

State of Vermont
Department of Public Service
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February 18, 2010

Mrs. Susan M. Hudson, Clerk
Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street - Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Docket No. 7440, anonymous employee allegation

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

On February 16, 2010, the Department of Public Service received an email from the Public Oversight Panel that recounted the substance of a February 14, 2010 telephone conversation between an anonymous individual claiming to be an employee of the Vermont Yankee plant and Mr. Arnie Gunderson, one of the oversight panel members. The content of that email is reproduced below:

In a message dated 2/16/2010 8:31:29 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, sailchamplain@gmail.com writes:

I received a call from a Vermont Yankee employee (refused to give name or phone #) at 3 PM Sunday, 2/14/10. Employee wanted to tell me that there had been previous radioactive underground pipe leaks in the AOG system that employee wanted me to be aware of.

Employee said that in addition to the current tritium leak, there have been other leaks in the AOG (Advanced Off Gas System) in previous years. Specifically, employee said that approximately two years ago, there was an unisolateable radioactive steam leak into the underground AOG drain pit.

Employee said that access to the AOG drain pit was achieved by the staff through an outside access hatch and that a tent and HEPA filter were installed to prevent the spread of airborne radioactive contamination from the drain pit into the environment. The HEPA filter exhausted air into the yard area that is presently being excavated. Employee said that access time (stay time) was limited because of the radiation and that employees wore full protective clothing to assess and repair the leak.

Employee said that leak could not be isolated and a shutdown would have been required to repair the leak. Employee said that "Furmanite"



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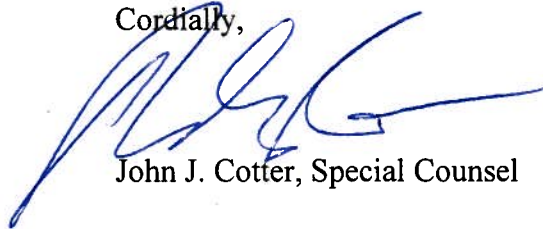
leak sealant was applied to plug the hole until complete repair during the next outage.

Employee said the Oversight Panel needed to be aware of the prior history of leaking underground radioactive pipes in the AOG system.

While the Department at this time has no reason to accept or challenge the accuracy of the allegations, it takes these allegations very seriously and is implementing a review of past Vermont Yankee corrective actions in a specific attempt to determine whether the allegations are accurate or not, and if such a leak did in fact occur, whether it was part of an underground piping system. Additionally, the Department will be reviewing the plant's reporting obligations to see if such an event was reportable to the state, and if so, whether appropriate notification was made. The Department will inform the Board and the parties of its findings as soon as they are complete.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John J. Cotter", is written over the typed name.

John J. Cotter, Special Counsel

cc: Service List w/enc.