

INFORMATION REPORT

September 14, 2001

SECY-01-0172

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-01-0172 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

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.

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Rosenberg, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 7, 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.

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	*
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Entergy Operations, Inc. and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

On August 28-29, 2001, representatives from NRC participated in a licensing workshop with representatives from Entergy Corporation. Entergy Corporation's nuclear plants are divided into the company's traditional service area (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) and recently acquired plants in the Northeast. Entergy Operations, Inc., (EOI) operates plants in the South (Arkansas Nuclear One, Grand Gulf, River Bend, and Waterford), and is informally called Entergy South. The plants (Pilgrim, Indian Point Unit No. 3, and FitzPatrick; Indian Point Unit No. 2 and Vermont Yankee pending final regulatory approvals) are operated by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., which is informally referred to as Entergy Northeast. The workshop discussed various licensing-related topics to ensure mutual understanding of policies and procedures and to identify areas of improvement for both the licensees and the NRC staff. The representatives from Entergy Corporation generally described their plans to structure the licensing organizations in Entergy Northeast to be similar, in both organization and practices, to Entergy South.

Ice Condenser Demonstration at Duke Energy Test Facility

The Ice Condenser Utility Group (ICUG) plans to submit a topical report in late September in support of future license amendments to allow alternate methods of determining ice mass during periodic surveillance testing. Current Technical Specifications allow only physical weighing of the baskets to determine ice mass. The proposed amendments will allow alternatives such as visual inspection (with a small camera that can be lowered the length of the ice baskets) and other technology, such as ultrasonic (UT) scanning, that is under development. Weighing will remain the preferred method, when possible. However, all ice condenser owners have experienced baskets frozen in place that cannot be weighed.

NRC staff from Headquarters and Region II, attended a demonstration test at the Duke Energy ice condenser test facility near the McGuire Nuclear Plant on August 29 and 30, 2001. The condenser baskets were filled with ice and some were made to have voids and to sublimate to simulate actual in-plant behavior. Several demonstrations of both the visual (camera) and UT were observed and then compared to the known weight (determined by weighing). The UT method results looked promising but is still in the research and development stage.

Publication of Proposed Rule on Partial Site Release for Public Comment

On September 4, 2001, the Commission published (66 FR 46230) a proposed rule for public comment that provided a process for allowing a power reactor licensee to release part of its reactor site for unrestricted use prior to NRC approval of its license termination plan (partial site release). With this proposed rule, licensees desiring to gain NRC approval of a partial site release will be required to submit information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the radiological release criteria for unrestricted use of 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, currently applicable only to license termination, and to demonstrate continued compliance with all other applicable regulatory requirements that may be affected by the release of property and changes

to the site boundary. The proposed rule provides additional flexibility to licensees who are releasing property that has never been radiologically impacted. Additionally, the proposed rule provides for public participation regardless of the radiological conditions associated with the release area. The 75-day public comment period closes on November 19, 2001.

License Renewal Demonstration Project

The NRC staff is participating in an Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) demonstration project involving industry preparation of sample license renewal application sections for the staff's review using the improved license renewal guidance documents (generic aging lessons learned report, standard review plan for license renewal, and regulatory guide endorsing NEI guidance document). The goal is to identify ways in which the generic aging lessons learned report can be referenced in renewal applications to achieve the desired effectiveness and efficiency in the review process, and to provide feedback in enhancing the review guidance. On August 29, 2001, the staff forwarded the draft safety evaluation report for the license renewal demonstration project to NEI. The staff held a public meeting with NEI on September 5, 2001, to review plant records supporting the sample license renewal applications.

Reactor Oversight Process

As discussed in SECY-01-0111, "Development of an Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors," the Inspection Program Branch has posted Industry Trends Program information and results on the NRC's web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ROP/trends.html>. The staff intends to update the information on a quarterly basis.

