

**From:** Neil Sheehan, *RF*  
**To:** Allen Howe; Cliff Anderson; Donald Florek; Donna Skay; Rick Ennis  
**Date:** 6/14/04 8:37AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: VY Update - June 10, 2004

FYI.

*W-3*

**Mail Envelope Properties (40CD9BF4.383 : 9 : 35118)**

**Subject:** Fwd: FW: VY Update - June 10, 2004  
**Creation Date:** 6/14/04 8:37AM  
**From:** Neil Sheehan

**Created By:** NAS@nrc.gov

**Recipients**

owf4\_po.OWFN\_DO  
AGH1 (Allen Howe)  
RXE (Rick Ennis)

nrc.gov

kp1\_po.KP\_DO  
CJA (Cliff Anderson)  
DJF1 (Donald Florek)

nrc.gov

owf2\_po.OWFN\_DO  
DMS6 (Donna Skay)

**Post Office**

owf4\_po.OWFN\_DO  
kp1\_po.KP\_DO  
owf2\_po.OWFN\_DO

**Route**

nrc.gov  
nrc.gov

**Files**

Mail  
MESSAGE

**Size**

491

**Date & Time**

06/14/04 08:37AM

**Options**

**Expiration Date:** None  
**Priority:** Standard  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Return Notification:** None

**Concealed Subject:** No  
**Security:** Standard

**From:** "Williams, Rob" <rwill23@entergy.com>  
**To:** "Sheehan, Neil" <nas@nrc.gov>, "Sherman, William" <William.Sherman@state.vt.us>  
**Date:** 6/10/04 5:50PM  
**Subject:** FW: VY Update - June 10, 2004

FYI:

We are sending the following note to Vermont reporters this afternoon.

- Rob Williams

Entergy's special fuel rod investigation team continues its work with record reviews and interviews on parallel tracks. As you know, the spent fuel pool search with a roving camera was completed several weeks ago by ROV Technologies. Their work helped establish our confidence that the segments are not in the pool. (You may be interested in ROV Technologies web page at [www.rovtech.com](http://www.rovtech.com))

The overall scope of the on-going investigation has expanded to include review of documents that are either directly or indirectly related to pool operations including radiological controls, maintenance, fuel movement, quality assurance, fuel storage and shipping. That puts the total number of documents at more than 3,000 compared to the initial plan of about 700. The scope could expand further if necessary. As of today, the team has reviewed about 2,300.

The document review also identifies additional individuals that may have information that could be useful to the investigation. They are then contacted and/or formally interviewed. That has expanded the contact list from an initial 65 to about 100.

As you know, the spent fuel pool uses water to shield the radiation from fuel assemblies. The pool has also been used to safely store other radioactive materials such as irradiated hardware and vacuum filters. Several times over the life of the plant, the miscellaneous items stored in the pool were gathered up and placed in a shielded cask for shipment to a low-level waste disposal facility. In light of the possibility that the segments were inadvertently gathered into a licensed shipping cask with miscellaneous items, the investigation includes cross checking the team's information with that available from low-level waste disposal facilities.

The investigation has established more accurate dimensions on the missing segments using a radiation-tolerant camera to measure the fuel rods from which the two segments came from originally back in 1979. In 1979, the shorter segment had been visually estimated (through 40 feet of water) as about seven inches. The new camera images of the remaining rods has established that the shorter missing segment is about nine inches long. The segment estimated in 1979 to be about 17 inches has been determined to be accurate.

We expect the work to continue though the summer but the schedule will depend the amount of data to be reviewed and interviews to be conducted. This investigation is being done very carefully to ensure it is done right the first time.

The NRC special investigation team established for a review of Vermont Yankee's investigation is described in the April 22, 2004 NRC news release.

It is accessible on the web at :

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2004/04-023i.html>

See also the NRC's separate web page dedicated to its oversight of the fuel segment activities. Here is the link: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html>.

END

FYI:

We are sending the following note to Vermont reporters this afternoon.

- Rob Williams

Entergy's special fuel rod investigation team continues its work with record reviews and interviews on parallel tracks. As you know, the spent fuel pool search with a roving camera was completed several weeks ago by ROV Technologies. Their work helped establish our confidence that that the segments are not in the pool. (You may be interested in ROV Technologies web page at [www.rovtech.com](http://www.rovtech.com))

The overall scope of the on-going investigation has expanded to include review of documents that are either directly or indirectly related to pool operations including radiological controls, maintenance, fuel movement, quality assurance, fuel storage and shipping. That puts the total number of documents at more than 3,000 compared to the initial plan of about 700. The scope could expand further if necessary. As of today, the team has reviewed about 2,300.

The document review also identifies additional individuals that may have information that could be useful to the investigation. They are then contacted and/or formally interviewed. That has expanded the contact list from an initial 65 to about 100.

As you know, the spent fuel pool uses water to shield the radiation from fuel assemblies. The pool has also been used to safely store other radioactive materials such as irradiated hardware and vacuum filters. Several times over the life of the plant, the miscellaneous items stored in the pool were gathered up and placed in a shielded cask for shipment to a low-level waste disposal facility. In light of the possibility that the segments were inadvertently gathered into a licensed shipping cask with miscellaneous items, the investigation includes cross checking the team's information with that available from low-level waste disposal facilities.

The investigation has established more accurate dimensions on the missing segments using a radiation-tolerant camera to measure the fuel rods from which the two segments came from originally back in 1979. In 1979, the shorter segment had been visually estimated (through 40 feet of water) as about seven inches. The new camera images of the remaining rods has established that the shorter missing segment is about nine inches long. The segment estimated in 1979 to be about 17 inches has been determined to be accurate.

We expect the work to continue though the summer but the schedule will depend the amount of data to be reviewed and interviews to be conducted. This investigation is

being done very carefully to ensure it is done right the first time.

The NRC special investigation team established for a review of Vermont Yankee's investigation is described in the April 22, 2004 NRC news release.

It is accessible on the web at : <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2004/04-023i.html>

See also the NRC's separate web page dedicated to its oversight of the fuel segment activities. Here is the link: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/vermont-yankee-issues.html>.

END