

# INFORMATION REPORT

May 18, 2001

SECY-01-0087

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-01-0087 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING MAY 11, 2001

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\*No input this week.

*/RA/*

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
S. Rosenberg, OEDO

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## WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 11, 2001

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

Contact: S. Rosenberg, OEDO by E-mail: [slr1@nrc.gov](mailto:slr1@nrc.gov).

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\*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Tritium Production Program -- Status Update

The staff currently expects TVA to submit a request to the NRC to amend its operating license for the Watts Bar and Sequoyah reactors, to permit irradiation of tritium producing adsorber rods in late June or early July 2001. Once the staff receives the request, a one year review schedule will be put in place. TVA has submitted advance Tritium Program information on several occasions. This information has allowed NRC staff to become more familiar with the nature and scope of the Tritium Program before receiving TVA's License amendment request.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on May 2, 2001, with industry's working group on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). The key issues discussed included: a pilot test of proposed changes to the Unplanned Power Changes performance indicator, electronic submittal of plant operating data, plans for upcoming meeting to address concerns with the unavailability performance indicator, update on industry trends program development, and reviews of frequently asked questions. The next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2001.

The IIPB staff provided support at the Region I Reactor Inspector Counterpart meeting on May 2, 2001. At this meeting the IIPB staff discussed the usefulness of Operating Experience Summary documents for NRC inspectors and the development of an inspector-friendly set of industry-wide Operating Experience data to help inspectors better focus their inspections for specific systems. In addition the IIPB staff answered general questions regarding the ROP from the participants.

During the week of April 30 - May 4, the end-of cycle (EOC) reviews for the current assessment period for Regions II and III plants were completed. The Regions performed their reviews in accordance with the guidance provided in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program." The regional staff also summarized the results of the EOC review with the NRR Executive Team for those plants that met the criteria for discussions specified in IMC 0305. The IIPB staff participated in the EOC reviews of all Region II and III plants.

Washington Nuclear Project No. 1 (WNP-1)

Members of the future licensing organization (FLO) met with Energy Northwest on May 3, 2001, to discuss the viability study that was commissioned by the licensee to determine if completing WNP-1 is feasible and cost-effective. WNP-1 is a 1250 MWe Babcock and Wilcox plant located near Columbia Generating Station. Approximately 65% of the construction of the plant and approximately 85% of the design were completed when these efforts were halted in the 1980s. Earlier this year the staff was preparing to cancel the construction permit at the request of Energy Northwest. Because of electricity shortages in the Northwest the licensee requested that work be stopped on this effort, and instead in an April 9, 2001, letter requested that their

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construction permit be extended from June 2001 to June 2011. During the May 3 meeting Energy Northwest briefed the staff regarding the viability study and stated that the study is to be made public at the end of August 2001 with a decision regarding construction reactivation 3 to 18 months after the August 2001 date. Project management for WNP-1 has been transferred to FLO because it will be considering construction reactivation as part of the future licensing and inspection readiness assessment that the group is tasked with assembling.

#### Decision to Decommission Reactor - Cornell University

The President and Provost of Cornell University announced on May 4, 2001, their decision to decommission the Cornell TRIGA Mark II research reactor. No date for shutdown of the reactor was given. The 500 kW(t) reactor is located on the campus in Ithaca, New York. The Board of Trustees has the final decision and reactor management has indicated that they will attempt to overturn the administration's decision at that level. A committee of the Faculty Senate recommended the decommissioning action. However, the full Senate voted 36 to 19 to keep the center open. The nuclear engineering department was eliminated in 1996.

