

INFORMATION REPORT

November 14, 2002

SECY-02-0201

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0201 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 8, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

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/RA/
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 8, 2002

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

Contact: M. Layton, OEDO by E-mail: mcl@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

On November 1, 2002, the sale of Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 was completed by North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation to FPL Energy Seabrook, the new owner and licensee. The Conforming Amendment to the Facility Operating License was issued November 1, 2002. FPL Energy Seabrook acquired 88.3% ownership of Seabrook, with the remaining ownership retained by three of the non-selling owners. Mr. Mark E. Warner has assumed the position of Seabrook Site Vice President, replacing Mr. Ted Feigenbaum.

North Anna Power Station, Unit 2

In support of the NRC's efforts to oversee the replacement of the North Anna, Unit 2, reactor vessel head, the NRC staff will be conducting a technical exchange visit with the French regulatory agency and the vendor (Framatome ANP) that fabricated the replacement head. The replacement head was fabricated to the 1993 Edition of the French RCC-M Code. The purpose of the technical exchange visit is for the NRC staff to gain an understanding of French regulatory programs and the design, fabrication, and quality assurance controls that were used in the manufacturing of the replacement vessel head. In preparation for this technical exchange visit, the NRC staff has forwarded a list of discussion areas and questions to the French regulator. The trip to France is schedule to occur between November 18 and 27, 2002. Also, the NRC staff is reviewing the 1993 Edition of the French RCC-M Code and the owner's requirements under the ASME code (Westinghouse specifications) to which the existing head was designed and fabricated.

Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 2

The pre-repair non-destructive examination has been completed on all control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles. Of the 15 CRDM nozzles that are being repaired, weld repairs have been completed on 9 nozzles. Post-weld machining has been completed on 8 of those 9 nozzles. All the repairs are expected to be completed by November 12, 2002.

During a conference call on November 5, 2002, the NRC staff learned that the licensee performed a visual inspection of the lower head and found no evidence of leakage.

A tube from the B steam generator (SG) that contained an axial flaw failed its insitu pressure test at 3900 psig. The acceptance criteria is 4300 psig, which is 3 times the normal delta-p. The 3900 psig is well above the delta-p that would be experienced during the most severe accident or transient, which is approximately 2900 psig. The licensee is planning to plug the failed tube and preventively plug 30 additional tubes as corrective actions. An NRC inspector will be onsite by November 6, 2002, to perform the baseline in-service inspection SG procedure and will review the activities associated with the failed tube.

Watts Bar & Sequoyah - Tritium Production Program

The NRC staff held a meeting with the public on October 30, 2002, in Dayton, Tennessee, to explain the results of the NRC's safety evaluations of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA's) license amendment requests for Watts Bar and Sequoyah and to answer questions. Members of the NRC's Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of General Counsel, and Plant Systems Branch participated. Approximately 50 members of the public attended the meeting including representatives of TVA, and the Department of Energy (DOE). Also, there was media coverage.

The NRC project manager for Watts Bar presented the following information on the Tritium Production Program:

- background
- a description of TVA's Watts Bar and Sequoyah license amendment requests to irradiate tritium-producing burnable absorber rods
- NRC's safety evaluations of TVA's requests
- NRC's Environmental Assessments

The Sequoyah project manager then discussed changes to the Watts Bar and Sequoyah plant licenses.

Members of the public were given opportunities to ask questions and provide comments after each of the presentations. Most of the people commenting voiced strong opposition to DOE's planned use of the TVA reactors to produce tritium.

Hemyc Fire Barrier Public Meeting

On October 31, 2002, Plant Systems Branch (SPLB) conducted a public meeting with stakeholders regarding the draft fire test plan for the Hemyc and MT fire barrier materials. Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and a number of utilities were represented. Comments were received and will be considered for incorporation in the test plan. Meeting minutes will be issued by the project manager. SPLB will now proceed with the transfer of responsibility to the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research for conducting the actual tests.

NRC Information Notice 2002-32, Electromigration on Semiconductor Integrated Circuits dated October 31, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of a failure mechanism identified in semiconductor components at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station Unit 5 of the Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc.. The failure mechanism has been attributed to electromigration. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate.

