

March 22, 2001

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Assistant Director
Division of Environmental Safety, Health
and Analytical Programs
Radiation Protection Programs
Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 415
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0415

Dear Dr. Lipoti:

I am responding to your letter dated November 1, 2000, in which you requested technical assistance from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in responding to issues raised by the Radiation and Public Health Project in an article recently published in the International Journal of Health Sciences, entitled "Strontium-90 in Deciduous Teeth as a Factor in Early Childhood Cancer." The authors of the article, Jay Gould, et al., believe that an epidemic rise in diseases among young children has been caused by the "unexpectedly severe effect of nuclear reactor releases" from Brookhaven National Laboratory and five civilian nuclear power reactors located in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

NRC staff has reviewed the article. Enclosure 1 of this letter contains the NRC staff's review of the issues raised by the Radiation and Public Health Project. The talking points that you requested are provided in Enclosure 2, which also address issues related to radionuclide emissions and their potential health effects. In addition, the staff prepared a brief information paper on strontium for your consideration (Enclosure 3).

I hope that the enclosed information will be helpful to you and your staff. If additional information is desired, please contact Dr. E. Vincent Holahan at 301-415-8715, or via e-mail at evh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures: As stated