

March 30, 2000

SECY-00-0076

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/RA/
Subject: SECY-00-0076 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 24, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA/

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Satorius, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2000

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

Contact: M. Satorius, OEDO by E-mail: mas@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Completion of ABB-CE Crossflow Review

On March 20, 2000, the staff issued the safety evaluation for CENPD-397-P, Revision-01-P, "Improved Flow Measurement Accuracy Using Crossflow Ultrasonic Flow Measurement Technology." Approval of this report for referencing in license applications will allow a licensee to use the increased accuracy of the Crossflow flow meter to support a reduction in the power level margin used in the plant emergency core cooling system (ECCS) evaluation. The licensee may then seek a license amendment to operate the power plant at higher power levels. This power level margin is 2 percent of the licensed reactor power and is required by the Code of Federal Regulations, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix K, "ECCS Evaluation Model," to account for power measurement uncertainty.

The staff, when issuing a safety evaluation on a topical report that contains proprietary information, delays placing the safety evaluation in the public document room for a period of ten (10) working days to provide the owner of the proprietary information with the opportunity to comment on the proprietary aspects only. If the owner believes that any information in the enclosure is proprietary, they are requested to identify such information line by line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.790.

By letter dated March 22, 2000, ABB-CE stated that the safety evaluation does not contain proprietary information. The Safety evaluation will be released to the public today March 23, 2000.

NRC Staff Participation in NEI Maintenance Rule Workshop

On March 13-14, 2000, management and staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation participated in a Nuclear Energy Institute public workshop on industry implementation of the revised maintenance rule, 10 CFR 50.65. The workshop focused on changes to the draft regulatory guidance resulting mainly from public comments. Additionally, discussions were held on the resolution of potentially overlapping requirements in 10 CFR 50.59 and 10 CFR 50.65(a)(4), shutdown risk management issues, NRC maintenance effectiveness inspection activities in the new NRC inspection and oversight program, and the length of the guidance implementation period.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Attendance at the Low-Level Waste Forum

On March 16, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management attended a meeting of the Low-Level Waste Forum in Annapolis, Maryland. Updates of activities associated with two existing disposal sites and a proposed site were obtained as follows:

An effort for South Carolina to join the Northeast Compact (currently New Jersey and Connecticut) and to be re-named the Atlantic Compact continues to advance. The Governor favors the proposal and barring any major hurdles in the South Carolina legislature, necessary actions could be completed by July 2000.

Utah has received an application from Envirocare of Utah for Class B and C waste. The state will review the Siting Report first to decide whether it is acceptable, before beginning a review of the application itself. The public comment period on the Siting Report began March 16, 2000; hearings are scheduled for March 28, 2000, in Toole and April 12, 2000, in Salt Lake City. The Utah Legislature reportedly wants to be in a position to act on the matter by the end of its next session in March 2001.

The Rocky Mountain Compact (Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico) expects to receive an application from Waste Control Specialists (WCS) for a disposal site in New Mexico (across the Texas border from WCS's waste storage site). The application is expected to include Waste Classes A, B, and C. Apparently, New Mexico is interested in the prospect of an application being submitted. Expectation is that the facility, to be economically viable, would have to accept a significant quantity of waste from outside the Rocky Mountain Compact due to the relatively small volume generated from within the Compact.

Transnuclear TN-32 Spent Fuel Dry Cask System Approval

On March 20, 2000, a final rule was published in the Federal Register (65 FR 14790) that added the Transnuclear TN-32 dry cask system to the list of approved dry cask storage systems contained in 10 CFR 72.214. The final rule has an effective date of April 19, 2000, and would allow the TN-32 dry cask system to be used after that date to store spent fuel under the Part 72 general license provisions in 10 CFR 72.212. The TN-32 dry cask system is only intended for the storage of spent fuel.

Public Meeting with Virginia Electric and Power Company at Surry Reactor Site

On March 21, 2000, the Director and staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office visited the Surry reactor site to meet with Virginia Electric and Power Company management. The public meeting was conducted to discuss the licensee's plans to submit an application in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2001 for renewal of its site specific independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) license, that will expire in 2006. The licensee presented a general discussion of its approach to renewing its license and emphasized that its submittal will rely on a number of issues that will be addressed in its 10 CFR Part 50 license renewal, which will also

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ENCLOSURE B

be submitted in 2001. NRC and the licensee agreed to have their respective license renewal teams keep each other informed of status and development activities supporting the ISFSI. The site visit included a tour of the ISFSI.

