

Fuel Rod Segments at Vermont Yankee Unaccounted For

BRATTLEBORO, VT -- In response to a recent NRC inspection, Entergy Vermont Yankee has determined that two short spent fuel rod segments are not in their documented location in the spent fuel pool. Entergy engineers are reviewing storage records and performing a thorough inspection of the spent fuel pool to determine the location of the rod segments.

One of the segments is about the length and diameter of a pencil and the other is the same diameter and about 17 inches long. According to station documentation, in 1979, the highly radioactive rods were placed in a special stainless steel container in the spent fuel pool after a fuel inspection to address fuel cladding deficiencies.

Vermont Yankee has an extensive system of radiation monitors and, due to the radioactive nature of the material, the segments could not have been inadvertently removed from the pool in anything other than a container specifically designed and licensed to contain radioactive material. Therefore, public health and safety is not at risk as a result of this issue. Entergy Vermont Yankee will continue to keep the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state authorities informed on the progress of the investigation.

The Vermont Yankee spent fuel pool is 40 feet in depth and contains 2,789 spent uranium fuel assemblies that were used in energy production since 1972. Vermont Yankee is presently shut down for its twenty fourth refueling and maintenance outage.

C-102