

INFORMATION REPORT

October 25, 2001

SECY-01-0193

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0193 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 19, 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.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Morris, OEDO

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
SMorris:paa	JWCraig
10/25/01	10/26/01

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 2001

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

Contact: S. Morris, OEDO by E-mail: sam1@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	*	IP	18
IRO	*	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	22
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

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

Demonstration Project Using Improved Renewal Guidance Document

On October 11, 2001, the staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) license renewal task force in a public meeting to discuss lessons learned from industry's license renewal demonstration project. The project consists of sample license renewal application sections that implemented the improved license renewal guidance documents, and referenced the Generic Aging Lessons learned (GALL) report. The improved guidance documents consist of: the GALL report, the Standard Review Plan for License Renewal (SRP-LR), and Regulatory Guide 1.188 for License Renewal (endorses NEI document 95-10, Rev. 3). The demonstration employed two different formats submitted as Plant X and Plant Y. Plant X demonstrates the use of GALL in an application that follows the format delineated in the SRP-LR, and Plant Y demonstrates the use of GALL in an application that follows the current application format. The staff and the NEI task force exchanged lessons learned and the observations based on the completion of the demonstration project. During the meeting, the staff and NEI task force representatives discussed plans to address the lessons learned to further enhance the usefulness of license renewal guidance documents.

Public Meeting with NEI and Stakeholders

On October 10, 2001, NRR staff held a public meeting with NEI and public stakeholders to discuss possible revisions to the Physical Protection Significance Determination Process (PPSDP). The agency is currently using an interim PPSDP. This working level meeting was successful in that it clearly defined NRC and stakeholder interests and established plans for future work in this area.

Closed Meeting on Safeguards Advisories

On October 17, 2001, the NRC conducted a closed meeting with representatives from the power and non-power reactor sites, decommissioned sites, fuel cycle facilities, and large material licenses. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NRC's expectations regarding recent safeguards advisories that have been issued in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Comanche Peak

On October 12, 2001, the NRC staff issued a power uprate for Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2, that increases the maximum thermal output of both units to 3458 MWt. The power uprate, which represents a 1.4% increase for CPSES Unit 1 and a 0.4% increase for CPSES Unit 2, is the result of more accurate feedwater flow monitoring capability. The power uprate for CPSES Unit 2 is expected to be implemented almost immediately while the power uprate for CPSES Unit 1 will occur following a main turbine generator upgrade which is scheduled for the spring 2002 refueling outage.

Indian Point Units 1 and 2

In an Order dated October 4, 2001, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel terminated the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 1 and 2 license transfer proceeding and cancelled the October 29, 2001, hearing. This decision was based on: (1) the notification that the Town of Cortlandt and Hendrick Hudson School District were withdrawing their case following a settlement with Entergy regarding taxes and (2) a letter from the Citizens Awareness Network declining to participate in a hearing. On September 18, 2001, the presiding Officer notified the parties that, unless a notification of good cause not to terminate the proceeding was received by October 3, a termination order would be issued. No documents were filed by either party.

Shearon Harris Power Station, Unit No. 1

On October 12, 2001, the NRC issued license amendments for Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP), that increases the maximum allowable thermal power from 2775 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 2900 MWt, an increase of approximately 4.5 percent. In addition, Carolina Power & Light Company is replacing the current Model D4 steam generators with Model 75 steam generators at HNP. The unit's electrical output is expected to increase by approximately 51 MW by these modifications and the licensee plans to implement the power uprates in the fall of 2001.

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

Meeting with Tennessee Valley Authority on Dry Spent Fuel Storage Plans

On October 11, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to discuss plans for dry spent fuel storage at the Sequoyah plant. TVA plans to use the general license provisions of 10 CFR Part 72 and anticipates beginning to load spent fuel in the Fall of 2004 using the Holtec HI-STORM 100S storage system. Holtec is expected to submit a HI-STORM amendment application to the NRC by the spring of 2002, requesting approval for increased heat loads for the MPC-32 fuel canister.

Certificate of Compliance No. 9253 Amended to Authorize Shipment of Irradiated Fuel Parts

On October 12, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued an amendment to Certificate of Compliance No. 9253 for the Model No. TN-FSV transport package. The amendment authorizes shipment of various irradiated fuel parts and intact Peach Bottom Unit 1 fuel elements within a secondary containment vessel shipped in the TN-FSV cask.