Exelon License Renewal Application for Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3

On October 30, 2002, the staff presented the results of its evaluation of the Peach Bottom license renewal application (LRA) to the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).

November 8, 2002

ENCLOSURE A

The staff's safety evaluation report (SER), which was issued September 13, 2002, contained 15 open items. The ACRS was provided copies of the LRA and the SER before the presentation. The staff's presentations provided discussions of their review, the license renewal inspections, and explanations of the open items and how they were resolved or what issues prevented resolution.

Reactor Oversight Process

On October 30-31, 2002, a combined Mitigating System Performance Index (MSPI)/Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Working Group public meeting was held at NRC headquarters. During this meeting, the industry working group and the NRC staff members discussed the status of the MSPI pilot program, MSPI implementation issues, and threshold bench marking progress. The key ROP issues discussed included: update on the status of proposed changes to the PWR/BWR shutdown, emergency preparedness, fire protection, and radiation protection significance determination processes; self assessment initiatives; industry trends update; and frequently asked questions. The next MSPI/ROP Working Group meeting is scheduled for December 11-12, 2002.

On November 1, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee for Reliability, PRA, and Plant Operations on the Industry Trends Program and development efforts for the new Initiating Events Performance Index (IEPI). The briefing included an overview of the current process for monitoring industry trends, current industry indicators, communications with stakeholders, and the approach for the development of the IEPI.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Revised Mixed-Oxide Construction Authorization Request

By letter dated October 31, 2002, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster submitted its revised Construction Authorization Request (CAR) for the Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility that it wants to construct on the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Savannah River Site. NRC staff has begun its review of the revised CAR and plans to complete a revised Draft Safety Evaluation Report by April 2003.

Issuance of a 10 CFR Part 71 Certificate of Compliance for the NAC International's Universal Transport Cask Package

On October 31, 2002, NRC issued a 10 CFR Part 71 Certificate of Compliance to NAC International for the Model No. Universal Transport Cask Package (UMS). The UMS is a dual-purpose storage and transportation system for boiling-water reactor and pressurized-water reactor spent nuclear fuel. Additionally, the UMS was approved for transportation of Maine Yankee site-specific, spent nuclear fuel contents and Greater-than-Class-C-Waste.

Staff Presents Papers at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

On October 27-30, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM), the Risk Task Group, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (hereafter, the Center) attended and presented papers at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Over 6500 geoscientists attended the conference. Approximately 70 papers were given on topics related to Yucca Mountain. Staff presentations (titles abbreviated) on Yucca Mountain included: (1) Evaluating radiological risks from proposed seismotectonic hazards; (2) NRC's regulations for long-term safety of geologic disposal; (3) Moisture observations in sealed tunnels; and (4) Using risk information to determine the need for additional geochemical information. NRC staff organized a special session titled "Characterizing Geochemical Processes: When is there sufficient information?" Eleven papers were presented, including four from DWM and Center staffs, related to Yucca Mountain, uranium mill tailings, and geographic information systems.

Public Meeting on EPA-NRC Memorandum of Understanding on Contaminated Sites

On November 5, 2002, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) hosted a public meeting, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on the EPA-NRC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on "Consultation and Finality on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites." The meeting started with a poster presentation. NMSS and EPA staff then gave brief presentations on the MOU. The remainder of the meeting consisted of questions from the various stakeholders who attended the meeting or participated via tele-conference and answers from a joint NRC-EPA panel. The meeting was well-attended by approximately 100 people. Participants included: members of the public, representatives of States and State organizations, public interest groups, licensees,

representatives of nuclear organizations, staffs from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Energy, NRC and EPA staffs, and media representatives.

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ENCLOSURE B

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Tabletop Exercise

The Division of Incident Response Operations staff participated with Department of Energy (DOE) representatives in the initial planning meeting for the Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Tabletop Exercise, at DOE Headquarters (HQ) on November 7, 2002. This exercise is a follow-on to the exercise conducted in September 2002 and will be conducted in January 2003, at NRC and participants will include NRC HQ management and staff, NRC Regional office representatives, and representatives from other Federal agencies.

