

INFORMATION

May 5, 2000

SECY-00-0099

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0099 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 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 and Tribal Programs	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.

/RA by Debra J. Corley Acting for/

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
K. Landis, OEDO

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JBlaha **DJC for**

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 28, 2000

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

Contact: K. Landis, OEDO by E-mail: kdl@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	2	STP	*
NMSS	4	OPA	17
RES	8	IP	*
IRO	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	22
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 28, 2000

Public Meeting on Risk Informing 10 CFR Part 73

On April 20, 2000, the Reactor Safeguards Section conducted a public meeting at NRC Headquarters to discuss various topics in connection with the risk informing of 10 CFR Part 73. Attendees included NRC staff, members of the public, members of industry, a representative of Nuclear Control Institute, and representatives of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). NRC staff provided comments from the NRC review of NEI's draft Security Contingency Response Self-Assessment Guide dated March 20, 2000. A closed breakout session was held to discuss safeguards information related to the impact of currently defined adversary characteristics on the nuclear power industry. The next public meeting on this activity will be held May 11, 2000.

Draft Standard Review Plan for License Renewal

By letter dated April 24, 2000, NRC provided an early draft of the Standard Review Plan for License Renewal (SRP-LR) to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) for their information. NEI and UCS have agreed to serve as focal points for license renewal interests for the industry and public interest groups, respectively. NRC is seeking preliminary feedback on the draft SRP-LR from all interested stakeholders in preparation for issuing the draft SRP-LR for formal public comment in August 2000.

This early draft SRP-LR is based on information in the draft "Generic Aging Lessons Learned" (GALL) report that was made publicly available at a December 6, 1999, public workshop. The staff is developing the SRP-LR and the GALL report in response to Commission direction based on SECY 99-148, "Credit for Existing Programs for License Renewal." NEI is providing significant industry comments on the draft GALL report. As NRC develops the draft GALL report further, we will be revising the draft SRP-LR accordingly, by addressing stakeholders' comments.

Public Meeting to Discuss RIP-50, Option 2

On April 20, 2000, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) held a public meeting to discuss industry efforts to develop a guideline for categorizing SSCs to support risk-informing the special treatment requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (RIP-50) and industry initiatives to support the rulemaking. Representatives of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a number of reactor licensees, consultants, and other stakeholders also attended and participated in the meeting.

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

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Discusses Design Changes to Paducah Seismic Modifications

On April 20, 2000, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) met with staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and provided information on design changes USEC is making to the ongoing installation of the seismic modifications at two of the process buildings at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. When encountering difficulty this past fall in obtaining access to Department of Energy Material Storage Areas for the purpose of installing the additional steel, USEC decided to rerun calculations to determine if conservatism could be eliminated such that proposed installations could be moved or not installed. In doing so, USEC determined that the design work could be reduced by 37 installations while still meeting the design level previously agreed to with NRC. USEC plans to submit a discussion of its analytical and design changes in early May 2000 which the NRC will review to ensure that the conclusion of adequacy for earthquake protection remains.

Workshop on International Transportation Standards

On April 20, 2000, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety attended a workshop held by the Nuclear Energy Institute on the pending domestic adoption of the 1996 International Atomic Energy Agency transportation standards (ST-1). At the workshop, industry representatives presented their interpretations and recommendations regarding ST-1 requirements on radiation protection programs, quality assurance programs, uranium hexafluoride packaging, air transport of fissile material, hazard communications, and regulatory transition issues. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation (DOT) have begun the process of jointly revising 10 CFR Part 71 and 49 CFR (multiple parts) for compatibility with ST-1. Industry plans to use the workshop discussions to help comment on a DOT Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Management Meeting with J. L. Shepherd and Associates, Inc., and Issuance of Confirmatory Action Letter

The Spent Fuel Project Office conducted a safety team inspection at J. L. Shepherd and Associates, Inc. (JLS&A), in San Fernando, California, in November 1999. Although the team's findings did not represent immediate safety concerns, the extent and nature of problems identified during the limited-scope inspection raised concerns about JLS&A's implementation of its Quality Assurance (QA) program. Specifically, the team identified numerous instances where JLS&A's QA program was not implemented properly and where JLS&A missed opportunities, over several years, to self-identify container deficiencies. The team's findings were documented in Inspection Report 71-0122/99-201.

