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To: "Victor L Dricks" <vld@nrc.gov>, "Sylvia Field" <f...>
Date: Fri, Feb 23, 2001 10:20 AM
Subject: Safety Concern

Mr. Dricks

The recent failure of the Clean Up pump(CU) seals at Vermont Yankee raises safety questions. I can remember back in my days at the plant many bearing and mechanical seal failures. I spent many hours tagging and untagging this system, and watched the maintenance people from outside who worked on it. It was always a high radiation field and it became a significant increase in my life-time dose. I can also remember the waste of accumulating dose and increasing rad waste with having to go into that room twice a shift to check for oil levels and leakage. I hope they are using remote visual aids with accomplishing this safety task or similar tasks today. To get a better understanding with the cost of this repetitive long term potential design deficiency and the mismanagement of same, I ask some questions.

- 1) List the seal failures or bearing failures for the last twenty years or since the last total system piping replacement. You should include a seal or bearing replacement done in anticipation, like during an outage, for an operation failure. Like if you replace the seal no matter what the indication of it is, because you expect it to fail next cycle.
- 2) The accumulated out-of-service time.
- 3) The accumulated dosage of the maintenance issues and the normal operators rounds.
- 4) List the total dollar cost of the mechanical seal failures.
- 5) Does the accumulated and projected thermal cycling of the system from these maintenance failures: piping, piping nozzles, and vessel nozzles etc raise questions or challenge the primary pressure boundary or a LOCA?
- 6) Are there implication on any of the safety regimes: vessel level control, water chemistry control etc.

Thanks,
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Enclosure