

INFORMATION REPORT

January 25, 2001

SECY-01-0011

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0011 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 19, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Contact:
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/RA/

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 19, 2001

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

Contact: J. Shea, OEDO by E-mail: jws1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted a public meeting with industry's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) working group on January 9, 2001, to discuss and review proposed changes to the first revision of NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline." A public meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2001, to review a preliminary version of the revision. The goal is to issue revised NEI-99-02 by early April 2001 so that it will be effective starting the third quarter of CY 2001. IIPB also conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on January 10, 2001, with industry's working group on the ROP. The key issues discussed included: fault exposure time impact on unavailability performance indicators (PIs), long term plans on revising the physical protection significance determination process (SDP), proposed revision of physical protection PI changes, status report on Initiating Event PI pilot study, and reviews of frequently asked questions (FAQs). The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2001.

DIPM has formed eleven focus groups to evaluate specific ROP-related issues (that have been identified based on ongoing feedback) and recommend improvement actions. The focus group issues include: the unavailability PI, fire protection, maintenance effectiveness, P&IR approach, cross-cutting issues, safety system design inspection approach, assessment and enforcement, occupational radiation safety cornerstone issues, physical protection cornerstone issues, inspection program flexibility, and communicating inspection results. A meeting was held on January 11, 2001, with all NRR focus group task leads to discuss the focus groups' duties and products. A series of internal meetings are planned for the months of January and February, followed by improvement recommendations to NRC management during the March 6-8, 2001 DRS/DRP counterpart meeting. The results of the internal review efforts will formulate positions the Agency will be promoting at the external workshop tentatively scheduled March 27-29, 2001.

The Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1245 Working Group on Inspector Qualifications met in headquarters on January 9-11, 2001. NRR's perspectives on inspector training and qualification were presented by the Director of NRR. The group completed the draft knowledge, skills and attitudes (KSAs) supporting the competency areas. In the near future, the working group will distribute a survey requesting feedback from both inspectors and regional managers on training effectiveness techniques.

University of Michigan Ford Nuclear Reactor (FNR) Potential Decommissioning

This highlight is a follow-up to the highlight of December 15, 2000, on a Capitol Hill briefing on "Education and Infrastructure Crisis" sponsored by the Eagle Alliance. Several of the briefing presentations discussed that specific University Research Reactors at the University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Cornell University are facing closure. On January 17, 2001, the University of Michigan staff informed the NRC staff that "the earliest that the reactor could be shut down is May 2003 (and it is likely that this date will slip) . . . As we get

closer to 2003, and as we get a better idea of the timing of any decommissioning activities, it will become more critical to evaluate proposals that utilize the FNR.”

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

18th Annual Institute of Nuclear Materials Meeting

From January 10-12, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff attended the 18th Annual Institute of Nuclear Materials Management Spent Fuel Management Seminar held in Washington, D.C. Topics included industry status of the licensing and operations of interim and long term spent fuel activities both domestic and foreign. Staff presented the current status of Nuclear Regulatory Commission interim storage and transportation related activities.

Resolving Thermal Effects on Flow and Evolution of the Near-Field Environment Issues at Yucca Mountain

On January 8-11, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management held a technical exchange and management meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss resolution of issues related to the thermal effects on flow and evolution of the near-field environment key technical issues (KTIs). Thermal effects on flow could contribute to degradation of engineered barriers and promote early release of radionuclides if water is redistributed by thermal effects in such a way that it enters the emplacement drifts and contacts waste packages. Evaporation and condensation, or focusing of condensate drainage in fractures, are two potential water redistribution mechanisms. The evolution of the near-field environment could contribute to degradation of engineered barriers and promote early release and transport of radionuclides due to perturbations in the near-field geochemistry. Variations in temperature associated with heat production of the waste and its impact on near-field chemistry, introduction of foreign materials into the mountain, and variations in fluid flow and consequent chemical reactions were topics that were addressed by DOE. Two subissues concerning the thermal effects of flow KTI, and four subissues concerning the evolution of the near-field environment KTI, were considered "open" prior to the meeting. To resolve these subissues, DOE has agreed to provide additional information, at or before the time of license application.