On April 18, 2000, a management meeting was held at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters with JLS&A to discuss the steps JLS&A has taken, and will take, to correct the issues identified in the Inspection Report and to ensure effective implementation of their Quality Assurance program. A Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL NMSS-00-001) was issued by the

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards on April 24, 2000, to formally document corrective actions agreed to by JLS&A during the management meeting.

Meeting with Department of Energy

On April 27, 2000, staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and the Division of Waste Management attended a meeting requested by the Department of Energy Secretary's policy advisor for Environment, Safety and Health, and a senior technical advisor to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health. The meeting focused on the status of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts to examine its approach for the control of solid materials. The staff discussed the SECY-00-0070 paper dated March 23, 2000, and a Staff Requirements Memorandum from the Commission dated March 8, 2000, concerning a request for a study by the National Academy of Sciences of possible alternative approaches. The staff discussed the public comments received and the issues and parameters of the current case-specific approach for controlling solid materials. The staff noted that the Commission would be holding two public meetings in May 2000, and that, subsequently, the Commission would provide further direction to the staff on proceeding. Also discussed briefly was DOE's "Re-use and Recycling Task Force," which is co-chaired by the policy advisor and the senior technical advisor.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE B

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

Explanation of Unusual Cabri Test on Reactivity Accidents

At a recent International Topical Meeting on Fuel Performance, NRC contractor H. M. Chung of Argonne National Laboratory presented an assessment that appears to explain the first high-burnup fuel test (REP-Na1) in the French test reactor, Cabri. Researchers at Cabri have been investigating the behavior of PWR fuel rods under reactivity accident conditions. That first test exhibited cladding failure and fuel dispersal at around 30 cal/g fuel enthalpy, whereas criteria in Regulatory Guide 1.77, "Assumptions Used for Evaluating a Control Rod Ejection Accident for Pressurized Water Reactors," permit fuel enthalpies up to 280 cal/g. Fuel enthalpy is a measure of heat content and consequently of pellet thermal expansion, which can cause cladding failure. Subsequent testing in France and Japan confirmed fuel damage at levels below the current regulatory criterion, but none of the subsequent tests had cladding failure below about 75 cal/g fuel enthalpy, and the unusually low test result from REP-Na1 had not been fully explained. The Commission has been informed of these circumstances, and in a memorandum to the Commissioners on November 25, 1996, the staff pointed out that any degradation in the margin caused by low enthalpy fuel failures is likely to be regained by the application of more detailed 3-D analysis methods, based on preliminary estimates. Such assessments have not yet been made because an appropriate enthalpy criterion is still the subject of intense investigation. Fuel dispersal at 30 cal/g would be a particular problem because it might not be possible to keep fuel enthalpies below that level. Dr. Chung's paper presents quantitative information that suggests that preconditioning of the REP-Na1 specimen was unusual and resulted in hydride redistribution and reorientation, which caused the cladding to be exceptionally brittle and susceptible to failure. We have asked for a careful review of Dr. Chung's assessment by the experimental group at the Cabri project, and we may suggest some follow-up separate-effect tests of Dr. Chung's hypothesis at the French laboratory.

Survey of Non-Power Reactors

RES has issued a final report, "Survey of Non-Power Reactors." This study includes reviews of operating events, inspection findings, feedback to the non-power reactor community from the National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors, NRC enforcement actions, and visits to representative facilities. The survey was focused on TRIGA-fueled reactors and the "higher power" (typically 2 MW or greater) Materials Testing Reactor-fueled facilities. A draft report on this topic was issued for public and internal peer review in December 1996; the final report reflects resolution of peer review comments.

