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Interoffice Communication

To : JF, CRM, PEM, VEM, DLM, JVU, CRS

From : A. H. Sather

Date : February 2, 1983

Subject : VCM OVEREXPOSURE CONTROL

A meeting of the above group was held on January 19, 1983 to discuss progress and plans. John Friend opened the meeting with a frank discussion of 1982 dosimetry trends and suggested some potential alternatives that could be used to improve. Specific areas addressed included:

- Finding and correcting leaks in the process areas;
- Wear respirators in accordance with guidelines;
- The importance of supervisory leadership particularly by example;
- Upgrading clearing procedures (evacuation and water flushing); and,
- Defining the specific areas we need to work on and develop a plan of how to get there. A specific area of concern was VCM in sewers.

After this review, CRM, VEM, DLM, CRS and AHS met to discuss progress since our last meeting on target items and plans for the next term. The following is a brief summary of that discussion.

I. Honeywell VCM Monitoring System

A. Individual Unit Status
   1. Old and new module units function as designed.
   2. The sample tubing for the tank farm needs to be replaced. (CRS to assign Engineering priority)
   3. Integrity of lab unit sample lines needs to be checked. (DLM to check)

B. Beacon Light Status (CRS)
   1. One strobe unit currently in plant awaiting installation and checkout.
   2. If the above unit functions as desired, the conduit will be sealed as needed and beacons installed in the remaining locations.

C. Sample Stream Location (DLM)
   1. Latest list to be recirculated for review.
   2. List to be turned in to CRS for cost estimating following review.

II. Old Module Filter Packs

Install Stacy line blind units for trial during filter pack changeout. (CRM to schedule).

III. Review Engineering and Work Practice Control Plan

Department Heads are responsible to assign priority for review by departmental personnel (all).

IV. Engineering and Maintenance Work That Has An Impact on VCM Exposure Control

A. Work During 1983
   1. Recovery system modifications (solids control).
   2. VCM overexposure control project (flush out connections and drains for contaminated material).
   3. Backwash filters for VCM (solids control in RVCM).
   4. Drill weep holes in breathing air distribution manifolds (water accumulation). (CRS)

B. 1984 Budget

Determine additional needs for further reduction of VCM releases to atmosphere (all to think about and develop list with justification).

V. Special Exposure Studies (Safety Dept., PEM, CRS)

Study commonly used work methods and the associated exposures. Recommend improved methods and commit proper method to written procedure.

A. H. Sather

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Interoffice Communication

To : Jerry Horstman and Doug Miller

From : John Friend

Date : January 28, 1983

Subject : VCM OVEREXPOSURE CONTROL

During the past couple of days, we have been plagued with downtime in the old module due to VCM leaks. I have heard a great deal of feedback about the leadership and teamwork you have displayed in attacking these problems. Displaying leadership by wearing and requiring respirators, attacking the problems rather than living with them and properly clearing equipment and areas of VCM is of utmost importance. Also, teamwork in solving such a large problem is very welcome and, in fact, necessary if we are to accomplish the task.

I congratulate you both for your efforts. It is this kind of performance that is expected from supervisory personnel and should continue. I believe you have displayed to the employees that we are very serious about VCM exposure and that we will give leaks top priority rather than live with high concentrations of VCM in the work area. This has just begun our battle against the VCM overexposure problem. However, it looks like a good beginning upon which we can build.

John Friend

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cc: CRM, CRS, PEM, AHS, VEM, DLM, RAM (2)