Top Officials (TOPOFF) 2 Exercise Planning Meeting

Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) participated in a Federal interagency planning meeting for the Top-Officials 2 (TOPOFF2) exercise on November 7, 2002. This meeting was the latest in the series of multi-agency planning sessions for TOPOFF2, the second Congressionally-mandated, national-level exercise involving weapons of mass destruction.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-02-064, Kumar and Associates, Inc. - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
2. PNO-IV-02-065, American Testing Services, Inc. - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
3. PNO-IV-02-064A, Kumar and Associates, Inc. - UPDATE: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE FOUND.
4. PNO-IV-02-066, All Tech Corporation - MISSING PORTABLE GAUGES RECOVERED.
5. PNO-I-02-020, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station - UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO A HYDROGEN GAS IGNITION IN THE OFF-GAS SYSTEM (#39348).
6. PNO-IV-02-067, Harrington Geotechnical Engineering - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

NRC Public Document Room Address Change and Corrections to Information Collection Provisions (10 CFR Chapter I)

A final rule that amends the NRC's regulations to reflect the current address for the Public Document Room and to correct the listings of approved information collection requirements in several 10 CFR Parts was published in the Federal Register on November 4, 2002 (67 FR 67096). The final rule became effective on November 4, 2002.

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ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
November 1 through November 7, 2002:

Investigation Report, RIV, named company and named individuals (FOIA/PA-2003-0047)

Scioto Lab Complex, Marion Engineering Depot and/or Scioto Ordinance Plant, Marion, OH, all documents (FOIA/PA-2003-0048)

Risk numbers, pre-calculated for operating power plants, Region II (FOIA/PA-02003-0049)

Site assessment, Saw Mill River and Grasslands Roads, Elmsford, Westchester Co., NY, 10523 (FOIA/PA-2003-0050)

IMPAC listing - State of Washington (FOIA/PA-2003-0051)

Stolen radioactive substances, Suffolk Co., Long Island, NY, 1996 (FOIA/PA-2003-0052)

Agreement between U.S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC) and Starmet CMI supporting "Submittal of Revised Uranium Management Plan and Decommissioning Funding Program Description" and modified agreement (FOIA/PA-2003-0053)

Nuclear threat message, NRC Classification Guide, referral by Department of Justice (FOIA/PA-2003-0054)

Nuclear threat message, NRC Classification Guide, referral by Department of Justice (FOIA/PA-2003-0055)

November 8, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Small Business & Civil Rights
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

White House Launches New Strategy for Contracting with Small Businesses

On October 30, 2002, the Office of Small Business and Civil Rights staff attended a White House meeting at which a new strategy for increasing federal contracting opportunities for small businesses was unveiled. Presenters included the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Administrators of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and the Small Business Administration. As part of the President's Small Business Agenda, the plan aims to reduce the growing practice of consolidating, or "bundling", smaller contracts into larger ones that may exclude small business participation. The goal of the strategy is to hold agencies accountable for minimizing bundling, and mitigating the effects of bundling on small businesses. The strategy also enhances the role of agency Small Business Offices in reviewing proposed acquisitions and in monitoring contractor compliance with small business subcontracting plans.

November 8, 2002

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Media Interest

NRC's recent "yellow finding" regarding security efforts at the Vermont Yankee plant generated some media coverage.

There was substantial interest in recent public meetings on a license renewal request by the Ginna nuclear facility in New York.

Attention continues in the NRC's upcoming public meetings on the Davis-Besse nuclear reactor vessel head damage.

The Journal News in New York is preparing an article on the challenges posed by the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and related spent fuel storage.

| Press Releases | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Headquarters: | |
| 02-129 | NRC Proposes Alternative Fire Protection Rule |
| 02-130 | NRC To Develop Proposed Regulation on Control Of Slightly Radioactive Solid Materials |
| Regions: | |
| II-02-048 | NRC Staff To Hold Meeting With DCS On November 12 To Discuss Construction Plans For Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility |
| III-02-060 | NRC Oversight Panel To Hold Two Meetings On Davis-Besse Reactor Vessel Head Damage in Oak Harbor, Ohio |
| III-02-061 | NRC Staff Proposes \$60,000 Fine Against U.S. Enrichment Corp. For Failing To Protect Classified Information At Paducah Plant |
| IV-02-046 | NRC Staff To Hold Public Meeting To Discuss Inspection Of Fort Calhoun Plant's License Renewal Program |