The NRC recently initiated a program to monitor trends in indicators of industry performance as a means to confirm that the safety of operating power plants is being maintained. The NRC uses the indicators to identify adverse trends, evaluate them and take appropriate regulatory action using its existing processes for resolving generic issues and issuing generic communications. The NRC reports to Congress each year regarding any statistically significant adverse trends in industry safety performance. The NRC formally reviews these indicators, as well as its response to adverse trends, as part of the Agency Action Review Meeting process.

Meeting Between the Safeguards Steering Committee and Stakeholders on Implementing a Pilot of the Industry-Developed Safeguards Performance Assessment (SPA) Program

On September 5, 2001, the Safeguards Steering Committee conducted a public meeting with NEI, industry representatives, and stakeholders from the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Nuclear Control Institute regarding implementation of the SPA pilot program. The staff presented the NRC's plans for pilot implementation at Palo Verde. The industry expressed some concerns with implementation issues. During the course of discussions, representatives for Palo Verde announced their decision to postpone its evaluated exercise from September 2001 to January 2002. Public stakeholders again raised concerns relative to their confidence in the SPA program. A future Safeguards Steering Committee public meeting was proposed for early December 2001.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Status Update

On September 4, 2001, the staff received the Duke Cogema Stone & Webster's (DCS') response to the staff's June 21, 2001, request for additional information (RAI) on the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility construction authorization application. The application review is on schedule. The staff has planned a public meeting with DCS in Aiken, South Carolina, on September 19-20, 2001, to discuss seismological and geotechnical engineering information. If a second RAI is needed, DCS will be alerted and the RAI will be issued by October 30, 2001.

Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant Safeguards

On August 27-30, 2001, a member of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards traveled to Tokyo, Japan, as part of the U.S. delegation, to discuss the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant safeguards approach under the U.S.-Japan Cooperation Agreement. The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Department of State, the Department of Energy (DOE), and three technical specialists from DOE national laboratories. This was the first meeting toward U.S. approval of the Key Elements safeguards approach for the facility. The safeguards approach will be evaluated against the Safeguards Concepts document approved by the U.S. and Japan in 1987. The facility is scheduled to begin operations in 2005.

Final Rule Entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC Revision"

On August 30, 2001, a direct final rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC Revision" was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 45749). The direct final rule amends Part 72 by revising the NAC-MPC cask system listing in 10 CFR 72.214 to include Amendment No. 1 to Certificate of Compliance No. 1025. Amendment No. 1 will modify the present cask system design to permit a licensee to use an alternate fuel basket design with enlarged fuel tubes in corner locations; increase the operational time limits provided in the Technical Specifications for canister loading, closure, and transfer when canister heat loads are lower than design basis heat loads; revise the canister surface contamination limits in the Technical Specifications to maintain worker dose as low as is reasonably achievable; and revise some drawings to reflect changes identified during cask and component fabrication under a general license. The final rule will be effective November 13, 2001, unless significant adverse comments are received by October 1, 2001.

Presentations to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste on High-Level Waste Sufficiency Review and Performance Assessment Technical Exchange

On August 28, 2001, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff presented the process for developing Yucca Mountain preliminary comments to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW). The preliminary comments evaluate the sufficiency of DOE information needed for inclusion in a potential license application. The preliminary comments are on schedule for submission to DOE by November 1, 2001. DOE must include the NRC's preliminary comments as part of the submittal if a site recommendation is made to the

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

President of the United States. On August 29, 2001, staffs of the DWM and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses also presented the status of the four sub-issues within the Yucca Mountain Total System Performance Assessment and Integration Key Technical Issue to the ACNW. Presentations were made in the areas of scenario analysis, multiple barriers, model abstraction, and the overall performance objective.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Proposed Revision to Regulatory Guide 1.92

NRC staff has issued DG-1108, which is a Proposed Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.92, "Combining Modal Responses and Spatial Components in Seismic Response Analysis." This guide is being revised to improve and update the guidance to licensees and applicants on methods acceptable to the NRC staff for combining modal responses and spatial components in seismic response analysis in the design and evaluation of nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components important to safety.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE C

