

**From:** Neil Sheehan *NS*  
**To:** Allen Howe; Cliff Anderson; Donna Skay; Rick Ennis  
**Date:** 8/9/04 10:23AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: re: Story on Vermont Yankee eng. inspection

FYI, I called the errors in this story to the reporter's attention.

C-178

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**Subject:** Fwd: re: Story on Vermont Yankee eng. inspection  
**Creation Date:** 8/9/04 10:23AM  
**From:** Neil Sheehan

**Created By:** NAS@nrc.gov

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**From:** Neil Sheehan *NI*  
**To:** INTERNET: dbarlow@reformer.com  
**Date:** 8/9/04 8:53AM  
**Subject:** re: Story on Vermont Yankee eng. inspection

Dan,

I just read your story about the NRC engineering inspection set to begin today at Vermont Yankee:  
<http://www.reformer.com/Stories/0,1413,102~8860~2319964,00.html#>

The headline implies that the NRC turned down an independent observer for the inspection. That is not the case. In fact, there will be an independent observer; the state's nuclear engineer, Bill Sherman, will fill that role. The Governor's Office was apparently considering whether to ask for a second independent observer but decided not to do so.

As for Mr. Blanch, we explained to him in a July 12th letter (see attached) why he would not be selected to be a part of the team. There was no effort made to exclude him. Rather, the NRC developed criteria designed to ensure as much as independence as possible on the part of the team. Mr. Blanch did not meet those requirements.

I would ask you to run a correction or correct the facts in a follow-up story. Please call if you need any further clarification.

Sincerely,  
Neil Sheehan  
NRC Public Affairs Officer  
(610) 337-5331

**CC:** INTERNET: CLorie@Reformer.Com