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|
| Memoranda | | |
| 1. SRM-M021031B | 1107/02 | Staff Requirements - Briefing on EEO Program (SECY-02-0182) |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to William F. Troxler, Jr., Troxler Electronic Laboratories, Inc., dated November 1, 2002, concerns security measures for stolen radioactive sources in gauges.
2. Letter to Ralph E. Beedle, Nuclear Energy Institute, dated October 30, 2002, concerns issues for Commission consideration as it reviews a proposed rule that would permit nuclear power reactor licensees to adopt voluntarily a set of alternative fire protection requirements.
3. Letter to Kay Coles James, Office of Personnel Management, dated October 30, 2002, expresses support for any appropriate legislative or regulatory actions that can be undertaken to alleviate the pay compression affecting members of the Senior Executive Service and other senior-level Federal employees.
4. Letter to Peter Skinner, State of New York, dated October 30, 2002, concerns comment regarding the cavity in the Davis-Besse reactor pressure vessel head caused by boric acid corrosion.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Future Plant Designs - Notice of Meeting.

November 8, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Region I Senior Management Site Visit to Three Mile Island

On November 4-5, 2002, the Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator and members of the staff toured Three Mile Island and met with resident inspectors and selected AmerGen managers, as part of the Region's routine program of site visits, per NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0102.

Meetings with Officials from Maine and Maine Yankee

On November 4, 2002, members of Region I management and staff met with officials of Maine Yankee (MY) at the site to gain an up-to-date perspective on the licensee's implementation of security arrangements relative to Interim Compensatory Measures, and to talk to some members of the Security Organization relative to their concerns regarding scheduling of overtime and other issues. Within the last few weeks, MY has had training sessions with the staff in order to address these issues. MY has initiated corrective actions in an effort to improve the management of overtime and reduce the high turn over. The Region I group also met with representatives of the Maine State Police and with the Governor's Nuclear Safety Advisor in Augusta, ME to discuss security at MY.

Maine IMPEP Review

From October 29 through November 1, 2002, representatives from NRC Regions I and IV, Office of State and Tribal Programs, and the State of North Carolina conducted an Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the Maine Agreement State program. The review included an evaluation of the State's performance with respect to inspection, licensing, staffing, incidents, allegations and compatibility with NRC regulations. In the next 30 days, the review team will prepare a draft report summarizing the IMPEP findings.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Meeting

On November 4, 2002, the Regional Administrator participated in the Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group meeting in Headquarters. The Group continued to review the Agency's Strategic Plan and discuss potential areas for revision.

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Chief Executive Officer's Conference (INPO/CEO)

On November 7-8, 2002, the Regional Administrator accompanied Chairman Meserve, Commissioner Dicus and Commissioner Diaz to the INPO/CEO's Conference, held in Marietta, Georgia.

Nuclear Energy Institute/Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NEI/NRC) Licensing Forum

On November 6-7, 2002, the Deputy Regional Administrator participated as a speaker in two sessions of the NEI/NRC Licensing Forum in Washington, D.C. The first session was in support of the Chairman of the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) and other CRGR members in obtaining feedback from industry on the backfit process. The second session was to present challenges and lessons learned in management oversight of the reactor inspection process. This session was presented in conjunction with the Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

Regional Administrator Toured Grand Gulf Station

On November 2, 2002, the Regional Administrator visited the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. During the visit, he received a security briefing and toured the plant with the resident inspectors. Following the tour, the Regional Administrator met with the site Vice President and the General Manager.

License Renewal Scoping and Screening Inspection at the Fort Calhoun Station

On November 4, 2002, representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Region IV initiated the License Renewal Scoping and Screening Inspection for the Fort Calhoun Station. This inspection will determine whether there is a reasonable assurance that the Omaha Public Power District's scoping and screening processes have identified all of the structures, systems, and components for which an aging management review is required consistent with the requirements of the License Renewal Rule.

November 8, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 8, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 73

| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
|-------------|--------------|------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Combs | Tentative | TBD | Dr. Paperiello, DOE, DOD, DOS | Combating Terrorism: Preventing Nuclear Terrorism | Reps. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform |

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ENCLOSURE R