#### Demonstration Project Using Improved Renewal Guidance Document

On May 1, 2001, the staff met with representatives of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) license renewal task force to discuss an industry demonstration project. The project consists of sample license renewal application sections intended to implement the improved license renewal guidance documents, and reference the Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report. The improved renewal guidance, which is enclosed in SECY-01-0074, was made available to the public on May 7, 2001. The staff is making review assignments for the Demonstration Project in anticipation of the additional material that will be submitted by NEI.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Dry Storage Forum Sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute/Electric Power Research Institute

On May 2-3, 2001, staffs from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) and Region IV attended the annual Dry Storage Forum sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute/Electric Power Research Institute in New Orleans, Louisiana. The forum was well attended, with over 160 pre-registered guests, and numerous last-minute arrivals. The keynote speaker was Dr. William Travers, Executive Director for Operations, NRC. The SFPO staff made several presentations, covering such topics as 10 CFR 72.48 implementation; dry storage standard technical specifications; status of high-burnup issues; burnup credit initiatives; dry storage probabilistic risk assessment approaches; and independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) license renewal program. Region IV staff provided an overview of lessons learned from ISFSI inspections. Question periods after each presentation allowed the staff to provide further information about NRC staff activities and positions. Staff also found the interactions with forum attendees very useful in identifying issues and concerns that the licensees and vendors are dealing with in the area of spent fuel storage.

Meeting with Duke Power On High-Burnup Fuel

On May 8, 2001, management and staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives from Duke Power to discuss the storage of high-burnup fuel at the Oconee independent spent fuel storage installation. Duke Power was supported by Transnuclear West, Inc. (TN-West) and Framatome. In July 2001, Duke Power plans to submit to the NRC a Topical Report discussing the effects of long-term storage on the fuel cladding integrity of spent fuel with a burnup exceeding 45 GWd/mtU. Also in July 2001, TN-West plans to submit an amendment for the Standardized NUHOMS System for the storage of high-burnup fuel. Duke Power stated that testing to confirm the analysis in the Topical Report will be completed by August 2003, and requested that NRC complete its review of the Topical Report and amendment request by December 2003.

Health Physics Meeting with the Department of Energy

On May 3, 2001, health physicists from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met informally with their counterparts, from the DOE, at the NRC Headquarters, to discuss similarities and differences in the regulatory approaches used by the two agencies. These meetings take place about every other month and are intended to gain a better understanding of alternative viewpoints on such items as regulatory actions; draft rules; interpretation of national and international guidance; and alternative ways of resolving problems in radiation protection and measurements. Items discussed during the last meeting included: (1) NRC's draft skin dose limit rule and DOE's regulation of skin dose; (2) differences and similarities between dosimetry accreditation under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program and the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program, and the possibility of combining these two accreditation programs, or at least permitting accreditation under either program; (3) problems in the implementation of the latest

International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) recommendations; and (4) efforts to develop computer software to implement the latest ICRP internal dosimetry models.

#### Mine Safety and Health Administration Meeting

On May 7, 2001, representatives from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and the Office of the General Counsel met with representatives of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to discuss the 10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group. The meeting was intended to provide additional information to MSHA, about the Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group, so that MSHA can better determine its level of involvement on the Working Group. Discussion topics included the history of the working group as well as current and planned future activities.

#### Nuclear Energy Institute Decommissioning Planning and Technology Forum

During April 30 through May 3, 2001, several members of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) participated in the NEI Decommissioning Planning and Technology Forum in New Orleans, Louisiana. The NMSS staff provided several presentations entitled "License Termination Rule as the Standard;" "Development of a Technical Basis for Release of Solid Materials, Greater Than Class C Waste Management (GTCC);" "Enhanced Safstor (Entombment);" and "Integrating Industry and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Efforts for Guidance." The conference was attended by more than one hundred individuals representing numerous reactor and materials sites, and generated much interaction with the staff in terms of questions and dialogue. Several important issues were raised by the attendees including: (1) a call for DOE action on the GTCC issue; (2) concerns that release of solid materials is now being driven by instrument manufacturers based upon detectability of radioactivity rather than by a safety standard; (3) preference for an integrated policy on decommissioning standards, and the related impact on "finality"; and (4) strong support for ongoing NMSS efforts to consolidate existing decommissioning guidance, and make it as risk-informed and performance-oriented as possible. The conference provided a useful forum for an exchange of technical and policy issues currently impacting the decommissioning process.

