

From: Tad Marsh , *NRM*
To: Barry Elliot; Bill Bateman; Edwin Gray; Raymond Lorson; Rick Ennis; Stephanie Coffin
Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2004 3:33 PM
Subject: Re: Vermont Yankee - Revised Talking Points on Reactor Vessel Clad Cracking

I think you need to say if the cracking, although it has not propagated into the base material, is or is not more extensive. If it's true that there doesn't appear to be any more of the cladding that has undergone cracking than in 2002, that is a positive statement.

>>> Rick Ennis 04/26/04 02:14PM >>>

Attached for your information are the revised talking points regarding the Vermont Yankee reactor vessel clad cracking. This version includes the two sets of changes by Ray Lorson and some comments from Bill Bateman.

Based on our conference call with the licensee on 4/23, they still need to get back to us on their assessment of the structural integrity of the vessel with respect to corrosion in the areas where the cladding is degraded (this should address Ray's Item # 2 below). They also need to address if the proposed power uprate conditions will impact the corrosion rate.

Our primary actions are to address Ray's Item # 6 below and to consider the need for external communications based on the public interest. Note, the licensee stated during the call that Bill Sherman, from the State of Vermont, has been informed of the results of the previous inspections of the reactor vessel.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Rick
415-1420

RI
>>> Raymond Lorson 04/23/04 10:05AM >>>
Rick:

I updated the talking points once more based some additional information from the site. The edited version is attached for your review. I noted a couple of items discussed in the talking points that could lead to further questions. Specifically:

Item # 2 - the cladding provides corrosion resistance for the low alloy steel. This could lead to a question involving: what is the impact (long and short term) on the low alloy carbon steel in the areas where the cladding protection is degraded.

Item # 6 - we state that the current condition does not affect the reactor vessel integrity based on completed UT test results. Do we have a strong technical basis that we can provide regarding why the degraded cladding cant lead to a future problem or can we provide any information regarding requirements for future inspections of the low alloy steel in the area of the cladding cracks.

Thanks

Ray
NRM

>>> Rick Ennis 04/22/04 05:29PM >>>

Based on my discussion this afternoon with Bill Bateman and Barry Elliot, I developed the attached talking points regarding the reactor vessel cladding cracking at Vermont Yankee. Please review and let me

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know if the information is technically correct and is consistent with the NRC's position on this issue.

Once we have internal consensus, we will need to evaluate the appropriate communications that should be made to inform the public of this issue. It is unknown at this time if the licensee plans to make the issue known, since at present, it appears that this is not a technical concern, but more of a concern regarding the politics related to the power uprate.

Thanks,

Rick
415-1420

CC: A. Randolph Blough; Allen Howe; Brian Holian; Brian Sheron; Cliff Anderson; Cornelius Holden; David Pelton; Diane Screnci; Donald Florek; Donna Skay; Eric Leeds; James Clifford; Jim Dyer; John Craig; John Jolicoeur; Neil Sheehan; Richard Borchardt; Richard Crlenjak; Robert Jasinski; Rosetta Virgilio; Thomas Madden; Wayne Lanning