

February 4, 2000

SECY-00-0027

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/RA/
Subject: SECY-00-0027 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 28, 2000

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A*
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State Program	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P
Region IV	P*
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Peterson, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 28, 2000

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: S. Peterson, OEDO by E-mail: srp@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	*	OSP	*
NMSS	2	OPA	17
RES	8	IP	18
IRO	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	22
CFO	*	Region IV	*
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Department of Energy Hanford Reporting Structure

In a memorandum dated January 19, 2000, the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Department of Energy (DOE), notified the Manager, Office of River Protection (ORP), of her decision to keep the existing reporting line, whereby the DOE Regulatory Unit (RU) for the Hanford Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization (TWRS-P) reports to her through the Richland Operations (RL) manager. The Manager, ORP, had proposed that the RU should report to the ORP rather than the RL manager. The rationale for this decision by the Assistant Secretary was stated to be that the regulatory processes now in place are necessary mechanisms for achieving adequate safety and avoiding even the appearance that safety could be compromised because of conflicting management goals. In accordance with a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and DOE that provides for cooperation and mutual support in an integrated effort, NRC is assisting DOE in performing technical reviews and design inspections related to the development of a TWRS-P facility that will process the tank waste at Hanford. Due to changes in the project that are reflected in a contract signed by DOE and the TWRS-P contractor, BNFL, Inc., this MOU is in the process of being modified, subject to Commission approval.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Decisionmakers' Forum and Technical Symposium

On January 19-21, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and the Office of the General Counsel participated in the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Decisionmakers Forum and Technical Symposium held in Amelia Island, Florida. The conference speakers addressed a wide variety of low-level waste (LLW) management and disposal issues, including the future of the Barnwell disposal facility, alternative means for managing or disposing of LLW and residual radioactivity (such as rubblization, entombment, and assured isolation), release of solid materials, and the Department of Energy's programs for management and disposal of its LLW. Other participants in the conference included utilities, other LLW generators, waste processors, state government officials, environmental groups, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the National Mining Association, and state legislators. Participants expressed an interest in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission completing its LLW storage guidance that was initiated in 1994, but deferred when the Barnwell LLW site reopened in 1995.

Meeting with Metals Industry Representatives on Control of Solid Materials

On January 24, 2000, the Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs, held a meeting with representatives from various metals industries. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain further input and clarification of metals industry views, as previously expressed in four public workshops held in the fall of 1999 concerning regulatory approaches for the control of solid materials. An additional goal of this meeting was to solicit their suggestions on how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should proceed to control steel and other metals that licensees must dispose of during routine operations and at the time of

decommissioning. The meeting was open to the public and was attended by representatives from the steel industry, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a public interest group. There was a wide range of discussion on the interests and concerns of the metals industry with regard to materials potentially available for clearance. Suggestions were also made by the metals industry representatives regarding alternatives for disposition of solid materials.

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

High-Level Guidelines for Performance-Based Activities

The NRC proposed high-level guidelines for performance-based activities and requested public comments on them in a Federal Register notice on January 24, 2000 (65 FR 3615). The guidelines would be used to assess NRC regulatory activities for performance-based approaches. Specifically, the guidelines would be used to (1) assess whether proposed regulatory activities are amenable to a performance-based approach, (2) identify the regulatory activities that should use performance-based approaches based on opportunities for regulatory improvement, and (3) ensure consistency with the NRC's existing high-level regulatory goals and principles. The staff plans to hold public and advisory committee meetings to obtain stakeholder input on these proposed high-level guidelines. The first public meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., in the auditorium at the NRC headquarters. This meeting is scheduled about 3 weeks before the end of the comment period to allow for an exchange of views among stakeholders and the NRC staff, which may be beneficial to the meeting participants for developing their written public comments.