#### Conference on High-Level Radioactive Waste Management

From April 30 through May 2, 2001, NRC and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) staffs participated in the Ninth International Conference on High-Level Radioactive Waste Management held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The NRC and Center staffs organized and chaired numerous sessions and gave presentations on the following topics: (1) Yucca Mountain review plan; (2) issue resolution in hydrology and radionuclide transport; (3) conceptual models for radionuclide release and approaches to confirm waste package performance; (4) sensitivity analysis in performance assessments; (5) repository preclosure safety issues; (6) quality assurance; and (7) bringing a licensing focus to NRC's High-Level Waste Program. An NRC staffer also participated in a panel discussion on the role of uncertainties in developing a safe repository.

### Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Meeting

On May 8, 2001, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, with support from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Office of Public Affairs - Region II, held a public meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. The meeting was the third in a series to gather comments from the public on the scope of the environmental impact statement for the Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility license application review. Prior to the meeting, staff held an open house where the public was invited to meet the staff, view posters about the NRC and its environmental review process, and ask questions in an informal setting. Approximately 120 persons, including representatives of the local news media, attended the meeting. Thirty members of the public commented, following brief presentations by the staff and a question and answer session. Comments were from representatives of various environmental groups (e.g., Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Georgians Against Nuclear Energy); South Carolina League of Women Voters; Duke Energy Services; North Carolina Power Commission; Mayor of Asheville, North Carolina; and local residents. The comments focused on the proposed use of MOX fuel at the McGuire and Catawba nuclear power plants. A group of visiting Russians also provided input recommending that immobilization of surplus plutonium be used instead of converting it into MOX fuel. A transcript of the meeting will be posted on the MOX web site when it becomes available. Staff will include the comments from this meeting and the scoping meetings previously held in North Augusta, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, in a scoping report to be released in July 2001.

### Meeting with 10 CFR Part 70 Licensees

On May 8, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Risk Task Group met with staff from the NEI, and with representatives from five of the six fuel fabricators licensed under Part 70, (i.e., Westinghouse; Framatome-Richland; Framatome-Lynchburg; BWX Technologies; and Nuclear Fuel Services). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the contents of draft Chapter 3, "Integrated Safety Analysis," of the Standard Review Plan issued on March 30, 2001, and NEI's subsequent comments submitted on May 1, 2001. The press did not attend and there were no members of the public present. A transcript of the meeting will be made available to the NRC on May 17, 2001, and posted on NRC's web site.

The meeting began with a detailed discussion of 10 CFR 70.65, "Additional Content of Applications," to address the contents of an Integrated Safety Analysis Summary that Subpart H of Part 70 requires licensees to submit to NRC by October 2004. Following this discussion, staff individually addressed NEI's 86 comments submitted on May 1, 2001. Staff will revise Chapter 3 as agreed to in the meeting by the end of May 2001 and will also formally address each of NEI's comments for the record. Staff will post the revised Chapter 3 and its responses to NEI's comments on NRC's web site in June 2001.



Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Meeting with Westinghouse on the International Reactor Innovative and Secure (IRIS) Reactor

On May 7, 2001, the staff met publicly with representatives of Westinghouse and other interested stakeholders on the IRIS advanced reactor concept. IRIS is a modular light-water reactor that emphasizes proliferation resistance (e.g., long core life) and enhanced safety. The IRIS "safety by design" approach uses an integral vessel configuration with no large-diameter external primary piping, has a high degree of natural circulation, and maintains a large water inventory inside the vessel to both slow transient evolutions and keep the core covered during accident conditions. According to Westinghouse the IRIS concept uses pressurized water reactor technology (e.g., fuel design) arranged in a design configuration that allows for passive accident decay heat core cooling. The first module is projected by Westinghouse to be deployed between 2010-2015.

Several important regulatory issues were identified during the meeting, including establishing a regulatory review process that could support an IRIS design certification decision by 2007, licensing of multiple modules and shared control rooms, modifying siting requirements (exclusion areas, low population zones) based on advancements in safety technology, and resolving technology gaps that could ultimately lead to regulatory issues. However, the primary Westinghouse interest at this time would be to interact with the staff on a planned near-term test program that they believe needs to start in 2002. The near-term elements of the test program would focus on selected high-priority tests. Although Westinghouse indicated that they would like early feedback from both the NRC and Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the design and the planned tests (since it is critical to the progress of the IRIS design), they have not yet formally requested to interact with the staff on pre-application activities on IRIS. The staff urged Westinghouse to do so in order for the staff to allocate resources in support of formal pre-application interactions on IRIS.

