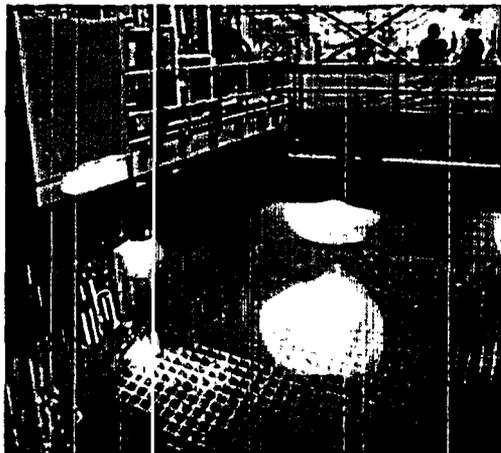




Liner Inspection and New Wells Aid SFP Investigation

No leak found during vacuum box test



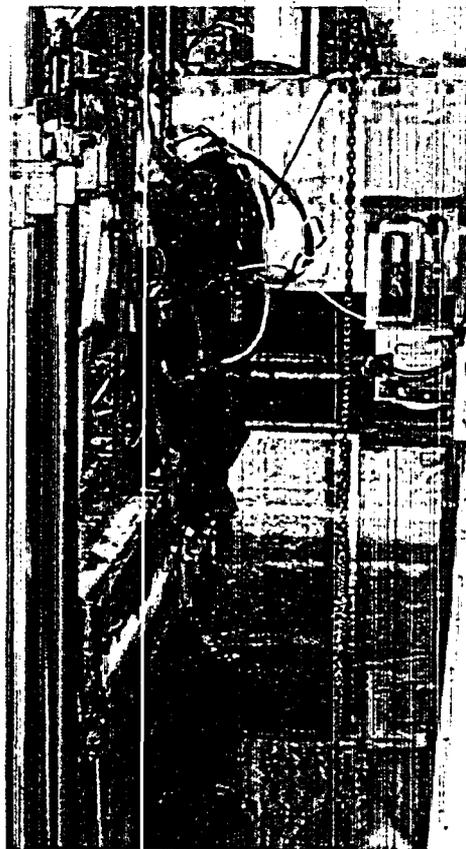
IP2 spent fuel pool. The empty area in the upper left hand corner of the fuel racks is the cask loading lay area where the vacuum box test was performed.

A diver from Underwater Construction, a company in Essex Connecticut that specializes in nuclear dive services, performed an underwater inspection of the southwest corner of the IP2 spent fuel pool on Tuesday evening. He installed a vacuum box around two of three potential flaws found in a video inspection of the pool liner. Vacuum box tests are used for rapid leak detection of weld seams. The diver can use an observation window in the box to look for water coming through the flaws and monitor the drop in vacuum that could indicate a small leak in the weld. From the preliminary results of the vacuum box test on Tuesday, there did not appear to be any through wall leaks.

The video inspection of the spent fuel pool liner, which is about 40% completed, showed three small areas along the southwest corner of the pool that had what appeared to be weld anomalies. Pictures showed a discolored trailing from the flaw.

The spent fuel pool dive was conducted as an Infrequently Performed Test or Evolution with a number of safeguards in place to prevent overexposure of the diver. During the ALARA brief, Bob Deschamps who served as senior manager on the job, emphasized the need for a safe working environment for the diver. "Even slight movements away from the work envelope can result in significant dose to the individual," he noted. Industry Operating Experience has shown that radiation fields can change dramatically when diving within several feet of spent fuel elements. As part of the work plan, an underwater radiation survey was performed on the lowest of the three flaws in anticipation of a test in the area nearest the spent fuel assemblies. The survey results show it is safe to dive in that area.

The diver's movement was limited by the dive basket or cage. He was also tethered by an "umbilical" cord which limited the depth he could go in the pool. The dive supervisor, Richard Anthes and the lead health physics technician, Lloyd Frank, had the diver under constant view with remote cameras to ensure the diver remained within the survey area. The diver also wore whole body dosimetry on his back, arms and legs that was monitored remotely to ensure dose limits would not be exceeded. The diver received an estimated 10-15 millirem of exposure about the same as a typical bone X-ray. The entire team received just 25 millirem.

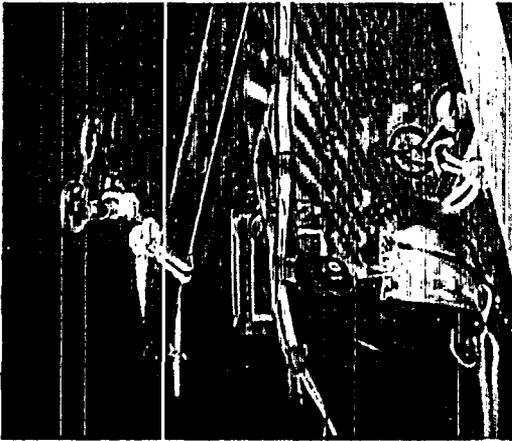


Diver cautiously descends ladder into cask loading area of IP2 spent fuel pool.

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Ray Fuchek, radiation protection supervisor, was in constant communication with dive team and remote monitors. Lou Menoscal, who helped coordinate the overall evolution, is behind Ray.



Diver in spent fuel pool. The vacuum box is directly in front of him in the southwest corner of the pool. The suction cups on either side of the wall are to prevent movement of the basket and diver outside the survey area.

A single fuel element can create dose fields in excess of 10,000 Rem/hr.

All equipment including the dive suits, air supply, dive basket, air compressor and remote monitoring telemetry were checked just prior to the dive. As a precaution, the crane and hoist controls were locked in place to prevent movement outside the safe zone.

"I want to commend the team that performed this evolution," said Site Vice President Fred Dacimo. "It was well planned, well executed with a serious focus on safety as job one."

Water Sampling Programs Gets New Wells

Well drilling rigs are on site this week to install new monitoring wells as part of the continuing investigation into the small leak in IP2 spent fuel pool. The first well is being drilled in the loading bay area of the fuel storage building. Eight additional wells at five sample locations will be installed in this phase of the investigation. Technicians continue to sample the existing wells. Sample results are consistent with environmental conditions and previous samples obtained and reported in mid October. Testing results for Strontium-90, a fission product found in spent fuel pool water, from MW-111 was negative. Monitoring Well-111 is located in the IP2 transformer yard about 150 yards from the spent fuel building. It is the only well on site found to have levels of tritium above drinking water standards in the last round of test results.

Testing was conducted on the two nearest public drinking water supplies and a sample well in Verplanck. All three tested negative for radioactivity above background levels. This is no hazard to workers or the public from the leak at IP2.

The site is continuing to work with hydrology experts to better define groundwater movement on the site. The next series of wells will help refine the ground water model.

The Nuclear Regulator Commission is also continuing its special inspection and overseeing the tests that Entergy conducts.