The guidelines were developed in response to the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) to SECY-99-176, "Plans for Pursuing Performance-Based Initiatives," issued on September 13, 1999. The development and use of these guidelines will be coordinated (including public meetings and workshops) with the efforts to risk-inform 10 CFR Part 50 and other regulations. The fundamental basis for developing these guidelines has been the SRM to SECY-98-144, "White Paper on Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Regulation." The guidelines are intended to be applied to future regulatory initiatives in the reactor, materials, and waste arenas. Specific questions have been included in the Federal Register notice to elicit information from the public that will enable the staff to make decisions on the final guidelines.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. PNO-10004, Exxon Biomedical Sciences, Inc., TWO MISSING 15 MILLICURIE NI-63 ELECTRON CAPTURE DETECTORS
2. PNO-II-00-002, Virginia Commonwealth University, RECOVERED BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS
3. PNO-II-00-002, U. S. Department of the Navy, RECENT MEDIA REPORTS ABOUT EVENT INVOLVING DEPLETED URANIUM AMMU
4. PNO-II-00-003, Georgia Power Co. (Hatch 1), SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM DISPATCHED TO REVIEW HATCH UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP AND SUBSEQUENT EQUIPMENT FAILURES
5. PNO-IV-00-005, State of Utah Licensee, MISSING/STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Antitrust Review Authority: Clarification (Parts 2 and 50)

A document that extends the public comment period on a proposed rule that would amend the NRC's regulations to reflect the Commission's limited antitrust review authority more clearly was published in the Federal Register on January 21, 2000 (65 FR3394). The comment period on this action now closes February 15, 2000.

Donald A. Barbour; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-40-28)

A document that requests public comment on a petition for rulemaking submitted by Donald A. Barbour, Philotechnics, was published in the Federal Register on January 21, 2000 (65 FR 3394). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations governing the domestic licensing of source material to provide additional rules for the effective control of depleted uranium aircraft counterweights. The petitioner believes that this regulatory clarification should address a number of issues concerning the exemption, storage, and disposal of these devices. The comment period for this action closes April 5, 2000.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: (NAC UMS) Addition (Part 72)

A proposed rule that would add the NAC UMS Universal Storage System to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on January 2, 2000 (65 FR 3397). The amendment allows holders of nuclear power plant operating licenses to store spent fuel in the this approved cask system under a general license. The comment period on this action closes April 5, 2000.

High-Level Guidelines for Performance-Based Activities (10 CFR Chapter I)

A document requesting public comment on the NRC's proposed high-level guidelines for developing performance-based activities was published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2000 (65 FR 3615). The guidelines would be used to assess NRC regulatory activities for performance based approaches. The guidelines are designed to assess whether candidate activities are amendable to a performance-based approach and to identify regulatory activities that should use performance-based approaches based on opportunities for regulatory improvement while ensuring consistency with NRC's existing high-level regulatory goals and principles. The comment period for this action closes March 24, 2000.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
January 21, 2000 through January 27, 2000:

Millstone plant, 3-12-99 MIRT report, Attachment 1 - OGC Guidance for Determining Whether Discrimination Occurred. (FOIA/PA 2000-0110)

Information regarding the National Nuclear Security Administration, and a database regarding smuggling of nuclear material. (FOIA/PA 2000-0111)

IMPAC listing and purchase data for past 3 reporting quarters (4/99 through 12/99).
(FOIA/PA 2000-0112)

Contract, Agency-Wide Wellness Program and Operation of Headquarters Employee Health & Fitness Centers. (FOIA/PA 2000-0113)

OI report 4-97-068 Exhibit 7. (FOIA/PA 2000-0114)

Nine Mile Point, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., 9-3-99 request for enforcement discretion, as references in the 9-8-99 SER. (FOIA/PA 2000-0115)

MLTS licensee database. (FOIA/PA 2000-0116)

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Retirements		
DEXTER, Thomas W.	SR. PHYSICAL SECURITY INSP.	RIV
Departures		
LANGSTON, Peggy Jane*	SECRETARY	OGC
PARK, Albert	TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR
SCOTT, Michael A.	SECRETARY	RES

* Effective date 1/14/00

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Media Interest

There has been media and public interest in activities involving the control of release of solid materials.

There was media interest in the use of depleted uranium at Viecques, Puerto Rico.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-16	NRC Issues Draft Review Plan for Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility
Regions:	
I-00-9	Meeting at Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant Postponed
I-00-10	NRC Roundtable Meeting in Pennsville, NJ, Postponed
II-00-4	NRC Chairman to Visit Summer Nuclear Plant
II-00-5	NRC Chairman Postpones Visit to Summer Nuclear Plant
III-00-5	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant
III-00-6	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant
IV-00-1	Clyde C. Osterholtz Named NRC Resident Inspector at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

OSART at North Anna Begins

The fourteen person Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) mission to the North Anna nuclear power plant commenced Monday, January 24. Participants included Chairman Meserve and NRC staff, Virginia Power staff and management, and OSART team members. The entrance meeting provided an opportunity for exchange of information regarding OSART objectives, background information on the plant and utility, NRC regulation of NPPs in the U.S., and expected results of the mission. The mission will conclude on February 10.