MARSSIM Workgroup Meeting

The Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) Workgroup met April 24-26, 2001, at NRC Headquarters. The meetings were attended by representatives from NRC, EPA, DOE, and DOD (with representatives from Navy and Army). MARSSIM is a multi-agency consensus document that was developed as a tool to aid in planning, conducting, evaluating, and documenting final status surveys used to meet dose and risk-based criteria. The workgroup decided that its next major product should be a MARSSIM Supplement for Survey and Assessment for Materials and Equipment (SAME). The workgroup is planning to publish this supplement in approximately two years. A second product for the workgroup will address the need for a MARSSIM process to assess radioactivity in subsurface soils. The product will be a MARSSIM Supplement for Survey and Assessment of Subsurface Soils (SASS). The workgroup is also planning to conduct a workshop for MARSSIM users in March 2002 that will be sponsored by the four Federal Agencies. This workshop would provide a forum for users and State and Federal regulators to exchange information on how application of MARSSIM is working at real sites.

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### Contract with the National Academies of Science

Under its contract with the National Academies of Science (NAS), the NRC requested that the NAS establish a committee to evaluate and provide recommendations on the technical approaches and alternatives for controlling the release of solid materials. In support of that activity, NRC asked the NAS to obtain information on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Union experience, directives, and standards pertaining to international adoption of criteria on trade and import standards. To this end, the Head of Sector, Radiation Protection Unit, of the European Commission and the Head, Waste Safety Section, Department of Nuclear Safety of the IAEA, will meet with the committee at their June 13-15, 2001, meeting in Washington, D.C.

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Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-013, Entergy Nuclear Northeast, LOSS OF SPENT FUEL POOL COOLING SPECIAL INSPECTION.
2. PNO-IV-01-020, Technical Welding Laboratory, STOLEN RADIOGRAPHY CAMERA.
3. PNO-IV-01-021, Nebraska Public Power District, OVEREXPOSURE TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

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Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Small Agency Council

On May 8, 2001, representatives from the NRC's Division of Contracts and Property Management and Office of Chief Information Officer attended the Small Agency Council Procurement Committee meeting held at the Federal Trade Commission. Mary Lynn Scott, Chief, Property and Acquisition Oversight Branch, ADM/DCPM, and Jean Sefchick, Assistant Chief Financial Officer for Acquisition, Federal Trade Commission, were re-elected as the committee's Co-Chairs. Major topics included:

- Lesley Field, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), OMB, and Linda Nelson, Office of Acquisition, GSA, discussed implementation of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) changes requiring electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used by the Federal government be accessible to people with disabilities. The requirements are applicable to all new contracts and orders made under existing contracts after June 25, 2001. Open market micro purchases, including BankCard purchases, are excepted from 508 until January 1, 2003. However, micro purchases, including BankCard purchases, made as an order against an existing contract are not exempt from the requirements.
- Julie Basile, OFPP, discussed the new Administration's acquisition priorities. The focus of these priorities is to make Government acquisitions more results oriented by expanding the use of performance-based contracts and expanding reviews of agencies' Fair Act inventories of potentially commercial activities currently performed by Federal employees to identify new opportunities to contract out work.

CISSCO-II Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Awards

On May 7, 2001, the final two BPAs were awarded under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) program. These two BPAs are for the Document Processing functional area under the Comprehensive Information Systems Support Consolidation program (CISSCO II) bringing the total number of BPAs awarded under this program to fourteen. These BPAs will provide support for the Office of the Chief Information Officer in the following four functional areas: (1) software development, operation, and maintenance; (2) planning, architecture, standards, and business process re-engineering; (3) document processing; and (4) computer security. Individual orders for services will be competed among the contractors holding BPAs for that particular functional area. The period of performance for placing orders under the BPAs in the document processing functional area is two years, consistent with renewal of the contractors' GSA FSS contracts. The total estimated aggregate cost for orders to be placed under the BPAs in the document processing functional area is \$7.8 million over the two-year period of performance.

Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Burden While Maintaining Safety: Workshop and Comments (Part 50)

A document announcing a workshop to inform and solicit stakeholder input on activities associated with reducing unnecessary regulatory burden was published in the Federal Register on May 3, 2001 (66 FR 22134). This workshop will focus on three areas: Risk informing portions of Part 50, reforming outdated or paperwork oriented regulations, and reviewing other regulatory requirements, such as technical specifications, for burden reduction opportunities. The workshop will be held on May 31, 2001. The comment period closes July 2, 2001.

Charges for Reproducing Records (Part 9)

A final rule that revises the regulations governing the charges for copying publicly available documents at the NRC's Public Document Room was published in the Federal Register on May 7, 2001. This action becomes effective on June 6, 2001.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Fuel Solutions Revision; Confirmation of Effective Date (Part 72)

A document confirming the effective date of May 14, 2001, for a direct final rule that revised the FuelSolutions cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on May 9, 2001(66 FR 23537). The amendment allows the Big Rock Point nuclear facility to store mixed-oxide fuel assemblies, partial fuel assemblies, and damaged fuel assemblies (in a can) under a general license.

Clarification of Decommissioning Funding Requirements; Correction (Part 70)

A final rule that corrects an erroneous cross-reference in the Code of Federal Regulations was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2001 (66 FR 24049). This action became effective May 11, 2001.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of  
May 4, 2001 through May 10, 2001:

OI report 4-1999-054. (FOIA/PA-2001-0249)

Contract, NRC-26-00-307 awarded to Wang Government Services (now owned by Getronics)  
(FOIA/PA-2001-0250)

Contract for medical services, fitness services at headquarters and remote sites.  
(FOIA/PA-2001-0251)

Materials Licensing Tracking System (MLTS) database. (FOIA/PA-2001-0252)

Genealogy records on self, related to birth, birth name, parents, other related information.  
(FOIA/PA-2001-0253)

Allegation file for RIII-00-A-0177 and any resulting investigations. (FOIA/PA-2001-0254)

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Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Media Interest

The Seattle-Times is working on a story about a study being prepared on the feasibility of completing WNP-1.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
01-054	NRC Advisory Subcommittee on Advanced Reactors to Hold Workshop in Rockville, Maryland, on June 4-5
01-055	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Revises May Meeting Agenda
01-056	NRC's Office of Inspector General Schedules Conference May 21
01-057	NRC Schedules May 24 Meeting in Mesquite, Nevada, on Possible Yucca Mountain Waste Repository
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-01-023	NRC Chairman to Hold News Briefing after Visit to N.Y. Nuclear Plants
I-01-024	NRC to Discuss Changes in Emergency Plans For Three PA. Plant Sites
I-01-025	NRC to Conduct Special Inspection at IP3 to Look into Loss of Spent Fuel Cooling
III-01-019	NRC to Hold Public Meetings in Illinois and Kentucky on May 16 and 17 to Discuss Plant Performance and Oversight Program Changes
IV-01-017	NRC Finds No Environmental Impact from Extended Operation of ANO-1
IV-01-018	NRC Inspections Find ANO-1 Managing Aging Equipment Effectively

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Foreign Assignee - Philippines

Nelson Badinas, a science research specialist with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, started a nine-month assignment at NRC on April 30. Mr. Badinas is assigned to the Non-Power Reactor Branch in NRR, where he will perform research reactor license amendment and program reviews. He will also participate in selected inspections of research reactors.

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Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. COMSECY-01-0013	4/17/01	Draft Press Release and Federal Register Notice to Solicit Qualified Candidates for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
SRM on 01-0013	5/10/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0013	5/10/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0066	4/30/01	Proposed Rule: Material Control and Accounting Amendments
SRM on 01-0066	5/8/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0066	5/8/01	(same)
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. SRM-M010510A	5/10/01	Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0058 - Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3; Facility Operating License NPF-49) Partial Review of LBP-00-26 (Oct. 26, 2000), as Directed by CLI-01-03 (Jan. 17, 2001) Regarding GDC 62, Prevention of Criticality in Fuel Storage & Handling; II. SECY-01-0078 - Carolina Power & Light Company (Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant), Docket No. 50-400-LA, LBP-00-19, and LBP-01-09

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Ralph E. Beedle, Senior Vice President, NEI, dated April 27, 2001, concerns the proposal presented in SECY-01-0009 to make certain revisions to the Reactor Safety Goal Policy Statement.