Site Visits to Yucca Mountain

On January 8-11, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management visited Yucca Mountain to observe and discuss moisture monitoring in the east-west drift and testing at Alcove 8 - Niche 3. This Department of Energy (DOE) work is needed to resolve several Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hydrology issues. The NRC staff discussed the testing programs with the DOE staff and contractors who are conducting the hydrology work. In addition, the NRC staff visited the Nye County alluvial tracer test complex while a single-well tracer test was in progress. This and planned future hydrologic tests will be used by DOE to evaluate how well the alluvial sediments could retard the movement of radionuclides that may be released from Yucca Mountain.

During January 11-13, 2001, other staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses visited Yucca Mountain. The principal purpose of this visit was to collect additional site data that can be factored into future staff reviews of

DOE's models for flow in the unsaturated and saturated zones. The state of Nevada has expressed the view that hydrothermal (heated water) conditions have existed in the unsaturated zone at Yucca Mountain and might resume during the lifetime of a future repository. While DOE disagrees with the state's view, it is sponsoring a systematic investigation of the hydrothermal issue by a University of Nevada-Las Vegas team which includes DOE and state scientists. The NRC staff is preparing to review the team's results in FY 2001, in part, by making selected independent analyses using the site data identified above.

10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group Meeting

On January 16, 2001, a 10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group Meeting was held to further discuss the best approach to delineate the responsibilities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other regulatory agencies regarding source materials with low concentrations of uranium and thorium and their decay products. Discussion topics included citations of authorities of individual agencies, other related activities, and the approach for proceeding. Interagency participants included the state of Colorado representing the Organization of Agreement States and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Internally, representatives from the Office of the General Counsel, the Office Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of State and Tribal Programs participated.

Millstone 1 Missing Rods

On January 16, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) and Division of Waste Management staff participated in the weekly conference call regarding two missing fuel rods with staff of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Region I, and Northeast Utilities, owner of the Millstone I nuclear power plant that is in decommissioning. The licensee has submitted a licensee event report. Queries from both FCSS staff and from the utility staff to the Nuclear Material Management and Safety System (NMMSS) have not indicated any transactions that could have included the missing rods. This reinforces the hypotheses that they either are still in the pool or were erroneously shipped in a shielded container as something other than fuel rods. The Millstone I material inventories reported to NMMSS were based on a count of fuel assemblies. The assembly from which the two damaged rods were removed is still in the spent fuel pool. The damaged rods were not replaced with other rods containing special nuclear material.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

IPEEE Program Status

RES planned to complete the review of IPEEE submittals (assuming licensees provided responses by 10/31/00) and issue plant-specific Staff Evaluation Reports (SERs) to NRR by January 2001. As of December 31, 2000, RES has issued 58 SERs (out of a total of 70 IPEEE submittals) and plans to issue four more SERs by January 31, 2001. One plant, Haddem Neck, is permanently shut down, so the staff will not issue an SER for this plant. In Attachment 2 to SECY-00-0213, "Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan," dated October 26, 2000, the staff informed the Commission that some SERs would not be completed by January 2001 because we were awaiting responses to requests for additional information (RAIs) from some licensees. RES now expects to issue 7 SERs after the January 2001 target date in the operating plan. The following licensees did not submit responses to RAIs in time for the staff to complete their reviews and write the final SERs: Sequoyah (received RAI response 12/5/00), Perry (received response 12/26/00), Braidwood (received response 12/31/00), Byron (received response 1/8/01), Calvert Cliffs (response due 1/31/01), Dresden (response due 1/31/01), and River Bend (response due 3/1/01). Based on this information, RES expects to issue the last IPEEE SER (River Bend) in April 2001, approximately five weeks after receipt of the licensee's response to the RAI.

