



CANADA

House of Commons Debates

VOLUME 144 | NUMBER 017 | 2nd SESSION | 40th PARLIAMENT

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken

ORAL QUESTIONS

Chalk River Nuclear Facility

Hon. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, there was another heavy water leak at Chalk River as the minister toured the facility. An undisclosed amount of tritium was released again into the ventilation system. This is the third radioactive leak in two months.

Could the minister assure Canadians that the cause of these leaks has been determined and corrected or will she simply abandon her responsibility and ask for another report?

Hon. Lisa Raitt (Minister of Natural Resources, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, AECL, Atomic Energy Canada Limited, notified my office and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on Sunday of a heavy water leak. It was also discovered at the time what the cause of the leak was and the repair was undertaken. I can also indicate that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has released a statement informing Canadians that the leak had no impact on the safety or the operation of the reactor and posed no risk to the health and safety of the public, the workers or the environment.

The reporting systems we have put in place have worked and the Canadian public, of whom we are concerned for health and safety, were informed in a timely fashion.