

From: Allen, Susan [Susan.Allen@vermont.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 6:03 AM
To: Chen, Harry; Erickson, Nancy
CC: MacLean, Alex
Subject: RE: On behalf of Harry Chen - VT Yankee Tritium Investigation Update

Thank you Harry. This is very clear! I did hear the VPR peice and understood the difference. I did not understand that from Bill's testimony (as it was reported). Much appreciated.

VPR:

(Host) The state Health Department says it's found trace levels of radioactive material in fish taken from a northern Vermont lake.

Last year, the department found similar levels in fish caught in the Connecticut River, near the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

State officials say the fish are still safe to eat. The most recent discovery found small amounts of Strontium-90 and Cesium-137 in smallmouth bass caught in Lake Carmi in Franklin County.

Health Commissioner Dr. Harry Chen says the Lake Carmi results indicate that those fish may have absorbed background levels of radioactivity from global sources.

(Chen) "That tells us radiation is all around us and that the strontium in fish in Lake Carmi probably are resulting from previous nuclear testing and Chernobyl and certainly not related to Vermont Yankee."

(Host) But Chen said the state still cannot rule out the Yankee plant as the source of contamination in the Connecticut River fish.

(Chen) "I don't think there's anyway that I could say it wasn't from Yankee. What I can say is it could have just as well been from Chernobyl. But I think it would be premature to say it wasn't from Yankee"

(Host) A Yankee spokesman says the Lake Carmi test results back up its claim that the nuclear plant was not the source of the radiation found in the Connecticut River fish.

From: Chen, Harry
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Allen, Susan; Erickson, Nancy
Cc: MacLean, Alex
Subject: RE: On behalf of Harry Chen - VT Yankee Tritium Investigation Update

Sue

You are correct. The SR in bone in Lake Carmi matches the SR in bone in the Connecticut and is consistent with background. The one sample with Strontium (SR) 90 in the edible portion in 2010 was not matched in Lake Carmi or in subsequent testing in the Connecticut. As I stated in my interviews with John Dillon and David Graham today, the presence of Strontium 90 in the edible portion of a fish was a cause for concern and necessitated increased monitoring. We may never know for certain the source of Strontium 90 but are obligated to continue our monitoring.

Hope this helps

Harry

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Erickson, Nancy; Chen, Harry

Subject: FW: On behalf of Harry Chen - VT Yankee Tritium Investigation Update

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Skovira, Mary; MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill
Subject: RE: On behalf of Harry Chen - VT Yankee Tritium Investigation Update

Forgive me because I'm clearly missing something. But the fish outside Yankee HAD SR-90 in their edible portions, which as I recall was a first-ever finding. While it was disturbing to find sr-90 in the bones, it was especially concerning that the substance was found in the body not just bones. So I'm confused how findings of sr-90 in the bones elsewhere – in Lake Carmi or Franklin County lake -- matches what was found outside Yankee. Mary, do you know or can you have someone who knows? I keep asking, but I still don't understand the answer.

Sue

From: Skovira, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:59 PM
To: MacLean, Alex; Lofy, Bill; Allen, Susan
Subject: On behalf of Harry Chen - VT Yankee Tritium Investigation Update

Investigation into Tritium Contamination at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Update for February 7, 2012

<http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/yankee/tritium.aspx>

Lake Carmi - Connecticut River Preliminary Fish Data Comparison

Preliminary results of fish collected from Lake Carmi in 2011 show the levels of radioactive materials, both naturally-occurring and human-made were similar to those in fish collected from the Connecticut River in 2010 and 2011. Low levels of cesium-137 and naturally-occurring potassium-40 were found in all the fish tested, in both edible and inedible (bone, guts) portions. Low levels of strontium-90 were found only in the inedible portion of the fish.

Lake Carmi was selected as a collection site because the Department of Fish and Wildlife was already sampling the lake at a time when we needed samples from water unaffected by nuclear power plants.

The Lake Carmi fish provide a baseline measure of radioactive materials that are expected as a result of historical above-ground weapons testing and global nuclear incidents. The levels of radioactive materials are similar to what has been documented in the U.S. diet and do not pose a health risk.

Laboratory test results and analyses related to the investigation, including the preliminary fish test results comparison, can be found at:

http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/yankee/laboratory_testing.aspx