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Dose Assessment Workshop in Louisiana

Incident Response Operations (IRO) made a presentation at a "Dose Assessment Workshop" sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 29 and 30. The presentation discussed RASCAL 3.0, the new version of IRO's dose assessment code used to assess the potential consequences of radioactive releases during an emergency. The States and utility representatives attending the workshop expressed a great deal of interest in the new code.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-01-029, Henry County Medical Center, MISSING IODINE-125 SEEDS.
2. PNO-II-01-029A, Henry County Medical Center, UPDATE ON MISSING IODINE-125 SEEDS.
3. PNO-II-01-030, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, MISSING PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-IV-01-039, Law Engineering & Environmental Services, STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Acquisition Training

On September 6, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Overview" with 47 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) FY 2001 Information Collection Budget (ICB)

OMB has published its Fiscal Year 2001 Information Collection Budget. Although OMB had a goal for agencies to decrease the burden to the public by 40 percent during the period from FY 1995 through FY 2001, the government-wide burden is expected to increase by 4.6 percent over the period.

NRC added the burden to the Agreement States in FYs 1996 and 1997, thus increasing the agency burden by 18 percent over the FY 1995 baseline. Nevertheless, because of the extensive programmatic and burden reductions achieved and projected through FY 2001 in the FY 2001 Information Collection Budget report, NRC still expected to achieve an overall burden reduction of 8 percent in FY 2001. Because the complete revision to Part 35 will no longer be effective in FY 2001, NRC will only achieve a total 3 percent reduction from the FY 1995 baseline. Nevertheless, a 3 percent reduction balanced against the government-wide achievement of a 4.6 percent increase is significant.

NRC's portion of the overall ICB is approximately .001 percent. Despite the small relatively value of NRC's contribution as compared to the government-wide ICB, NRC has been used as an example agency in Chapter 3 of OMB's Fiscal 2001 Information Collection Budget listing initiatives that reduce the burden on the public. Additionally, NRC had no violations of the Paperwork Reduction Act or lapses in OMB approval in FY 2000.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of August 31, 2001 through September 6, 2001:

Nuclear criticality accidents, all information related to type A or B accidents occurring at the Y-12 plant at Oak Ridge, TN, during 1951 to 1960. (FOIA/PA-2001-0357)

Point Beach power plant, oversight activity reports related to security at the site, 1/1/99 to present. (FOIA/PA-2001-0358)

Materials licensees, all active licensees including ionizing radiation licensees. (FOIA/PA-2001-0359)

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 7, 2001

Arrivals		
FONG, Christopher	REACTOR INSPECTOR (COOP)	RII
GERARDI, Craig	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	RES
HECK, Jared	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
HESSELINK, Rachel	SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
MANGAN, Kevin	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
SIMMS, Dannette	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
THOMPSON, Scott	PROJECT ENGINEER	RII
Retirements		
BARNES, Jessie	PERSONNEL SECURITY SPECIALIST	ADM
MESSIER, Maurice	LICENSE FEE ANALYST	OCFO
QUEEN, Don	TRANSPORTATION SPECIALIST	ADM
Departures		
HIGGINS, Marisa	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
LEIGH, Kimberly	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NRR
LOWERY, Angela	SECRETARY	RES
O'BRIEN, Thomas	HEALTH PHYSICIST	OSTP

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Media Interest

Mother Jones magazine is preparing a report on the effects of plant-aging on nuclear safety.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-108	NRC Revises Regulations for a Possible Licensing Decision on a Potential Radioactive Waste Repository in Nevada
Regions:	
II-01-037	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting at Turkey Point To Discuss Inspection of Plant's License Renewal Program
II-01-038	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Mcguire Nuclear Station License Renewal