RES plans to issue a draft report (for public comment) on general perspectives resulting from the IPEEE program by April 2001. The staff is working on the draft IPEEE insights report in parallel with completing the plant IPEEE reviews and plans to issue the draft IPEEE insights report in accordance with the operating plan schedule.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-002, Waterbury Hospital Health Center, A MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING A DOSE TO AN EMBRYO/FETUS.
2. PNO-II-01-001, Florida Department of Transportation, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
3. PNO-II-01-001A, Florida Department of Transportation, RECOVERED STOLEN GAUGE.
4. PNO-II-01-002, Aerojet Ordnance Tennessee, Inc., INCINERATOR FIRE.
5. PNO-II-01-003, St. Joseph's Hospital, BRACHYTHERAPY EQUIPMENT FAILURE.
6. PNO-II-01-004, UniTech Services Group, Inc., MEDIA INTEREST IN VEHICLE ACCIDENT.
7. PNO-IV-01-003, Reed Engineering Group, LOST PORTABLE GAUGE.

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: FuelSolutions, Addition (Part 72)

A final rule that adds the FuelSolutions cask system to list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2001 (66 FR 3445). This amendment allows holders of power reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the FuelSolutions cask system under a general license. The final rule becomes effective February 16, 2001.

Consideration of Potassium Iodide in Emergency Plans (Part 50)

A final rule that amends the emergency planning regulations governing the domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2001 (66 FR 5427). The final rule requires that consideration be given to including potassium iodide as a protective measure for the general public that would supplement sheltering and evacuation. Potassium iodide would help prevent thyroid cancers in the unlikely event of a major release of radioactivity from a nuclear power plant. The final rule becomes effective April 19, 2001.

Termination of Section 274i Agreement Between the State of Louisiana and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Part 150)

A final rule that removes a reference to an inspection agreement with the State of Louisiana was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2001 (66 FR 5441). The inspection agreement, entered into under Section 274i of the Atomic Energy Act, allowed the State of Louisiana to perform inspections or other functions in offshore waters adjacent to Louisiana on behalf of the NRC. This action responds to a request from the Governor of Louisiana to terminate the agreement. This action became effective January 19, 2001.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
January 12, 2001 through January 18, 2001:

OGC Legal Brief Index listing. (FOIA/PA-2001-0103)

Eastern Isotopes Inc., all licenses and correspondence at either Ashburn or Sterling, VA.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0104)

Syncor International, 607 Cascade West Parkway, SE, Grand Rapids, MI, safety reports.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0105)

Clinton power plant, April and/or May 1995 allegations of wrongdoing. (FOIA/PA-2001-0106)

Employees working secretly for German Nazi Secret Service; investigation, removal and
infiltration prevention. (FOIA/PA-2001-0107)

Information technology contact listing. (FOIA/PA-2001-0108)

NRC Equipment Co., Newton, MA, and National Research Corp., Cambridge, MA, re
involvement in US Nuclear Weapons Program, 1940's and 1950's. (FOIA/PA-2001-0109)

AEC security clearance request, and employment records for 1968-1978 at Diamond Shamrock
Corp. (FOIA/PA-2001-0110)

Radionuclide cesium, amount available for release in case of accident during dry storage, pool
storage, or during transportation, document issued 02/2000. (FOIA/PA-2001-0111)

Site assessment, Prometcor Inc. (a/k/a Ronson Metals Corp), 45 and 65 Manufacturer's Place,
Newark, NJ. (FOIA/PA-2001-0112)

National Semiconductor Corp., possession, processing or manufacturing of wafers/silicon
chips/silicon disks. (FOIA/PA-2001-0113)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

| Arrivals | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------|
| JOHNSON, Deborah | HR SPECIALIST (INTERN) | HR |
| KEEFE, Molly | OFFICE CLERK | NMSS |
| TATE, Travis | PROJECT MANAGER | NRR |
| Departures | | |
| KARCAGI, Kim | CLERK | NRR |

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of State and Tribal Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

New Integrated Materials Performance and Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Team Member
Training and Orientation

On January 17-18, 2001, the Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) sponsored the annual training for new NRC and Agreement State staff participating in the Integrated Materials Performance and Evaluation Program (IMPEP). Staff from STP and Region I conducted the training for a total of 23 students; nine Agreement State participants and 14 NRC Headquarters and Regional participants.

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE L

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Media Interest

Hub Miller, Regional Administrator, and other Region I staff will be meeting with the editorial board of the Journal News (N.Y.) regarding events at Indian Point 2.

One reporter and 10 members of the public attended the meeting on the findings of the special inspection at V.C. Summer regarding the pipe crack.

