

September 12, 2001

Governor Jim Hodges
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 11829
Columbia, SC 29211

REFERENCE: Groundwater Uranium in Simpsonville, S.C.

Dear Governor Hodges:

At its last quarterly meeting, the Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council discussed the matter of uranium in the ground water in the area of Simpsonville, South Carolina.

Following this meeting a work group of Council members reviewed this matter in consultation with DHEC and local officials. Based on this review, the Council wishes to recommend that DHEC consider the following actions:

- Expand radon in water measurements and correlate these measurements with uranium and the local geology. In this regard, 176 wells have been tested for uranium, 60 are above safe drinking water limits, but only 22 wells have been tested for radon, and all are above the proposed limit. Radon in water is likely to be more widespread in this area.
- Investigate the health effects associated with chronic ingestion of uranium, radium and radon in drinking water. To our knowledge, a study of this magnitude has never been conducted.
- Investigate more cost-effective water treatment options. There will always be a taxpayer beyond the reach of the public water supply. For people on well water, we need to make information available on how to have their water tested, and if positive, what inexpensive methods are available to remove elevated levels of radium, radon and uranium.
- Implement full characterization of well water following a newly installed well. Currently only a biological test is offered with a permit.

We hope these recommendations will be of assistance to you, DHEC and the other state and local officials who are working diligently to resolve this matter. If the Council can be of any further assistance to you in this regard, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Stucker, Ph.D.
Chairman

cc: Members of the Council
David E. Wilson, Jr., DHEC