Meeting with Shieldalloy

On March 21, 2000, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation to discuss the February 11, 2000, letter in which NRC denied the approval of the Shieldalloy Decommissioning Funding Plan (submitted October 20, 1999). NRC staff discussed the denial letter and explained the type of detail expected in Shieldalloy's planned submittal. Shieldalloy indicated that it has the information necessary to provide a complete submittal within the next couple of months. The staff and Shieldalloy agreed to meet again before Shieldalloy's next submittal to discuss any outstanding issues and questions.

Meeting with Siemens Power Corporation

On March 21, 2000, representatives from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) met with the Siemens Power Corporation (SPC) to discuss various programmatic and licensing issues. The highlights were: (1) SPC's pending application for NRC consent to the planned merger with Framatome/Cogema; (2) ongoing amendment reviews; (3) SPC's planned Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) effort; (4) a new silicon removal process; and (5) a new mixed oxide waste characterization project. OGC discussed the requirements for change-of-control and the staff provided SPC with Information Notice 89-25 and NUREG 1556, Vol. 15 for guidance. The staff discussed the status of ongoing amendment reviews and informed SPC that NRC staff members may visit SPC to discuss their ISA effort in more detail. The staff informed SPC that the details of the silicon removal process and the waste characterization project need to be submitted as requests for amendment to the license.

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Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-98-049A, Bechtel Engineering, STOLEN TROXLER MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE - UPDATE
2. PNO-II-00-015, University of Kentucky, SKIN OVEREXPOSURE

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

OWFN Elevator Upgrades

The Office of Administration recently completed an upgrade of the OWFN elevators to bring them into compliance with current fire and safety standards. The \$250K project was funded by GSA and involved the installation of push buttons with raised braille indicators, repositioning the hall call buttons, new heat and smoke detectors in the shafts, new sprinkler heads in the shafts, and door restrictors to prevent the doors from being opened by a passenger. The majority of the work occurred after business hours to minimize disruption to staff.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
March 17, 2000 through March 23, 2000:

Allegation file RII-1999-A-0080. (FOIA/PA 2000-0171)

OI investigation file 1-98-005. (FOIA/PA 2000-0172)

Allegations by whistleblowers at the Perry and Davis Bessie sites. (FOIA/PA 2000-0173)

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Nuclear Pharmacy, OI investigatory file.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0174)

OGC guidance memo for determining whether discrimination occurred, as referenced in
Attachment 1 to "Millstone Independent Review Team Report Concerning Allegations of
Discrimination in NRC Office of Investigations Case Nos. 1-96-002, 1-96-007, 1-97-007, and
Associated Lessons Learned," March 12, 1999. (FOIA/PA 2000-0175)

Olympus Building Services, contracts written after August 1999. (FOIA/PA 2000-0176)

Organizational charts and telephone book. (FOIA/PA 2000-0177)

Atlas tailings pile, Moab, UT, cost estimates to move to the Plateau location.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0178)

OIG report - "Misleading NRC Response to a Congressional Request for Information
Concerning Circumstances Surrounding the Release of Draft SECY-99-143."
(FOIA/PA 2000-0179)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Arrivals		
FLEISCHMANN, Trevor	OFFICE SERVICE CLERK	RIV
FRAGOYANNIS, Nancy	PHYSICAL PROTECTION SPEC.	NMSS/FCSS
HIRSCHMAN, Alfred	SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST	OCFO
JOHANNEMAN, Edward	PHYSICAL PROTECTION SPEC.	NMSS/FCSS
Departures		
ADJODHA, Michael	CHEMICAL ENGINEER	NMSS/FCSS
ALSTON, Debora	SECRETARY	DRP
GORN, Janet M.	INTNL RELATIONS OFFICER	OIP
MARTZ, Stephanie R.	ATTORNEY	OGC
SMITH, Gina I.	SR. AUDITOR	OIG
TOCKMAN, Kyoko	CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR
WILLIAMS, Veronica	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR

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Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Media Interest

There was high media interest in Region I and headquarters in the Calvert Cliffs license renewal.

Eight reporters attended a press conference held by Jim Dyer, Region III Administrator, at D.C. Cook.