There was press interest in headquarters on the spent fuel pool accident risk report affecting decommissioned plants.

| Press Releases | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Headquarters: | |
| 01-004 | NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Nuclear Research in Maryland on January 24-25 |
| 01-005 | NRC Report Rates Risk of Fire at Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plant Spent Fuel Pool as Low |
| Regions: | |
| I-01-03 | NRC Withdraws Civil Penalties Against Pennsylvania Man |
| III-01-02 | NRC Staff to Discuss Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant Performance January 23 |
| IV-01-03 | NRC Chairman's Visit, News Briefing at Palo Verde Postponed |

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Korean Visitors Discuss New Reactor Design

Professors Chang Sun Kang and Goon Cheri Park of the Department of Nuclear Engineering, Seoul National University, accompanied by Dr. Tak Yun Sung of Mardco, met with RES on Friday, January 19, to discuss how NRC would proceed with the licensing and regulation of an integral-type multipurpose reactor which, because of its new, advanced design, is outside the scope of some of the present-day regulatory requirements. The Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) is developing the 330 MWt System-Integrated Modular Advanced Reactor (referred to as the "SMART"), the basic design of which it expects to complete by March 2002, with an eye toward the export market in Southeast Asia and possibly the Middle East (for desalinization). Professors Kang and Park have been asked to review this advanced LWR project (which they labeled a Generation 3+), including its future licensability, and to recommend how the Korean regulator should address SMART's unique features during its safety review, if the Government of Korea and the Korean industry decide to move forward with the design.

Proposed IAEA budget for 2002

The IAEA budget for 2002 is being proposed to exceed the current budget by \$3.4 million. The IAEA says it needs the additional funds for safeguards equipment for the new Rokkasho Mura fuel processing facility in Japan and to manage technical cooperation projects. For the past several years, the U.S. and most other developed countries have tended to resist increases for UN agencies even those for inflation. The IAEA has this year listed the equipment in its regular budget rather than rely on extra-budgetary contributions or by proposing further cuts to nuclear safety, radiation protection and technical assistance programs. Additionally, the secretariat is trying to redress its reliance on cost-free-experts rather than regular staff to implement the increasing workload requested of it.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|---|----------|---|
| Decision Documents | | |
| 1. SRM | 1/17/01 | Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session 1/17/01: 1) SECY-00-0232 - Sequoyah Fuels Corp. 2) SECY-01-0001 - Millstone Unit 3 |
| 2. SECY-00-0236 | 12/20/00 | Draft Rulemaking Plan: Event Reporting for Unintended Exposures to an Embryo/Fetus or to a Nursing Child Under Non-Medical, Non-Occupational Circumstances |
| 3. SRM on 00-0236 | 1/18/01 | (same) |
| 4. Commission Voting Record on SECY-00-0236 | 1/18/01 | (same) |
| 5. SRM on SECY-00-0198 | 1/19/01 | Status Report on Study of Risk-Informed Changes to the Technical Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (Option 3) and Recommendations on Risk-Informed Changes to 10 CFR 50.44 (Combustible Gas Control) |
| 6. Commission Voting Record on SECY-00-0198 | 1/19/01 | (same) |
| Information Papers | | |
| 1. SECY-01-0006 | 1/12/01 | SECY-01-0006 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 5, 2001 |
| 2. SECY-00-0241 | 12/28/00 | Improving the NRC Public Web Site |
| 3. SECY-00-0242 | 12/28/00 | Evaluation of Effectiveness of Criteria for Funding Agreement State Training |
| 4. SECY-00-0238 | 12/26/00 | Emergency Planning for Indian Point 2 and Other Collocated Licensees |
| 5. SECY-01-0008 | 1/18/01 | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 12, 2001 |

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

| | | |
|------------------|----------|--|
| 6. SECY-01-0002 | 1/4/01 | Annual Report on Commission Adjudication |
| Memoranda | | |
| 1. M001220A | 01/17/01 | Staff Requirements - Briefing on the Status of the Fuel Cycle Facility Oversight Program Revision (SECY-00-0222) |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Peter G. Crane dated January 8, 2001, response to June 16, 2000, letter which called upon the Commission to finish its rulemaking on potassium iodide (KI).