Operating experience indicated that non-power reactors have a good overall safety performance. None of the operating events considered in the study resulted in fuel damage or radiation releases in excess of regulatory limits. Except for one event in 1986, personnel exposures have been within the limits of 10 CFR Part 20. No adverse effect on public health and safety was seen.

Many facilities promptly addressed emerging issues or lessons learned that were contained in the draft survey report. Ongoing findings of the survey were also communicated during NRC

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE C

presentations at several annual meetings held by the non-power reactor community. Based on our review and the safety performance of non-power reactors, recommendations for specific actions by either licensees or the NRC were not supported. The final report was issued for information only. The transmittal memo to the non-power reactor community referenced survey observations suggesting potential areas for improvement in the areas of procedure compliance and testing, variations in safety analysis reports, and dissemination and analysis of operating experience.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE C

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

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-00-010, University of Maryland Medical Systems, GAMMA KNIFE MISADMINISTRATION.
2. PNO-I-00-011, Rockville Public Health Service (Office of Emergency Preparedness), LOSS OF TWO CHEMICAL AGENT MONITORS CONTAINING NICKEL-63 SOURCES.
3. PNO-I-00-012, David Blackmore and Associates, DAMAGED PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE IN POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.
4. PNO-III-00-016, St. James Hospital and Health Center, BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE D

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

Metabolic Solutions, Inc.: Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-32-5)

A document that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Metabolic Solutions, Inc. was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2000 (65 FR 21673). The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its regulations to extend a regulatory distribution exemption to the petitioner's product, an "Erythromycin Breath test." That test uses a three-microcurie dose of carbon-14 (C14)-erythromycin to measure the rate of drug metabolism in the human liver. The denial of this petition is consistent with the Commission's previous decision on C-14 urea tests to require that research be performed under a specific license (62 FR 63634; December 2, 1997), as this product is to be used only in research. The previous decision was based on restrictions on such use under the common rule concerning Federal policy for the protection of human subjects, the essential elements of which were adopted by the NRC in 10 CFR 35.6.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: (VSC-24) Revision (Part 72)

A final rule that revises the Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates VSC-24 cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2000 (65 FR 24623). The amendment modifies the present cask system design to permit a licensee to store burnable poison rod assemblies along with the spent fuel under a general license. The final rule becomes effective May 30, 2000.

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

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

MLTS database, state of New Jersey. (FOIA/PA-2000-0214)

Envirocare of Utah and Snake River Alliance, petitions requesting NRC to regulate FUSRAP.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0215)

MLTS database, Part 30, 40 & 70, in electronic format. (FOIA/PA 2000-0216)

Salem power plant, all safety concerns, fines and/or penalties assessed, current corrective
measures taken, NRC monitoring/follow-up measures. (FOIA/PA-2000-0217)

MLTS database for Connecticut and Vermont. (FOIA/PA-2000-0218)

Atlas Corp, all financial records since 9/22/99. (FOIA/PA-2000-0219)

Oyster Creek, GPU Nuclear, Forked River, NJ, investigations re air quality, noxious chemicals,
fumes, etc., 1984 through 1997. (FOIA/PA-2000-0220)

OI report, re employment discrimination at Diablo Canyon. (FOIA/PA-2000-0221)

Rule, 10 CFR Parts 20 and 35, 62 FR 4120, 1997, Criteria for the Release of Individuals
Administered Radioactive Material. (FOIA/PA-2000-0222)

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

April Health Programs Held

On April 4, 2000, 35 employees participated in the Osteoporosis Information Program conducted by Judy Jourdain-Earl, a nurse education specialist with Mobile Van Authority. On April 11, 2000, 60 employees underwent Osteoporosis Screening via the PIXI (heel) scan.

On April 25, 2000, a fourth Weight Watchers Program was begun. Approximately 30 employees attended the information session. This is a 12-week on-site program, which meets for one hour during the lunch period. A number of people have been very successful and several have re-enrolled in each new program.

