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Condensate Storage Tank (CST) Underground Pipe Leak

On February 16, 2009, Entergy operators identified and confirmed indications of leakage from a buried pipe under the auxiliary building floor associated with the Unit 2 CST return line. Entergy

personnel excavated the area, unearthed the pipe, and identified a 1.5" diameter hole in the pipe. It appeared the external protective coating was degraded in this localized area. On February 21, 2009, Entergy personnel replaced the affected pipe section and declared the CST operable in accordance within the time limits of the applicable technical specification action statement. Resident inspectors independently determined that Entergy personnel identified the leak, replaced the pipe in accordance with regulatory requirements, and confirmed that liquid releases (tritium) were well below NRC regulatory limits. Entergy is conducting a root cause evaluation and developing corrective actions to determine the extent of condition, Region I inspectors will review those results this quarter and assess Entergy's performance.

Although this condition was not reportable to the NRC, the NRC staff reached out to stakeholders in February 2009 to describe our independent inspections and overall assessment. There were local media articles published about this condition in February. Subsequently, the NRC staff received and has responded to a letter from four NY congressional members (Engel, Hall, Lowey, Hinchey) regarding the pipe leak. In addition, the NRC staff has received letters from two congressional members (Markey, Hall) and a NY senator (Gillibrand). Currently, the staff is in the process of developing an appropriate response to these letters.

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