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Indian Point 2

The 95003 Supplemental Inspection Team began its onsite inspection on January 16, 2001. The team, consisting of 13 inspectors (including two contractors) and a Team Leader (Jeff Shackelford, RIV Branch Chief), will provide NRC management with information regarding licensee performance to determine the breadth and depth of safety, organizational and programmatic issues. The last day of the onsite inspection is currently planned for February 9, 2001, to be followed by a public exit meeting approximately three weeks later.

On January 16, 2001, Congressman Gilman visited the Indian Point Unit 2 site and toured the plant with Con Ed officials and NRC representatives (Brian Holian and Senior Resident Inspector Bill Raymond). The principal topics of discussion with Congressman Gilman included the IP2 restart process and issues, and NRC's oversight role. The Congressman also was briefed by the 95003 Inspection Team Leader, Jeff Shackelford.

On January 16, 2001, Brian Holian also visited Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano and his staff to discuss the NRC's oversight role at IP2. A letter to Mr. Spano, summarizing NRC's oversight function and position that the NRC considers IP2 safe to operate, was issued by Hub Miller on January 18, 2001.

CYAPCo Signs Initial Agreement for Development of a Portion of Site and Meets with NRC Staff to Discuss Partial Site Release Prior to License Termination

On January 16, 2001, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCo) issued a press release announcing its initial agreement with AES Native Hollow, LLC (AES) to purchase part of the Haddam Neck site for development of a new gas fired electric power plant. The land sale is expected to include about 30 acres and a few buildings, all located outside the current protected area. The closing is subject to CYAPCo and AES reaching agreement on several issues and obtaining several complex regulatory approvals.

The issue of partial site release was discussed on January 17, 2001, when CYAPCo met with NRC staff at NRC Headquarters to discuss plans to seek NRC approval for release for unrestricted use of a portion of the site associated with the agreement with AES discussed above. The meeting participants included about 30 licensee and NRC representatives and a representative from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, members of the local Citizen's Decommissioning Advisory Committee participated in the meeting by telephone conference. CYAPCo plans to submit its intent to seek partial site release in about three months. The licensee and NRC representatives also discussed the need for additional characterization data to support the licensee's Licensee Termination Plan.

Yankee Rowe CAB Meeting

On Thursday, January 18, 2001, the Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board held a periodic scheduled public meeting in Charlemont, Massachusetts. An inspector from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch attended and gave the committee an update of recent NRC activities onsite. In addition to discussing the roles and responsibilities of the Region I office, increased onsite inspection presence during significant work activities expected with fuel transfer to the ISFSI in 2001 was outlined. The inspector addressed general questions from the committee and the public regarding the newly released NRC report on Spent Fuel Pool Safety at Decommissioning Plants. Approximately twenty people attended the meeting.

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Southeast Plant Manager's Meeting

On January 16, 2001, the Regional Administrator made a presentation at the Region I and II Plant Manager's Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V. C. Summer Public Meeting

On January 17, 2001, the Regional Administrator, accompanied by the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety and Chief, Branch 5, Division of Reactor Projects, visited the V. C. Summer site in Jenkinsville, South Carolina. The visit included a tour of the plant and meeting with licensee management and resident inspectors.

On January 18, 2001, the Regional Administrator, accompanied by the Deputy Director of Reactor Safety, and Chief, Branch 5, Division of Reactor Projects, attended a V. C. Summer public meeting in South Carolina. The meeting covered the status of the licensee's corrective actions for the reactor coolant system pipe crack. Additionally, the status of the Special Inspection team and NRR's reviews of the licensee's evaluations were discussed.

Law Engineering and Environmental Services

On January 18, 2001, Region II held an open Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Law Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the circumstances surrounding a radiography event that occurred on November 24, 2000, while attempting to make a source change. Licensee representatives discussed the results of their review of the events and actions they have taken to prevent recurrence.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 19, 2001

Regional Administrator Presents Reactor Operator Certificates

On January 17, 2001, The Region III Regional Administrator presented certificates to three newly licensed reactor operators and five newly licensed senior reactor operators who were administered the NRC licensing examination at LaSalle in November 2000 and were issued licenses effective December 15, 2000. The certificate presentation took place in Rockdale, Illinois.

January 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE P