

Interoffice Communication

To : Jim Barton

From : Gary Faulkner

Date : July 13, 1978

Subject : VCM RELEASE, NEW REACTOR AREA

VCM release occurred at approximately 11:00 a.m. on 7/12/78 when the "O" ring (two inch section) on the south fresh filter pack blew out. Sammy Stokes was on the second level of recovery area when he heard it blow. Sammy immediately put on fresh air pack and activated deluge system and monitor. He then notified board man who turned in alarm.

Sammy then opened recovery line to relieve pressure, which appeared plugged. He then hooked up hose from filter to blow down tank and recovered it. By 12:00 pressure was blown down. Possible causes of contributing factors:

1. South filter operates without elements and is normally used. Sammy was instructed to valve it off and switch to north filter earlier in the shift. The filter apparently built excessive pressure being liquid full and valves shut, sitting in the sun. The relief valve apparently did not operate properly. Block valves on both sides of it were open.
2. For several months we have not been able to get proper "O" rings and have to cut and glue our own.

Recommendation to prevent reoccurrence:

1. Develop procedure that will include venting down filter when it is valved in.
2. Test relief valve for proper operation, check sizing, etc.
3. Obtain proper "O" rings.

I felt Sammy conducted himself in a very orderly and informed manner in bringing the situation under control. Additionally the help offered by Al Sather was appreciated.

Gary Faulkner / David Hollis
 Gary Faulkner
 Vinyl Shift Supervisor

cjt

c: GGD, ELK, DEM, DWF, ~~ANS~~