

MEMORANDUM
US NRC RESIDENT INSPECTOR OFFICE
VERMONT YANKEE NPS

FILE NO.:WJR/VY 83-13

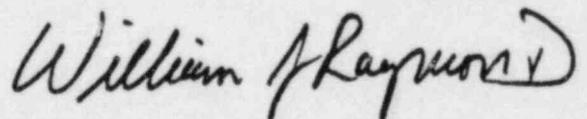
DATE:October 14, 1983

TO: R. M. Gallo, Chief, RPS 2A
FROM: W. J. Raymond, SRI, VY
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF 10/13/83 MEETING WITH VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Attachments 1 and 2 provide a summary of the meeting I attended on 10/13/83 with representatives from the licensee's staff and the State of Vermont Health Department. Walt Pasciak missed the meeting because the original starting time of 2:00 pm was changed to 11:00 am at the last minute by the Commissioner of Health. I spent the afternoon with Walt reviewing the meeting topics, touring the site to review the release path and developing a NRC Region I action plan to disposition any remaining concerns regarding the offsite cobalt contamination and release path.

We developed a course of action that I can discuss with you at your convenience. Rather than using a TIA to NRR, we feel that any technical issues from the VY findings can be addressed and dispositioned by the Region I staff, and we need only provide a summary of our findings to NRR for their considerations in future licensing reviews for TB ventilation system designs. No further actions appear to be appropriate at this time for current operating plants, other than to alert them to the now realized potential for and magnitude of releases through unfiltered roof vents and the need to assure that plant specific environmental monitoring programs account for this release path for CFR 50, Appendix I evaluations. An Information Notice may be an appropriate vehicle to accomplish the latter.

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PDR FOIA
LONGEN84-342 PDR



William J. Raymond
Senior Resident Inspector
Vermont Yankee

Attachments: as stated

cc:

~~William J. Raymond, RI~~
RRI File (Memo)

ATTACHMENT 1

10/13/83 MEETING SUMMARY

I attended a meeting at the request of Vermont State representatives with those personnel identified on Attachment 2. Ray McCandless from the Vermont Public Health Department led the discussions. Vermont requested the meeting be held so that the State, VY and the NRC could exchange all the information available to date on the Co-60 released from the Turbine Building. A summary of the topics discussed at the one-half hour meeting is presented below.

A. Ray McCandless summarized the history of investigations and findings by the State and VY personnel regarding the Co-60 deposits in the Connecticut River. The State's analysis of split samples from the river's edge at the sewer outfall was in substantial agreement with the VY results.

B. Ray stated that the reason for the meeting was threefold: (1) for all parties involved in the investigations (VY, Vt and NRC) to exchange data and share information; (2) obtain the NRC's assessment of the significance of the observed contamination levels, especially in light of the report VY recently submitted under the Technical Specifications; and, (3) obtain information on VY's future plans to stop emissions through the roof vents.

+ Ray stated that based on a review of available data for reactor corrosion product concentrations in river sediment, no State limits have been exceeded (which are taken at one-tenth the CFR 20, Appendix B values, using the limits for concentrations in water since there are no limits for sediment), and the observed levels are considered environmentally insignificant. Ray expressed an interest in obtaining a copy of the NRC data from split samples. I told him that data would be available in Inspection reports 83-27 and 83-29. A meeting will be scheduled during the week of 10/17 to exchange and discuss available data. Ray said a copy of all State data would be supplied to the NRC.

+ In response to item B(2), the Plant Manager stated that the 30-day LER was submitted to the NRC on the premise that a "surveillance" required by Tech Spec 3.9 was "missed", in that the established environmental monitoring program had not detected the buildup of Co-60 in the river sediment at the outfall of the North storm sewer and, because the TB roof vent reconcentration/release path had not been recognized.

I acknowledged the licensee's assessment regarding the reportability of the matter. I stated that based on a review of the information available to date, the NRC staff has not identified a violation of NRC requirements. I also stated that the NRC staff's interest in the matter has been for VY to: (i) identify the scope of the contamination; (ii) identify the source and the release path; (iii) assess the significance of the observed contamination levels; and, (iv) evaluate their findings and report the results to the NRC. Based on a review of the data available to date, the NRC staff considered the observed contamination levels to be environmentally insignificant. The information supplied by VY would form the basis for the staff's assessment of the release path for the VY specific case and for other plants generically. I stated that the unfiltered roof vents had been recognized and accepted by the staff for initial plant licensing and the information provided by VY would be used to re-assess the initial evaluations to determine if the present design is still considered acceptable.

+ VY partially responded to item B(3) above. The Plant Manager stated that the internal review of the matter was complete, but final approval of the report and its recommendations for corrective actions had not been finalized. This action is expected to be completed within about a week. The PM did not say whether one of the planned corrective actions was to stop the emissions.

C. The State presented a new piece of information during the meeting. After confirming the presence of Co-60 at the sewer outfall, the State obtained additional soil samples around and outside the site perimeter. The additional samples were taken along the river bank, along the West owner controlled fence and from the Vernon school grounds. All samples except one showed "background" levels of Co-60 (taken at 10-12 pCi/kg). A core sample taken along the West owner controlled fence line at a State TLD monitoring station (in back of the Williams residence) showed a just positive indication of Co-60 at 23 pCi/kg. The State has split this sample with VY and has asked the licensee to complete a confirmatory analysis. Further discussion (speculation) on the significance of this finding was deferred pending confirmation of the result. Vermont and VY results are expected to be available by next week.

The inspector requested and received from the licensee a one liter sample of dirt from the location showing the positive Co-60 results. The sample was transported to Region I by Walt Pasciak for NRC confirmatory analysis.

D. The licensee summarized the results of his calculations regarding the total activity contained in the river sediment.

Assuming the peak concentration of 750 pCi/kg is spread over an area of 2000 sq-ft and down to depth of 3 inches, the total activity deposited in river sediment amounts to about 4 micro-curies.

E. The Health Commissioner asked VY whether they intend to issue a press release regarding the contamination. The Plant Manager stated that no press release was planned, but VY would respond to any inquiries regarding the matter. Although the Health Commissioner's position regarding a press release was not clear, I got the impression that (i) she felt that it would not be inappropriate for VY to issue one; and, (ii) the Health Department was not planning to issue a press release. When asked about the NRC's intentions, I stated that the staff has no plans to issue a press release, but we will continue to make our findings public through the inspection reports.

ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING ATTENDANCE 10/13/83

I. State of Vermont

Roberta Coffin, Commissioner of Health
Ray McCandless, Health Department
Dan Mantz, EMS Director, Health Department
Paul Clemons, Health Department

II. Vermont Yankee

Jim Pelletier, Plant Manager
Stan Jefferson, Operations Superintendent
Dick Burke, Operations Support Manager
Dean Weyman, Senior C+HP Engineer
Bob Leach, C+HP Supervisor

III. NRC

Bill Raymond, SRI