



Global Nuclear Fuel

A Joint Venture of GE, Toshiba & Hitachi

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December 16, 2005

Mr. Jay L. Henson, Chief
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Subject: October Overhead Crane Failure Investigation and Findings

Dear Mr. Henson:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our telephone discussion of December 13, 2005 regarding the subject event.

On October 6, 2005 we experienced an uncontrolled lowering of a fuel assembly being moved by a Yale 2.5-ton hoist on an overhead crane. We contacted our onsite contract certified crane maintenance vendor (Mundy) and requested that they perform a root cause investigation and repair the crane. They found a worn pin in the secondary brake assembly was responsible. The pin was replaced and the crane returned to service.

On October 8, 2005 a similar situation occurred with the same crane. During the investigation we determined that the new pin was stuck in the solenoid. It was then determined that the original repair was ineffective because the pin and the solenoid wear as a unit. With a new pin in the old solenoid there was a mismatch in the wear patterns and this caused the pin to bind in the solenoid. It appears for this configuration that both the pin and solenoid should be replaced as a unit.

We reviewed this situation under our procedures for 10 CFR 21 and determined it was not reportable as a Part 21 situation. However, in the interest of safety, we believe it is a situation that might impact other licensees. We are not in a position to evaluate this further as we do not know all the models of the crane that this problem exists in or all the potential nuclear users. We have advised the crane manufacturer that they should contact the NRC and discuss this issue with them so that potentially affected parties are knowledgeable of the information. The vendor contact is Yale Hoists, P.O. Box 769, Broadway Ave., Muskegon, MI 49443, 866 805 2962.

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If you need additional information or have questions please feel free to contact me at 910 675 5656.

Sincerely,

Global Nuclear Fuel – Americas, LLC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. M. Vaughan".

C. M. Vaughan, Manager
Facility Licensing

cc: CMV-05-069
Mr. Doug Thomas
Yale Hoists
Service and Warranty Manager