ensures that all licensees comply with these limits.

With respect to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Laboratories, all releases to the river are managed to ensure compliance with regulatory limits. Any operational releases are controlled, measured and monitored to ensure that they will not exceed the public dose limits.

It is thus with confidence that the CNSC can conclude that there are no health risks in drinking water drawn from the Ottawa River.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Binder

c.c.: The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
Mayor Larry O'Brien, City of Ottawa
Mayor Ed Jacyno, City of Pembroke
Mayor Bob Sweet, City of Petawawa