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-99-273	11/23/99	Impact of Changes to the Inspection Program for Reactors on Implementing the Allegation Program
SRM on 99-273	1/27/00	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 99-273	1/27/00	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0008	1/13/2000	SECY-00-0008 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 7, 2000
2. SECY-00-0016	1/19/00	SECY-00-016 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 14, 2000
3. Correction Notice - SECY-00-0005	1/27/00	Annual Report on Commission Adjudication
Memoranda		
1. M000110B	1/24/00	Staff Requirements - Meeting with D.C. Cook

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Honorable David Ronald Musgrove, Governor of Mississippi, dated January 21, 2000, concerns the NRC's State Liaison Officer program.
2. Letter to Congress dated January 21, 2000, transmits the December monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal; Revised Agenda 1.

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Millstone 1, 2, 3

On January 26, 2000, during weekly testing of the Millstone primary notification system, the system was inadvertently actuated. As a result, an erroneous general emergency message was sent automatically to the pagers of federal, state and local agencies, and to offsite and onsite emergency responders. The licensee, within twenty minutes, rescinded the erroneous message through the same system, and followed up with telephone calls to affected agencies and personnel. The licensee formed an event review team to investigate the incident, but has not yet determined the cause. Public reaction to this event appear minimal, with a balanced article appearing in the local newspaper.

Citizens Decommissioning Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting

A member of the Region I Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch staff attended the monthly meeting of the Haddam Neck Citizens' Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) on January 18, 2000, and presented the findings of Inspection No. 99-03. This inspection covered the period July 19 thru November 12, 1999. The inspector answered questions regarding details of documented observations and discussed a non-cited violation. Staff from NRR and NMSS also attended the meeting and discussed with the Committee the role of NRC in reviewing and approving the licensee's Licence Termination Plan (LTP). Connecticut Yankee plans to submit its LTP for the Haddam Neck facility by Spring 2000.

Meeting with Management of Haddam Neck

On January 19, 2000, NRR, NMSS, and Region I staff and management met with management of the Haddam Neck plant, during which the licensee presented details of the proposed License Termination Plan (LTP) to the NRC. The meeting provided a forum for discussion and feedback on issues necessary for the licensee to prepare a complete LTP, and afforded an opportunity for the public to ask the NRC questions regarding the LTP process.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Southeast Nuclear Plant Managers Meeting in Savannah, Georgia

On January 28, the Regional Administrator accompanied Chairman Meserve to the Southeast Nuclear Plant Managers Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. The Chairman discussed current issues before industry and the NRC.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah

On January 25, a public meeting was held at the NRC Technical Training Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the agency's new reactor oversight process and the pilot program conducted at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. The NRC staff met with invited community leaders and other members of the public for a "roundtable" discussion.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - Chairman Meserve Attends North Anna OSART

On January 24, the Regional Administrator accompanied Chairman Meserve to the North Anna Power Station in Mineral, Virginia. The Chairman and the Regional Administrator provided remarks during the entrance meeting for the Operational Safety Assessment Review Team inspection.

Southern Nuclear Company - Hatch

On January 26, Hatch Unit 1 tripped from 100 percent power on low reactor water level. The low reactor water level occurred because of a spurious isolation of one of the two main feedwater lines. During the transient, several apparent equipment failures complicated the operator response. Key equipment problems were the potential failure of multiple safety relief valves to open and the failure of the high pressure coolant injection pump to stop at high reactor water level.

The licensee placed the unit in cold shutdown to investigate the cause of the equipment failures. Region II dispatched a Special Inspection Team to the site on January 26, 2000; the team was changed to an Augmented Inspection Team on January 28, 2000.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

Regional Administrator Visits to Palisades and Fermi 2

The Regional Administrator visited the Palisades Nuclear Power Station on January 24, 2000, and the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Station on January 25, 2000. He and the Director of the Division of Reactor Projects met with the resident inspectors and with licensee officials and reviewed the status of plant activities.

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 28, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 1

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	02/03/00 SD-406	10:00	W. Michael McCabe	Confirmation hearing for Deputy Administrator of EPA	Senators Smith/Baucus Environment and Public Works
Portner	02/09/00 SD-608	10:00	Jack Lew, OMB	Fiscal 2001 Budget Overview	Senators Domenici/Lautenberg Budget

January 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE R