

From: Neil Sheehan / *RI*
To: Cliff Anderson; David Pelton; Raymond Lorson
Date: 4/23/04 10:45AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: [Know_Nukes] Re: Fuel Rod Pieces Missing at Vt. Nuke Plant

This message is from the "Know Nukes" message group. Mike Mulligan used to correspond with the NRC on a regular basis.

Spent 10-11-04

W-2

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Subject: Fwd: Re: [Know_Nukes] Re: Fuel Rod Pieces Missing at Vt. Nuke Plant
Creation Date: 4/23/04 10:45AM
From: Neil Sheehan

Created By: NAS@nrc.gov

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From: steamshovel2002@yahoo.com
To: <Know_Nukes@yahooogroups.com>
Date: 4/22/04 6:19PM
Subject: Re: [Know_Nukes] Re: Fuel Rod Pieces Missing at Vt. Nuke Plant

Well, when I worked at VY many years ago –they had the extremely hot control rod ball bearing (stellite) contained in a stainless steel dairy milk bucket. It was attached to the pool handle (personal barrier/hand rail) by a steel cable- hung. It looked like a strange Christmas tree, the employee barrier, with a lot of cables tied to the hand rails with core junk dangling against the wall.

I would question the meaning of a “special bucket” –ask them to explain what they exactly mean by special. You got to give the NRC credit with discovering it this late in the game –no matter what.

As a investigation path I would look at it this. I would look at the historic record of pool water radioactivity before and after the pins were thought of as missing. I'd be looking for some sort of trends –or drastic change. I take a historic look at the fuel pool water cooling filters, wondering if they have been forced to change these out more frequency prior to loosing the pins.

What I am wondering is –was the pins corroding in the can leading to highly radioactive components ending up in the pool. I had a radiation tech come up to me in my final days telling me they discovery much alpha contamination on the refueling floor and components. He said they had a hard time detecting it –didn't have the appropriate equipment to do this –and there was a lot. Of course there is the fuel flea's –highly radioactive particles, which they had trouble with in the past that comes from exposed pellets. This guy was questionable to me –so I took it no farther.

So why should the employees have to deal with the potential of rad exposure because of some kind of phony rule thing –that they can't ship out used fuel. So why not put it in the shit-can without permission -high level cast- so the future employees need not be exposed to the results. They do remove highly radioactive components – LPRM, core components and debris from the fuel pool floor. I imagine the pin went out there.

mike mulligan
Hinsdale, NH

--- Paul <primap@yahoo.com> wrote:
> The NRC Daily Event Report puts the missing fuel rod
> pieces at VY in

- > perspective. The pieces have to be somewhere in the
- > spent fuel pool -
- > it's just a matter of locating them and finding out
- > why the
- > documentation is in error. I seriously doubt that
- > public health and
- > safety are at any risk from this event. But it does
- > point out that
- > we all have problems - even the ENVY of the
- > northeast.
- >
- > [http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html)
- > [status/event/en.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html)
- >
- > Event Number: 40694
- >
- > LICENSEE PLANS TO ISSUE NEWS RELEASE REGARDING AN
- > ACCOUNTABILITY
- > DISCREPANCY OF SNM
- >
- > The following is the text of the planned press
- > release:
- >
- > "Entergy Vermont Yankee Press Release
- >
- > "Fuel Rod Segments at Vermont Yankee Unaccounted For
- >
- >
- > "BRATTLEBORO, VT -- In response to a recent NRC
- > inspection, Entergy
- > Vermont Yankee has determined that two short spent
- > fuel rod segments
- > are not in their documented location in the spent
- > fuel pool. Entergy
- > engineers are reviewing storage records and
- > performing a thorough
- > inspection of the spent fuel pool to determine the
- > location of the
- > rod segments.
- >
- > "One of the segments is about the length and
- > diameter of a pencil
- > and the other is the same diameter and about 17
- > inches long.
- > According to station documentation, in 1979, the
- > highly radioactive
- > rods were placed in a special stainless steel
- > container in the spent
- > fuel pool after a fuel inspection to address fuel
- > cladding
- > deficiencies.
- >
- > "Vermont Yankee has an extensive system of radiation
- > monitors and,
- > due to the radioactive nature of the material, the
- > segments could

- > not have been inadvertently removed from the pool in
- > anything other
- > than a container specifically designed and licensed
- > to contain
- > radioactive material. Therefore, public health and
- > safety is not at
- > risk as a result of this issue. Entergy Vermont
- > Yankee will continue
- > to keep the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state
- > authorities
- > informed on the progress of the investigation.
- >
- > "The Vermont Yankee spent fuel pool is 40 feet in
- > depth and contains
- > 2,789 spent uranium fuel assemblies that were used
- > in energy
- > production since 1972. Vermont Yankee is presently
- > shut down for its
- > twenty fourth refueling and maintenance outage."
- >
- > The licensee informed the NRC Resident Inspector.
- >
- >

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