

ref

5

From: Allen Howe *MLH*
To: *ORA* Burnell, Scott; Ennis, Rick; Florek, Donald; Holden, Cornelius; Jasinski, Robert; Kim, Tae; Leeds, Eric; Madden, Thomas; Marsh, Tad; Roberts, Darrell; Skay, Donna; Virgilio, Rosetta
Date: 05/19/2004 2:53PM
Subject: Fwd: Event Notice: Vermont Yankee 05/19/2004

Attached is the text of the 50.72 report on the missing fuel rod segments at Vermont Yankee.
In essence, it states that the search in the pool is done and the rod segments were not found in the pool.
Thanks - Allen

W-4

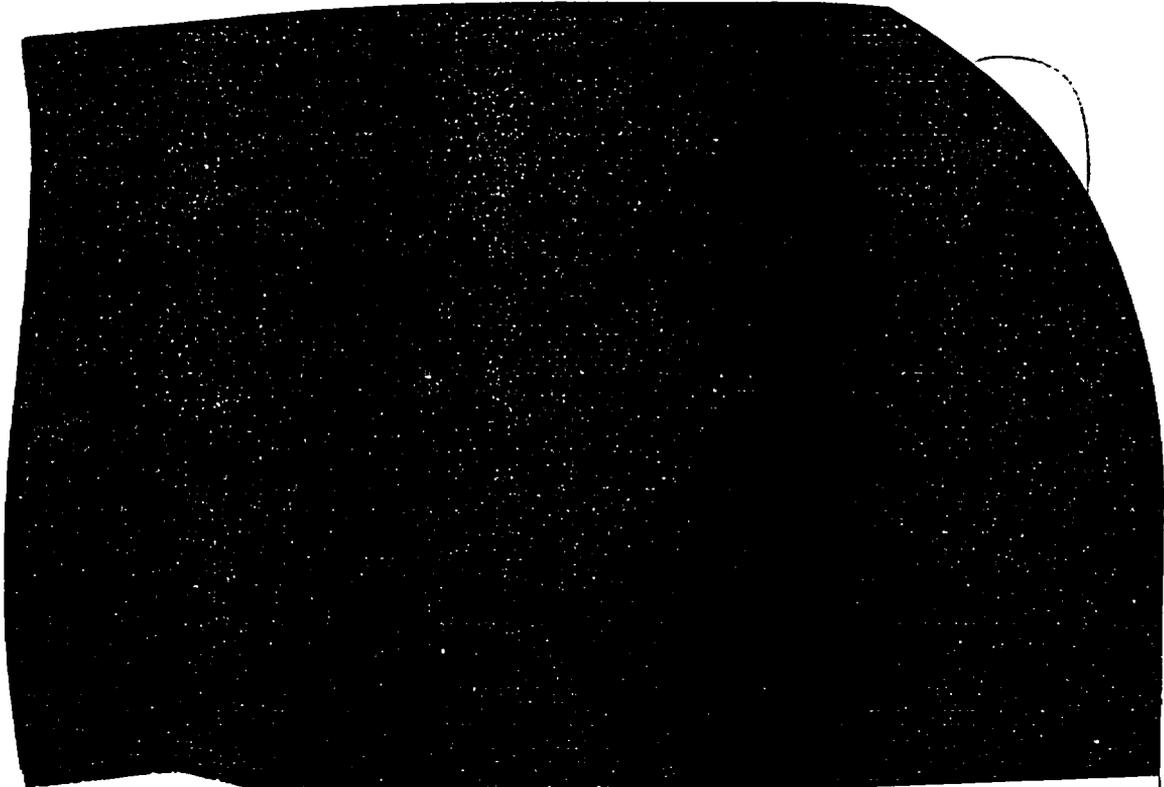
From: Headquarters Operations Officer 1
To: Allen Howe
Date: 05/19/2004 2:45PM
Subject: Event Notice: 05/19/2004

Per your request.

Regards,
Howie Crouch

Headquarters Operations Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Phone: (301) 816-5100
Fax: (301) 816-5151
E-mail: HOO1@nrc.gov

EX 5
DRAFT



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

PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE
FOR

ON
ENTERGY
WEBSITE

Commission and state authorities informed on the progress of the investigation.

PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE
ON
ENTERGY WEBSITE

"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.

*****UPDATE ON 5/19/04 AT 0945 FROM K. ROBINSON TO R. LAURA*****

INFORMATION
PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE
ON
NRC PUBLIC
WEBSITE -

"On April 20, 2004, Vermont Yankee (VY) determined that two short pieces of spent fuel rods were not in their documented location in the spent fuel pool. An investigation team, consisting of Entergy personnel and industry peers is working to locate the fuel rod pieces. This is being accomplished by completing a review of special nuclear material storage records, performing a thorough, methodical inspection of the spent fuel pool, interviewing current and former VY personnel and contractors and reviewing all radioactive materials shipping records generated since 1979, corresponding to the date that the fuel rod pieces were loaded into the storage container.

"The two missing fuel rod pieces are approximately 7 and 17.5 inches in length and approximately one half inch in diameter. According to station documentation, in 1979, the highly radioactive rods were placed in a stainless steel container in the spent fuel pool after a fuel inspection to address fuel cladding deficiencies. This container was not designed with sufficient shielding for safe transport outside of an underwater environment such as the spent fuel pool.

LEADS 2/2004 NRC
RESPONSES

"VY has an extensive system of radiation monitors on the refuel floor and throughout the station with alarm set points that are capable of alerting control room operators and plant personnel to the uncontrolled movement of highly radioactive material in the protected area. Due to the radioactive nature of the material, the pieces could not have been inadvertently removed from the pool in anything other than a container specifically designed to contain this form of radioactive material. Therefore, there is reasonable assurance that public health and safety is not, nor was ever at risk as a result of this issue. VY will continue to keep the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state authorities informed on the progress of the investigation.

"The portion of the investigation that involves the visual inspection of the pool is essentially completed. That work included searches with pole-mounted and robotic crawler-mounted cameras above and below all the spent fuel storage racks as well as in empty fuel racks and other containers and storage areas. The camera search did not find the unaccounted for fuel rod pieces. Continuing efforts include, but are not limited to, document reviews and extensive interviews with approximately 65 present and former employees and contractors who have been associated with spent fuel pool and radioactive waste disposal operations over the years.

"The State of Vermont and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are actively providing oversight for this project."

Notified R1DO (J. Caruso), DIRO (T. Andrews), NMSS (T. Essig), NRR (T. Reis), R1 PAO (D. Screnci), DHS (N. Lieberman)

NRC OPERATIONS CENTER
EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

Event# Plant Name CFR(s)

40694 VERMONT YANKEE

This Event has been Updated !!!

50.72(b)(2)(xi) OFFSITE NOTIFICATION

20.2201(a)(1)(ii) LOST/STOLEN LNM>10X

74.11(a) LOST/STOLEN SNM

+-----+