Final Rule: Interim Storage for Greater than Class C Waste

On October 11, 2001, a Final Rule, "Interim Storage for Greater than Class C Waste (GTCC)," which amends regulations in 10 CFR Parts 30, 70, 72, and 150, was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 51823). The rule allows for licensing the interim storage of GTCC waste, in a manner that is consistent with current licensing for the interim storage of spent fuel at an independent spent fuel storage installation. It also maintains Federal jurisdiction for storage of reactor-related GTCC waste. The final rule only applies to the interim storage of GTCC waste generated or used by commercial nuclear power plants. These amendments also simplify and clarify the licensing process. The final rule grants, in part, and denies, in part, a petition for rulemaking submitted by Portland General Electric Company (PRM-72-2).

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Entombment Options for Power Reactors

On October 16, 2001, an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR), "Entombment Options for Power Reactors," was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 52551). The ANPR indicates that the NRC is considering an amendment to its regulations that would clarify the use of entombment for power reactors. The ANPR invites early input from affected parties and the public on the issues surrounding the feasibility of entombment. The public comment period closes on December 31, 2001. Information on entombment, regarding both a recent Pacific Northwest National Laboratory study on the viability of entombment as a decommissioning alternative, and a summary of a workshop on entombment options, was placed on NRC's website at www.nrc.gov/NMSS/IMNS/entombment.html.

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

On October 16, 2001, a direct final rule entitled, "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS Revision," was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 52486). The direct final rule amends 10 CFR Part 72 by revising the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing in 10 CFR 72.214 to include Amendment No. 2 to Certificate of Compliance No. 1015. Amendment No. 2 will add miscellaneous spent fuel-related components to the approved contents list for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System and change the required actions in response to a failure of the cask heat removal system. The Amendment will include several other minor administrative changes, as well as specific changes to the Technical Specifications to permit the storage of these components and the other requested changes. The final rule becomes effective on December 31, 2001, unless significant adverse comments are received by November 15, 2001.

Completion of the Terminated License Review Project

On October 12, 2001, a Federal Register notice was issued (Vol. 6, No. 198, p. 52158) announcing completion of the Terminated License Review Project. In 1989, the General Accounting Office issued a report that raised concerns about the NRC's criteria and procedures used for decommissioning formerly licensed sites. As a result, in 1990 NRC decided to undertake a review of terminated materials licenses to assure that previously licensed facilities were properly decontaminated and posed no threat to public health and safety. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) was contracted to review all materials licenses terminated by NRC or its predecessor agencies to identify sites or sources with the potential for substantive residual contamination. NRC Regional offices either performed a follow-up review or transferred responsibility for the review to the appropriate Agreement State. As a result of the Regional reviews, 40 sites were found to have residual contamination in excess of NRC's criteria for unrestricted release. Of these sites, 18 have been closed, 11 have been transferred to Agreement States or the Department of Air Force, 8 are in the process of decommissioning, and 3 are under further NRC Review. ORNL has developed a web-based database for NRC to document the evaluation and closure process for all terminated license files. This database also will be used to track the 300-400 licenses terminated each year by NRC. The database should be completed by September 2002.

Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, Missouri

On October 9, 2001, the NRC's Division of Waste Management removed the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP) from the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) (66 FR 51479). This accomplishment was the result of a cooperative agreement negotiated among the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Army (the licensee). Under the terms of this agreement, NRC provided oversight of the licensee's remediation of Building 3A, Building 12A, and the (600-yard) bullet catcher. The licensee completed remediation of these areas. EPA will monitor remediation of the remaining contaminated portions of the site, the firing range impact areas, and Area 10 (the sandpile). The remediation of these portions of the site will be performed under the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. The staff is continuing its effort to remove additional sites from the SDMP.

Presentation at the Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum

On October 10, 2001, Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff gave a presentation on decommissioning issues at a Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum meeting in Johnson City, Tennessee. The presentation covered the results of the Decommissioning Pilot Program, the status of activities involving the release of solid materials, and the decommissioning guidance consolidation project. Staff members from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards also attended the meeting, which included representatives from fuel cycle facilities, industry organizations, law firms, and technical consultants.

October 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

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

Operator License Eligibility and Use of Simulation Facilities in Operator Licensing (Part 55)

A final rule was published in the Federal Register on October 17, 2001 (66 FR 52657) that allows applicants for operator and senior operator licenses to fulfill a portion of the experience prerequisites for license eligibility by manipulating a plant-referenced simulator as an alternative to use of an actual nuclear power plant. The final rule takes advantage of improvements in simulator technology and reduces unnecessary regulatory burden on licensees. The final rule becomes effective November 16, 2001.