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2. Letter to Brien B. Walters dated April 25, 2001 provides response to concerns that the formal hearing process that is used in all other NRC plant licensing should be the same for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain.
3. Letter to Harley W. Shaver, Esq., dated April 25, 2001, provides response concerning the status of the NRC's review of the site closure plan for Western Nuclear, Inc.'s Split Rock Site.
4. Letter to The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert dated April 24, 2001 provides the "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences Fiscal Year 2000" for events at nuclear facilities.
5. Letter to James Riccio, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy & Environmental Program, dated April 23, 2001, responds to request for a meeting regarding the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2).
6. Letter to The Honorable Jane Swift, Governor of Massachusetts, dated April 23, 2001, concerns the NRC State Liaison Officer program.

#### Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Advanced Reactor Subcommittee Workshop on Regulatory Challenges for Future Nuclear Power Plants; Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy, Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, and Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Cancellation.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Indian Point 3

On May 8, 2001, at approximately 1:40 a.m., with the plant shut down and the reactor core completely offloaded into the spent fuel pool (SFP), flow was lost for about 50 minutes in a system supplying the secondary heat sink for SFP cooling. This resulted from a loss of the make-up water supply to the SFP cooling tower. At the time flow was lost in the SFP, SFP temperature was approximately 151 degrees F and rose about four degrees F during the 50-minute period.

The NRC plans to conduct a special inspection of the event beginning on May 14, 2001. Two Region I inspectors will perform the inspection; one from the Division of Reactor Safety and the other the Millstone Unit 2 Senior Resident Inspector.

Inspection at University of Pennsylvania

On May 7, 2001, NRC Region I staff conducted a reactive inspection at the University of Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, PA, in response to a reported medical misadministration. The licensee's Radiation Safety Officer notified the NRC Operations Center that a medical misadministration occurred at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania on May 4, 2001, when one or more of the 94 iodine-125 (0.5 millicuries (18.5 MBq) each) seeds implanted into the prostate gland of a patient were found to be leaking. The patient is being administered potassium iodide, a thyroid blocking agent, for a period of thirty days. From bioassay measurements, the licensee preliminarily estimates that the patient will receive a radiation dose of approximately 3 rem (30 mSv) to the thyroid. Region I is awaiting the licensee's report and continues its review.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 11, 2001

Federal Executive Board's Federal Employee-of-the-Year Annual Awards

On May 9, 2001, the Federal Executive Board's Federal Employee-of-the-Year Annual Awards Luncheon was held at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel. The Regional Administrator and several managers attended. The Region had ten employees nominated for these awards.

Tennessee Valley Authority (Sequoyah) - Management Meeting

On May 7, 2001, representatives from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were in the Region II Office for a management meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Sequoyah plant performance and planned major projects.

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Region III  
Items of Interest  
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Palisades Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On May 8, 2001, the staff conducted a Predecisional Enforcement Conference with representatives of Consumers Energy to discuss possible regulatory violations at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. The possible violations involved the submission of incomplete and inaccurate information pertaining to a problem at the Michigan plant.

Regional Reactor Concepts Course Draws State and Tribal Representatives

On May 8-9, 2001, a Reactor Concepts Course was held in the Region III office for regional staff members and other interested persons. Among the attendees were five individuals representing state agencies in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Michigan, and two individuals representing the Prairie Island (Minnesota) Tribal Community.

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Region IV  
Items of Interest  
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Office of Congressional Affairs  
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Week Ending May 11, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 15

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	05/15/01 SD-366	9:30	TBA	Impediments to Energy Infrastructure Siting	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Madden	05/15/01 SD-138	2:30	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	05/17/01 SD-342	10:00	John Graham	Confirmation of OIRA Administrator	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs

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