

**Setzer, Thomas**

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**From:** Rutenkroger, Scott  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 7:33 AM  
**To:** Bellamy, Ronald; Setzer, Thomas; Keighley, Elizabeth; DeBoer, Joseph  
**Subject:** FW: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

FYI, below is what Neil Sheehan had sent in for an Op-Ed to the newspaper. I hadn't seen it before.

-Scott

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gray, Harold  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2012 7:29 AM  
**To:** Rutenkroger, Scott  
**Subject:** FW: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

Scott,

FYI,

Neil's letter to the Editor.

If question or more info needed, please call

Harold Gray,  
610-337-5325

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sheehan, Neil  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** Gray, Harold  
**Subject:** RE: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

Here you go

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor, a reader raised a question regarding the reactor vessel at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. The reactor vessel houses the nuclear fuel and is where the splitting of atoms and production of heat that are central to the plant's energy production process occurs.

Specifically, the reader said clarity is needed on whether the vessel was manufactured by the same company that built the reactor vessel for the Doel-3 nuclear power plant in Belgium. The reason: Flaw indications identified in August in the Doel-3 vessel.

Preliminary information indicates that Vermont Yankee's vessel was not among 10 in use in the United States produced by the Rotterdam Drydock Co. Indeed, none of the vessels ordered for nuclear power plants in the Northeastern U.S. was apparently built there.

As for what the NRC is doing in response to the issue, several top engineering experts on reactor vessel materials are taking part in international discussions on what inspections of the Doel-3 reactor have found, as well as any plans to respond to the issue.

The NRC will continue to gather information about the Doel-3 issue and any implications for U.S. reactors.

Neil Sheehan  
NRC Public Affairs Officer

-----Original Message-----

From: Gray, Harold  
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:29 AM  
To: Sheehan, Neil  
Subject: RE: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

Neil,

Please send me a copy.

Thanks

H Gray,

X5325

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehan, Neil  
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 8:25 AM  
To: Gray, Harold; Hardies, Robert  
Cc: Scenci, Diane; Trapp, James; Burns, Thomas; Wilson, Peter; Miller, Chris; Dean, Bill; Lew, David  
Subject: RE: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

I sent a letter to the editor to the Keene Sentinel last week responding to this.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gray, Harold  
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:49 AM  
To: Hardies, Robert  
Cc: Scenci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Trapp, James; Burns, Thomas; Wilson, Peter; Miller, Chris  
Subject: FW: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

Bob,

In case you do not already have it, the attached.

Is NRC going to issue a summary on the significance to US plants of these UT indications, which have been characterized as hydrogen flaking, small indications in the plane of the shell surface, similar to laminations?

As I read the related info, it looks like the vacuum degassing or post forming heat treatment of the shell ring forging by the steel producer were factors in the indication development.

Harold Gray

-----Original Message-----

From: Rutenkroger, Scott  
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:25 AM

To: Gray, Harold; Burns, Thomas  
Subject: FW: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

Either of you know anything? Or, are the current ISI and NDE inspections such that we already know it isn't possible?

Thanks,  
Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: Rutenkroger, Scott  
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:20 AM  
To: Bellamy, Ronald; Setzer, Thomas; Keighley, Elizabeth; DeBoer, Joseph; Guzman, Richard  
Subject: Newspaper opinion article RE reactor vessel cracks

I read this article in a local newspaper last night. I'm evaluating it for potential to be an allegation. I would think this would be an issue for which the validity is known, making it NOT an allegation. However, I don't recall any such discussion or information. Anyone know anything?

Thanks,  
Scott