Availability of Official Records (Part 9)

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations pertaining to the availability of official records was published in the Federal Register on October 17, 2001 (66 FR 52721). The proposed rule would require those that submit confidential information to mark the information as specified to reduce the possibility of inadvertent release, would codify NRC's current practices delineating the circumstances under which the NRC will not return confidential documents after they have been submitted, and would clarify that NRC will make copies of copyrighted material sufficient to perform its mission. The comment period on this action closes December 31, 2001.

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

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

I.M.P.A.C. cardholders with e-mail addresses. (FOIA/PA-2002-0013)

Vacancy announcement no. 0148022, Team Leader, GG-15, NMSS/FCSS/SPB.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0014)

Palo Verde power plant, security information. (FOIA/PA-2002-0015)

Representative Robert Smith, New Hampshire 01/1985 thru 12/1990, and Senator 01/1991 to
present, correspondence between NRC and named individual or his office.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0016)

Palo Verde power plant, security information. (FOIA/PA-2002-0017)

OIG report on NRC's handling of a Diablo Canyon discrimination issue. (FOIA/PA-2002-0018)

Letter to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut, from NRC Chairman regarding security at
Connecticut power plants. (FOIA/PA-2002-0019)

Materials licensees within NRC agreement states. (FOIA/PA-2002-0020)

Environmental site assessment, Scheurer Hospital, 170 North Caseville Rd., Pigeon, MI.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0021)

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, all supplements to a Jan. 1981 draft environmental
impact statement and documents regarding possible adverse health effects during an accident
or malfunction at the plant. (FOIA/PA-2002-0022)

Three Mile Island, security information. (FOIA/PA-2002-0023)

Materials Licensing Tracking System, active licensees. (FOIA/PA-2002-0024)

NRC compliance/implementation of U.S. Congress Act H.R. 2498 as it relates to placement of
automated external defibrillators in Federal buildings. (FOIA/PA-2002-0025)

Radiation exposure records related to named individual since previously submitted FOIA
requests. (FOIA/PA-2002-0026)

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

Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff Held

On October 16, 2001, NRC held its 2001 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Kickoff in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The kickoff included remarks by the Chairman; the EDO; and others. The keynote speaker was Jim Coyle, representing the National Association for Children of Alcoholics. In addition, those offices that made significant contributions to last year's campaign were recognized with their office representatives receiving CFC award plaques. The program closed with a rendition of "America the Beautiful" performed by the White Flint Country Day Kindergarten.

Combined Federal Campaign Progress Meeting Attended

On October 18, 2001, an HR staff member attended a 2001 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Progress Meeting for agency campaign managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The meeting included remarks by David O. Cooke, Chair of the CFC Local Federal Coordinating Committee; Clarence Hardy, Director, CFC of the National Capital Area; and the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Chair of the 2001 CFC. This year's CFC goal for the National Capital Area is \$48,000,000.

Arrivals		
FLEMING, Barbara	SECRETARY	NMSS
LEMONCELLI, Mauri*	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
NEFF, Eileen	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OI/RI
NIEH, Jr., Ho**	SENIOR REGIONAL COORDINATOR	OEDO
MILLER, Michael	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
MULLINS, Alicia	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	NRR
RENNER, Dianna	SECRETARY (OA)	RI
Departures		
BARNES, Ian	CONSULTANT	NRR
FLYNN, Daniel	CONSULTANT	NMSS
RANDOLPH, Francine	SECRETARY (OA)	RES

*Returning temp - will not go through orientation (begin date 10/25/01)

**Transferring from RI

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

Media Interest

There was media interest in the security alert at Three Mile Island, as well as continuing interest in the adequacy of security measures being taken to protect the nation's nuclear plants.

NRC's decision to take its web site off-line because of security concerns has received widespread news coverage and prompted criticism from some groups that important information is being withheld from the public.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-122	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant
01-123	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
01-124	Threat to Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant Deemed Non-credible; NRC Monitoring Continues and Web Site Restored
Regions:	
II-01-042	NRC Staff Proposes \$88,000 Civil Penalty against TVA Based upon Department of Labor Finding of Discrimination
II-01-043	NRC to Hold Regulatory Performance Meeting with Duke at Oconee Nuclear Power Plant on October 19
II-01-044	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Catawba Nuclear Station License Renewal

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

Meeting with Ukrainian Nuclear Utility

On October 15, 2001, OIP staff met with officials from the Ukrainian nuclear utility, Energoatom, and nuclear power plant staff. Officials from United States Agency for International Development, the Treasury Department, the State Department, and the Nuclear Energy Institute, were also in attendance. The meeting was arranged by U.S. Energy Association (USEA) under contract to USAID.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize U.S. officials with the problems and prospects for economic pricing of electricity produced by nuclear power plants and to inform of the U.S. experience. The major topics discussed were contractual relationships among producers, distributors and consumers; the impact of privatization; and the difficult move in Ukraine toward a cash-based system.