There was press interest in the Waterford enforcement conference.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-49	NRC and Department of Labor Submit Proposal to Congress to Provide Additional Relief for Whistleblowers
00-50	Indian Point 2 Event Information Available on NRC External Web Site
00-51	NRC Renews Licenses for Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant for an Additional 20 Years
Regions:	
I-00-23	NRC Team to Present Findings From Indian Point 2 Review

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

EDO visit to Gostomnadzor (GAN)

The Executive Director for Operations (EDO) and a member of his staff visited Moscow on March 20 and 21. The visit was in response to an invitation by Alexander Gutsalov, Deputy Chairman of the Russian regulatory agency, Gosatomnadzor (GAN). Topics discussed included the current status of NRC's assistance program and reactor licensing activities in Russia. The EDO observed and discussed the results of assistance provided to date, including the analytical simulator for reactors and the emergency response center. Meetings were also held with the Deputy Minister of Minatom, Bulat Nigmatullin and the Director of the Institute of Nuclear Safety, Leonid Bolshov.

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Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 24, 2000

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-00-0018	3/6/2000	Comments on GSA proposed FACA Regulations
SRM on COMSECY-00-0018	3/22/2000	(same)
Chmn Meserve vote on COMSECY-00-0018	3/14/2000	(same)
Cmr Dicus vote on COMSECY-00-0018	3/20/2000	(same)
Cmr Diaz vote on COMSECY-00-0018	3/14/2000	(same)
Cmr McGaffigan vote on COMSECY-00-0018	3/14/2000	(same)
Cmr Merrifield vote on COMSECY-00-0018	3/8/2000	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-00-0010	3/23/00	Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 - Renewal of Full-Power Operating License
Commission Voting Record on -0010	3/23/00	(same)
3. SECY-00-0061	3/9/2000	Proposed Revision to the Enforcement Policy to Address the Revised Reactor Oversight Process
4. SECY-00-0063	3/9/2000	Staff Re-Evaluation of Power Reactor Physical Protection Regulations and Position on a Definition of Radiological Sabotage

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Information Paper		
1. SECY-00-0059	3/6/00	Annual Status Report on the Administration of NRC's Requalification Program and the Initial Operator Licensing Examinations (WITS 8800098)
2. SECY-00-0067	3/17/00	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 10, 2000

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Pete V. Domenici, dated March 16, 2000, concerns the relocation of the NRC's Technical Training Center
2. Letter to Senators Bill Frist and Fred Thompson and Representatives Zach Wamp and Ron Packard, dated March 16, 2000, concerns the relocation of the NRC's Technical Training Center
3. Letter to Senator Max Baucus, dated March 15, 2000, concerns the NRC's regulatory actions governing the release of radioactively contaminated materials for use in consumer products
4. Letter to Congress, dated March 14, 2000, provides a proposed bill entitled the "Energy Employee Protection Amendments of 2000"
5. Letter to Representative Sue W. Kelly, dated March 14, 2000, concerns the timeliness of offsite notifications following the Indian Point 2 event
6. Letter to Representative Sue W. Kelly, dated March 13, 2000, concerns the steam generator tube leak at Indian Point 2
7. Letter to Sandra R. Galef, New York State Assembly, dated March 13, 2000, concerns the steam generator tube leak at Indian Point 2
8. Letter to Representative Nita M. Lowey, dated March 13, 2000, concerns the steam generator tube leak at Indian Point 2
9. Letter to Idaho State Senator Clinton Stennett, dated March 13, 2000, concerns the disposal of radioactive materials from the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program at the EnviroSAFE Services of Idaho, Inc., hazardous waste disposal facility
10. Letter to Senator Robert F. Bennett responds to questions concerning the NRC's regulatory authority over certain waste generated prior to 1978 and administered under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

NRC/Stakeholder Workshop on the Revised Reactor Oversight Program

NRR and Region I cohosted a three-day workshop in Philadelphia on March 21-23, 2000, with industry representatives and interested stakeholders, to introduce the Revised Reactor Oversight Program (RROP). Attendance averaged 130 each day, including NRR and Region I managers, NRC resident inspectors, representatives of a majority of the utilities in Region I (as well as several utilities outside of Region I), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the State of New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and other interested parties. The workshop provided an overview of the structure of the new inspection and assessment process, as well as changes to the enforcement policy. Breakout sessions were also provided to allow for more focused, in-depth discussions of selected elements of the RROP.

