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**Poehler, Jeffrey**

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**From:** Poehler, Jeffrey *NR*  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 8:32 AM  
**To:** Roque-Cruz, Carla; Rosenberg, Stacey  
**Cc:** Lupold, Timothy  
**Subject:** RE: Pressure Vessel Inspections

Carla, proposed response:

It is standard for US Nuclear Plants to perform ultrasonic testing of reactor pressure vessels. Ultrasonic testing is performed on the welds that join the plates or forgings that make up the reactor vessel, and the material within a few inches of the welds. In general, ultrasonic testing is required to be performed once every ten years on all of the pressure retaining in the reactor pressure vessel. Visual examinations for leakage are also performed on the entire reactor coolant system, including the reactor pressure vessel, during each refueling outage, which occur every 1-1/2 to 2 years.

(Carla, I did not mention the fact that Doel was doing ultrasonic inspections outside the area of what US plants normally do. I also did not go into where our requirements come from - ASME Code through 10 CFR 50.55a etc. I thought that would be too much detail.)

Jeffrey C. Poehler  
Sr. Materials Engineer  
NRR/DE/EVIB  
(301) 415-8353

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Roque-Cruz, Carla *NR*  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2012 1:49 PM  
**To:** Rosenberg, Stacey; Poehler, Jeffrey  
**Subject:** FW: Pressure Vessel Inspections

Stacey, Jeff,  
I believe I should have send this to your branch. Can I have a few sentences to answer this stakeholder's question?

Thank you,

comments: Hi,

I have read that a nuclear unit in Belgium has detected cracks in its Reactor Pressure Vessel using an ultrasound. Several US plants have Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by the same company. Is it standard for US nuclear plants to perform ultrasound on Reactor Pressure Vessels or are they typically only given visual inspection?

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Roquecruz, Carla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Collins, Jay  
**Cc:** Lupold, Timothy; McIntyre, David

B/126

Subject: FW: Pressure Vessel Inspections

Jay,

I know we do more than just visual but we need a few sentences to send to OPA to answer this question from a stakeholder.

comments: Hi,

I have read that a nuclear unit in Belgium has detected cracks in its Reactor Pressure Vessel using an ultrasound. Several US plants have Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by the same company. Is it standard for US nuclear plants to perform ultrasound on Reactor Pressure Vessels or are they typically only given visual inspection?

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

From: McIntyre, David

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:40 AM

To: Roque-Cruz, Carla

Subject: FW: Pressure Vessel Inspections

Carla - a DE question stemming from the Belgian reactor issue. Can you please advise on the typical US practice?

Thanks,

Dave Mc, OPA

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

From: OPA Resource

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:09 AM

To: McIntyre, David

Subject: FW: Pressure Vessel Inspections

I'm having a senior moment and can't remember if this topic is you or Scott, please help!

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

From: Zachary Singer [mailto:zsinger@hetco.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 11:03 AM

To: OPA Resource

Subject: Pressure Vessel Inspections

Below is the result of your feedback form that was submitted by

Zachary Singer (zsinger@hetco.com) on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 11:03:18

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comments: Hi,

I have read that a nuclear unit in Belgium has detected cracks in its Reactor Pressure Vessel using an ultrasound. Several US plants have Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by the same company. Is it standard for US nuclear plants to perform ultrasound on Reactor Pressure Vessels or are they typically only given visual inspection?

Thank you,

Zach

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