Meeting Held with Montgomery County Child Welfare Service to Discuss the Process of Becoming Adoptive Parents

On April 27, 2000, Linda Gore of the Montgomery County Child Welfare Service, spoke to 8 employees about the benefits of becoming adoptive or foster parents. She stressed the needs of the waiting children and described the application process. A number of the participants expressed interest in becoming adoptive or foster parents.

Arrivals		
RIPLEY, William	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
SWAMI, Nathan	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
Departures		
ZEMBRUSKI, Elizabeth	LAW CLERK	ASLBP

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

Media Interest

There was media interest at headquarters in the press conference held by Public Citizen and Christie Brinkley regarding their assertion that the number of infant deaths increased after closure of certain nuclear power plants.

There was media interest in the decommissioning meeting at Zion.

The Orange County Times (Calif.) is planning a story on the lack of insulation in piping at San Onofre.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-72	NRC to Prepare Draft Supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning Nuclear Plants and Hold Public Meetings
00-73	Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Discuss Staff Recommendation to Renew Oconee Nuclear Station Licenses
00-74	NRC Adds Transnuclear-68 Fuel Storage Cask Design to Approved List
00-75	NRC Adds Holtec Hi-Storm 100 Fuel Storage Cask Design to Approved List
00-76	NRC to Discuss Apparent USEC Violations at Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference on May 3
00-77	NRC to Meet With Consolidated Edison May 3 to Discuss Technical Issues at Indian Point 2
00-78	NRC Licensing Board to Hold Hearing in Utah on Proposed Nuclear Waste Storage Facility
Regions:	
II-00-18	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Hatch Nuclear Plant License Renewal
III-00-18	NRC Staff Issues Performance Review for ABB CE Fuel Facility in Missouri; Meeting Set for May 2

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

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-00-0022	2/1/00	Rulemaking Plan, "Decrease in the Scope of Random Fitness-for-Duty Testing Requirements for the Nuclear Power Reactor Licensees," for Amendments to 10 CFR Part 26
SRM on 00-0022	4/24/00	(same)
Comm. Voting Record on 00-0022	4/24/00	(same)
2. SECY-00-0085	4/12/00	Review of the Tokai-Mura Criticality Accident and Lessons Learned
3. SECY-00-0021	1/27/00	Proposed Rule: Interim Storage for Greater than Class C Waste
SRM on 00-0021	4/25/00	(same)
Comm. Voting Record on 00-0021	4/25/00	(same)
4. SRM on SECY-00-0078	4/28/00	Status and Plans for Revising the Steam Generator Tube Integrity Regulatory Framework
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-00-0023	2/2/2000	Rulemaking Plan to Standardize the Process for Allowing a Licensee to Release Part of its Reactor Facility or Site for Unrestricted Use Before Receiving Approval of its License Termination Plan
2. SRM on 00-0023	4/26/2000	(same)
3. Comm. Voting Record on 00-0023	4/26/2000	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0091	4/20/00	SECY-00-0091 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 14, 2000

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE O

2. SECY-00-0086	4/12/00	Status Report on Risk-Informing the Technical Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (Option 3)
3. SECY-00-0088	4/14/00	National Plan for Information Systems Protection
4. SECY-00-0095	4/27/00	SECY-00-0095 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 21, 2000

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Molycorp, Inc. (Temporary Storage of Decommissioning Wastes); Docket Nos 40-8794-MLA and 40-8778-MLA); Notice of Hearing.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 28, 2000

Indian Point Unit 2

The NRC held a management meeting with Consolidated Edison on April 26, 2000, in the Region I Office to discuss implemented corrective actions and planned improvements for the Indian Point Unit 2 emergency preparedness program and emergency response organization capabilities. Other attendees included FEMA Headquarters, FEMA Region II, New York Power Authority and New York State Dept of Health. The meeting was open for public observation.

Superbolt, Inc., Carnegie, Pennsylvania

On Wednesday, April 19, 2000, a meeting was held in Carnegie, PA, between representatives from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), as contractor to the NRC, the State of Pennsylvania, Superbolt, Inc. (formerly Superior Steel) and a member of the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, to discuss plans for a scoping survey to be conducted at this former ORNL site. No licensed activities have been conducted at this site since 1958. ORISE has been authorized to perform the survey to determine if previously identified uranium soil contamination remains in isolated pits beneath the concrete floor of an unused site building. The survey is expected to begin within the next month.

