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 Date: 7/13/04 5:48PM  
 Subject: Important Update on the Vermont Yankee Fuel Segment Investigation

All,

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*J. Wiggins*  
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I'm forwarding you an e-mail sent from Jay Thayer, Vermont Yankee Site Vice President, to the VY staff regarding today's discovery of the missing spent fuel pin segments. The e-mail includes the press release the licensee is passing on to the press tonight.

If anyone has any questions, please call...

David Pelton

NRC SRI VY

(802) 257-4319

-----Original Message-----

From: Thayer, Jay  
 Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2004 5:31 PM  
 To: VTY - All Users  
 Subject: Important Update on the Fuel Segment Investigation  
 Importance: High

To the Vermont Yankee Team,

The following late-breaking information is being put out to the press tonight and I wanted to make sure that all VY employees and site personnel had this information.

Jay

Entergy Locates Spent Fuel Segments at Vermont Yankee

Vernon, VT- Entergy workers at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant today located the missing spent

*C-63*

fuel rod segments in the plant's spent fuel pool. The two pieces were stored in a unique 40-inch aluminum cylinder, which is unlike a typical storage container but is similar to several other aluminum structures and tools in the pool.

Entergy VY Site Vice President Jay Thayer credited interviews with former employees and contractors, intense research of records and documents dating back more than 25 years, and video tapes of the pool that were recently taken.

Said Thayer, "Our search team designed a detailed search plan that explored every possibility from three different angles. They looked visually with the cameras, they searched the documents, and they talked to people who were on the scene 25 years ago. The team deserves a tremendous amount of credit.

"We earlier had checked all the containers in the pool, but when we learned that General Electric had designed and sent a pipe-like cylinder for the fuel-rod pieces, we rechecked the videotapes. That's when we noticed that what was previously thought to be part of an existing in-pool structure could very well be the canister that GE sent here."

Workers used remotely operated tools to open the canister and insert a small high-resolution video camera that confirmed the presence of the fuel segments, which are nine inches and seventeen inches long and about the diameter of a pencil.

Thayer also credits the resident NRC inspectors at Vermont Yankee and William Sherman, the Vermont Public Service Department's nuclear engineer, for their contributions to the investigation. "These folks had full and open access to the process every step of the way and they provided valuable insights and guidance."

Thayer said the policies and procedures for record keeping and documentation of activities in Vermont Yankee's spent fuel pool have been revised to ensure accurate record keeping. "We want to make sure this doesn't happen again," he said.

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