



Entergy

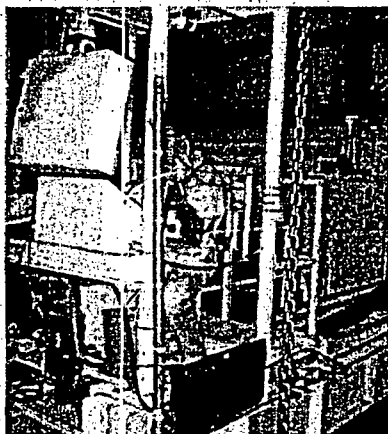


November 21, 2005

Spent Fuel Pool Bulletin # 2



Vacuum box that was used in the spent fuel pool dives.



Radiation Protection technician operates the bridge crane to help ensure that the IPTE was performed safely.



Getting ready for dive. File photo from first dive

Second Dive in IP2 Spent Fuel Pool Does Not Reveal Leak

A second dive by Underwater Construction, a Connecticut company that specializes in nuclear dive services, did not reveal the source of a leak in the Indian Point Unit 2 spent fuel pool. Similarly to a dive performed last week, the diver installed a vacuum box over a small section of the southwest corner of the fuel pool where a potential flaw was identified in a video inspection of the liner. The spent fuel pool is lined with welded stainless steel plates, about 1/4 inch thick. The potential flaw is located about 18 feet from the top of the spent fuel pool. The top of the fuel racks which contain the spent fuel assemblies is about 25 feet from the top.

Exempt
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The video inspection of the spent fuel pool liner is about 50% complete. It includes all four walls of the pool in the areas above the fuel racks and the full wall areas of the cask loading area. The IP2 spent fuel pool has a section in the southwest corner that does not contain fuel racks which will be used to load spent fuel into casks for dry storage.

The spent fuel pool dive, which was conducted as an Infrequently Performed Test or Evolution, incorporated a number of safety precautions, both to protect the diver against the physical stress of performing work in a warm pool and to reduce radiation exposure. "Small changes in dive location near the fuel bundles can result in large swings in radiation levels," said Bob Deschamps, who served as senior manager on the job. As in the first dive, the diver's movement was limited by the dive basket and he was also tethered by an "umbilical" cord which limited the depth he could go in the pool.

The diver received an estimated 12 millirem of exposure about the same as a typical bone X-ray.

A number of repair options are undergoing engineering review. Although the vacuum box tests did not reveal any leaks, Entergy will apply a protective coating on the small flaws along the weld seams.

The next phase of the liner inspection will take more time and be more difficult to complete since the video cameras will have tight clearances between the wall and the fuel racks.

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