In addition to the meeting at USEA, the delegation planned to visit the headquarters of Exelon Corporation, the American Electric Power Institute, and the Ohio Public Utilities Commission.

October 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE N

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

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-01-0029	10/16/01	To Inform the Commission on Revisions to Final Part 63 Rulemaking Package Due to the Terrorist Activities of September 11
SRM on 01-0029	10/19/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0029	10/19/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0183	10/3/01	Export of High-Enriched Uranium to the Netherlands - Executive Branch Status Report
2. SECY-01-0189	10/18/01	SECY-01-0189 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 12, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010928B	10/16/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Decommissioning Activities and Status (SECY-01-0156)

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 19, 2001

Special Inspection Team at Millstone Unit 1

A Region I Special Inspection Team, which included staff from NRR and NMSS, completed a two week inspection at Millstone 1 to review the licensee's investigation into two unaccounted for spent fuel rods. Preliminary results indicate that the licensee's investigation was thorough and complete, though some information was still being developed. The licensee had not yet completed their root cause determination and will provide this analysis to the NRC when complete. NRC will hold an inspection exit meeting open to public observation in Waterford, CT once the team report is finalized.

Inspection at National Institute of Health (NIH)

Three Region I inspectors from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety completed a routine four day inspection at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD, on October 18, 2001. The inspectors concluded that NIH had taken sufficient steps to address previous findings associated with the completion of laboratory surveys and minors working in the laboratory. Security enhancements were noted at the entrance to the NIH complex and at each building. No violations were noted.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 19, 2001

Violation Issued to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

On October 15, 2001, Region II issued a Severity Level II violation and proposed a civil penalty of \$88,000 to TVA for a violation of 10 CFR 50.7. The action was based on Department of Labor findings that a TVA employee was discriminated against for engaging in protected activity. Payment of the civil penalty was deferred pending TVA's appeal to U. S. Circuit Court.

Regional Administrator Visits Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

On October 16, 2001, the Regional Administrator toured TVA's Sequoyah nuclear plant, and met with the Resident Inspectors and licensee management.

Division of Reactor Projects and Division of Reactor Safety (DRP/DRS) Counterpart Meeting

On October 17-18, 2001, DRP/DRS staff participated in a counterpart meeting in the Region II office.

Regulatory Performance Meeting with Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee

On October 19, 2001, the DRP staff conducted a Regulatory Performance Meeting at Oconee to discuss the NRC staff's actions in response to Oconee Unit 1 entering the Degraded Cornerstone column of the Reactor Oversight Program action matrix.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 19, 2001

Confirmatory Action Letter Issued to Dairyland Power Cooperative

On October 15, 2001, Region III issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to Dairyland Power Cooperative regarding physical security measures taken or to be taken at its LaCrosse Boiling Water Reactor facility. The LaCrosse facility was shut down in 1987, a date which preceded the issuance of certain NRC requirements or guidance concerning security measures for reactors. The licensee has cooperated with all NRC requests.

Regional Administrator Attends NEI/NNOG Conference

On October 17-19, 2001, the Regional Administrator attended and gave a presentation at the Fall 2001 Nuclear Energy Institute/Nuclear Nonoperating Owners' Group conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

October 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 19, 2001

Regional Administrator Visits San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

On October 17, 2001, the Regional Administrator, accompanied by Commissioner Robert Laurie of the California Energy Commission, toured San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

Public Meeting with Envirocare of Utah, Inc.

On October 18, 2001, an open meeting was held with Envirocare of Utah, Inc.'s Senior Vice President and members of his staff in the Region IV office. NRC program office and State of Utah personnel participated as well. Envirocare requested the meeting to discuss recent inspection findings related to the licensee's implementation of their performance-based license.

October 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending October 19, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 35

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	TBA 2123 RHOB	TBA	Markup	Price-Anderson Act	Reps. Tauzin/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Combs	TBA 2128 RHOB	TBA	OGC, Treasury, GAO, Private Sector	Price-Anderson Act/Terrorism Insurance	Reps. Baker/Kanjorski Capital Mkts, Insurance & Gov't Sponsored Enterprises Financial Services
Combs	TBA SD-416	TBA	Chairman Meserve, DOE, other groups	Price-Anderson Act	Senators Reid/Inhofe Transp, Infrastr & Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

October 19, 2001

ENCLOSURE R