Quarterly Briefing for Haddam Neck Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee

On March 21, 2000, a staff member from the Region I Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch (DLB), briefed the Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) regarding NRC activities at the Haddam Neck Plant (HNP). In addition to several licensee representatives, ten CDAC members, the onsite inspector from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and two members of the public attended the meeting.

NRC discussion topics included the following: (1) a summary of inspection findings from the most recent NRC Inspection Report; (2) highlights from the March 16, 2000 visit to the HNP by the Regional Administrator and the Chief, DLB; and (3) program areas being reviewed during the current inspection period. The licensee also presented a decommissioning status report and provided an overview to assist CDAC members in their review of the License Termination Plan. CDAC members are expected to receive the plan in early April, approximately one month before the licensee submits it to NRC.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

New Engineering Managers and Maintenance Seminar

On March 23, 2000, the Regional Administrator conducted a presentation at the New Engineering/Maintenance manager's seminar held at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations in Marietta, Georgia. Topics discussed included the proposed revisions to the revised reactor oversight process, reactor licensee renewal, and anticipated challenges for NRC and the new managers.

Operator Licensing, Human Performance and Plant Support Branch Audit

On March 20-24, 2000, two selected NRC employees one from NRR, Operator Licensing, Human Performance and Plant Support Branch and the other from Region IV, Operator Licensing, conducted the annual audit of the Operator Licensing function in Region II. Six functional areas were reviewed during the audit.

Probabilistic Risk Assessment Technology and Regulatory Perspectives (P-111) Course

On March 20-31, 2000, the Probabilistic Risk Assessment Technology and Regulatory Perspectives (P-111) Course was held in the Region II office.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company-Farley

On March 21, 2000, the Regional Administrator and selected staff observed the Steam Generator Replacement Outage at the Farley Nuclear Plant in Dothan, Alabama.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

D.C. Cook 0350 Meeting and News Conference

On March 23, 2000, the Regional Administrator and regional and Headquarters staff members attended a Manual Chapter 0350 meeting at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant near Bridgman, Michigan. Following the meeting with the utility, the Regional Administrator held a news conference in which eight members of the media attended including two local television stations, an Associated Press wire service reporter, and various members of trade and local newspapers. The utility, American Electric Power, stated they still were targeting a restart date at the end of April for the plant's Unit 2.

D.C. Cook MOV Meeting

Headquarters and Region III staff members met with American Electric Power representatives on March 24, 2000, in the Region III office to discuss the status of the utility's motor operated valve (MOV) program at D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, and how their undervoltage calculations and setpoints affect the MOVs.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

Waterford 3 Predecisional Enforcement Conference

A predecisional enforcement conference, which was open to public observation, was held with license officials of the Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station on March 20, 2000, to discuss apparent violations associated with the reactor draindown event that occurred on November 27, 1999. The licensee presentation focused on the sequence of events, the cause of the event, short- and long-term corrective actions, and the safety significance of the event.

Meeting with Arizona Public Service Company

On March 21, 2000, a management meeting was held with licensee officials of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. The purpose of the meeting, which was open to public observation, was to discuss corrosion of underground piping systems, with specific emphasis on the fire protection system.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 9

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	03/29/00 SD-342	10:00	David Walker, Comptroller General	Structuring the Government to Meet Challenges of the Millennium	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Combs	03/31/00 SD-366	9:30	DOE	Paducah Nuclear Plant Cleanup	Senators Nickles/Graham Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	03/31/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	GAO	Accuracy of Federal Financial Audits	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	04/5/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Effectiveness of GPRA	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Combs	04/05/00 TBA	TBA	TBA	Uranium Mill Tailings Control Act Amendments, H.R. 2641	Reps. Bliley/Dingell Commerce
Gerke	04/11 & 04/13 SD-366	10:00 9:30	TBA	Electricity Deregulation	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	04/12/00 TBA	TBA	Dr. Paperiello, Corps of Engineers, DOE	FUSRAP	Senators Smith/Baucus Environment and Public Works

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Combs	04/13/00 TBA	TBA	Dr. Paperiello, USEC, Treasury	Financial Aspects of USEC	Reps. Upton/Klink Oversight & Investigations Commerce
Gerke	05/03/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Financial Management Act	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform

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