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0127	7/10/01	Draft Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 63, "Disposal of High-level Radioactive Wastes in a Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain Nevada
SRM on 01-0127	9/7/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0127	9/7/01	(same)
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-01-0157	8/17/01	License Renewal Rulemaking
SRM on 01-0157	9/5/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0155	8/15/01	NRC Research Plan for Digital Instrumentation and Control
2. SECY-01-0156	8/17/01	2001 Annual Update - Status of Decommissioning Program
3. SECY-01-0166	8/28/01	SECY-01-0166 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 24, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010814	9/4/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on NRC International Activities
2. M010815A	9/5/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on EEO Program (SECY-01-0126)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Paul L. Leventhal, NCI, dated August 15, 2001, concerns request for a public meeting to discuss projected schedules and high-enriched uranium inventory requirements in MDS Nordion's second annual report.
2. Letter to Senator Joseph I. Lieberman dated August 15, 2001, concerns NRC's proposed revisions of regulations which cover, in part, diagnostic nuclear medicine.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

3. Letter to Congressman Stephen Horn dated August 15, 2001, concerns NRC's debt collection practices.
4. Letter to Mr. Yasushi Matsuda, Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation, dated August 15, 2001, concerns retirement from President of NUPEC and new position as Advisor of NUPEC.
5. Letter to Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., OMB, dated August 15, 2001, concerns President's Memorandum on Implementing Government Reform.
6. Letter to Congressman Dan Burton dated August 10, 2001, submits response to the recommendation made by the GAO in its report entitled, "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed (GAO-01-314)."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy; Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal; Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Senior Management Changes at the Indian Point Station

On September 4, 2001, Lee Olivier, Senior Vice President and Site Nuclear Executive at the Indian Point Station, announced his resignation from Entergy Nuclear Northeast to accept the position of President and Chief Operating Officer at Connecticut Light & Power (Northeast Utilities), in Berlin, CT.

Mr. Olivier had reported to Mr. M. Kansler, Chief Operating Officer at Entergy Nuclear Northeast in White Plains, NY. As a result of Mr. Olivier's resignation and the acquisition of Indian Point 2 by Entergy, Mr. Kansler has reorganized the senior management structure for the Indian Point site. Mr. Kansler will assume all responsibilities for the Senior Vice President position until a replacement for Mr. Olivier is named. Mr. F. Dacimo will assume the new position of Vice President, Operations-IP2. Robert Barrett will continue in his current position as Vice President, Operations-IP3.

Mr. L. Temple will assume the new position of General Manager of Plant Operations at Indian Point 2, and Mr. J. DeRoy will continue in his current position as General Manager of Plant Operations at Indian Point 3.

Vermont Yankee EP Exercise

On September 5, 2001, NRC participated in the Vermont Yankee emergency planning exercise. In addition to personnel at headquarters and the Region I office, approximately two dozen NRC personnel participated at the plant, emergency operations facility, and state facilities. The Headquarters team was led by Commissioner McGaffigan.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Region I Benchmarking Team Meeting

On September 4-5, 2001, members from the Region I Benchmarking team were in the Regional office to meet with Division of Reactor Projects and Division of Reactor Safety managers to discuss reactor oversight process implementation and general business practices.

Fire Protection Workshop and Training

On September 5-7, 2001, the Division of Reactor Safety hosted a workshop and training session for fire protection inspectors from Regions I, II, III and IV. The workshop was conducted by NRR fire protection personnel.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

Regional Administrator Presents Operator Certificates for the Clinton Plant

On September 7, 2001, the Regional Administrator presented certificates to three recently licensed reactor operators and five senior reactor operators at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant in Illinois. The operators were issued their licenses on August 8, 2001. The certificates were presented during a dinner in Bloomington, Illinois.

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 7, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 29

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	09/13/01 SD-366	TBA	Markup	S. 597, National Energy Policy	Senators Bingaman/Murkowski Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	09/14/01 SD-406	9:30	Nils J. Diaz	Confirmation Hearing	Senators Jeffords/Smith Environment and Public Works

September 7, 2001

ENCLOSURE R