Senior Management Changes in the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company and the Yankee Atomic Electric Company Organizations

On April 26, 2000, the licensee announced to their respective organizations, NRC, and publicly through their electronic newsletter, "CY Today" that Don Davis, President, Chairman and CEO of the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCO) had accepted a senior executive position with Carolina Power and Light Company. Mr. Davis is also President and CEO of the Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC). The CYAPCO Board of Directors selected Russ Mellor, Vice President of Operations and Decommissioning at Haddam Neck and Yankee Rowe to succeed Mr. Davis as President and CEO of both organizations. Bruce Kenyon, President and CEO of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company and member of the CYAPCO Board of Directors, will assume Mr. Davis's role as Chairman of the CYAPCO Board.

Ken Heider, Decommissioning Director at Haddam Neck will assume Russ Mellor's roles as Vice President of both sites. Tom Bennett retains his role as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and will assume the responsibility for Human Resources and Contract Management. These executive management changes will take effect upon Don Davis's resignation, which is expected by mid-May, 2000.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 28, 2000

Region II Management Retreat

On April 26-27, the Region II Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, managers and supervisors attended a Region II Management Retreat to conduct a FY 2000 mid-year review of the Operating Plan.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Enforcement Conference

On April 25, representatives from Duke Energy Corporation attended a Predecisional Enforcement Conference in the Region II office. The purpose of this conference was to discuss apparent violations associated with both past and present design vulnerabilities of the Oconee Emergency Feedwater System.

Savannah River Site - DOE/FBI Response Exercise Observation

On April 27, the Emergency Response Coordinator and a Senior Physical Security Specialist observed the DOE/FBI Response Exercise at the Savannah River site in Aiken, SC.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 28, 2000

Commissioner Dicus Visits Area Facilities

On April 24-26, Regional Administrator Jim Dyer and various other staff members accompanied Commissioner Greta Dicus on tours of the Region III office, Commonwealth Edison's Emergency Operations Facility in Downers Grove, IL., the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant near Bridgman, Michigan, and the VA Hines Hospital in Maywood, IL.

Public Meeting at Zion

On April 27, Headquarters and Region III staff members participated in a public meeting near the Zion Nuclear Power Plant in Zion, IL., to discuss the submittal of the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report by Commonwealth Edison Co., the plant's operator.

Public Scoping Meeting on Future Changes to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement

On April 28, Headquarters and Region III staff members participated in the first of four public meetings that will be held throughout the country to solicit public comment on the NRC's intent to draft a supplement to the GEIS updating information pertaining to reactor decommissioning. The meeting was held in Lisle, IL.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 28, 2000

Commissioner Merrifield's Visit to ANO

The Region IV Regional Administrator (RA) accompanied Commissioner Merrifield during a visit to Arkansas Nuclear One on April 28, 2000. The Commissioner and the RA met with the NRC resident staff and licensee management, toured the facility, and participated in a working lunch to discuss topics of interest. The Commissioner also met with licensee employees during an Employee Forum in the afternoon.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE P

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

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 14

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	04/12/00 POSTPONED	TBA	Dr. Paperiello, Corps of Engineers, EPA, States	FUSRAP POSTPONED	Senators Smith/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Gerke	05/02/00 SD-342	10:00	OPM, NASA, GAO, NTEU	Federal Employee Incentive Programs	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Gov't Mgmnt, Restructuring & DC Governmental Affairs
Gerke	05/04/00 SD-342	10:00	GAO, CRS, Paul Light	Has Reinventing Government Worked?	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Gov't Mgmnt, Restructuring & DC Governmental Affairs
Gerke	TBA 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Effectiveness of GPRA	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmnt, Info, & Technology Government Reform

The House is in recess until May 2.

April 28, 2000

ENCLOSURE R