# INFORMATION REPORT

July 5, 2001 SECY-01-0119

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-01-0119 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 29, 2001

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*No input this week.

**/RA/**

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Haag, OEDO

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John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Haag, OEDO

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**WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 29, 2001**

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: R. Haag, OEDO by E-mail: rch@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Entergy's Request for Exemption on Deep-Dose Equivalent

On June 18, 2001, IOLB staff met with the Entergy's staff, and contractor, to discuss Entergy's May 1, 2001, request for: (a) exemptions for 8 plants from the 10 CFR 20.1003 definition of deep-dose equivalent; and (b) permission to use whole-body weighting factors other than 1.0. The purpose of this meeting was to address the missing and/or unclear information identified by the staff's May 29, 2001, preliminary "completeness and acceptance" review of the application. NRR staff from Projects and DRIP, as well as NMSS staff, also participated in this meeting.

Significant issues discussed during the meeting included: (a) a clarification of the terminology used in the submittal; (b) what provisions in 10 CFR Part 20, the licensee needs an exemption from in order to implement the referenced EPRI method of estimating effective dose equivalent (EDE) from external radiation sources; (c) exactly what portions of the EPRI recommendations the licensee intends to implement (i.e., the limitations of applicability); and (d) how the licensee can resolve the outstanding technical issue concerning the directional response of commercially available dosimeters. In addition, some process issues were discussed, such as whether it would be more efficient and effective for this review to go forward as a Topical Review rather than eight (8) exemption requests.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the licensee indicated that they need about a week to consider the information discussed at the meeting in order to get back to the staff with a projected time-frame to supplement the application.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch staff conducted a Division of Reactor Projects and Division of Reactor Safety regional counterparts meeting on June 21-22, 2001, at the RIII office. The topic areas discussed included: Significance Determination Process issues, the use of "No-color" findings, future licensing activities, status of problem identification and resolution (PI&R) focus group activities, and Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) self-assessment metrics results.

NRC/FEMA Meeting on Federal KI Policy

On June 21, 2001, the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee's sub-committee on KI met to continue its efforts to revise the Federal KI Policy per the Commission's SRM dated December 22, 2000. During this meeting, FEMA affirmed that the role of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) was an advisory body to FEMA and that FEMA would ultimately approve and issue any revisions to the Federal KI Policy.

Palisades Plant

The Palisades Plant is in a cold shutdown that was initiated on June 21, 2001, due to a 0.3 gpm primary leak. Subsequent visual and ultrasonic inspections revealed a through-wall axial crack in the stalk housing (i.e., several feet above the nozzle head penetrations) for Control Rod Drive (CRD) No. 21. The crack is 1/16th of an inch on the outside diameter, 9/10ths of an inch on the inside diameter, and located in and just outside the heat-affected zone of one of the two stalk welds. In addition to the two welds for CRD-21, the licensee has ultrasonically inspected three additional CRD housings (six welds) at this time and has found no further flaw indications. The licensee's plans to determine root cause, extent of condition, and repair technique are currently under development. Region III and headquarters technical staff are monitoring the licensee's progress.

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

The staff issued an Order on June 22, 2001, approving transfer of the operating licenses to Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC (NMP LLC), an indirect subsidiary of Constellation Nuclear, LLC. The Order also approves indirect transfers as a result of reorganization of Constellation Nuclear, LLC's subsidiaries and parent corporation. The staff will issue conforming license amendments when the sale of the units to NMP LLC occurs.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Holds Annual Public Meeting

On June 21, 2001, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) held its most recent quarterly meeting in the NRC's auditorium. Among the topics discussed were revisions to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) "Federal Guidance for the General Public," and its Protective Action Guide Manual, and the status and plans that ISCORS has for evaluation of sewage sludge/ash at publicly owned treatment works. ISCORS also heard presentations by the National Research Council on its recently released study, "Disposition of High-Level Waste and Spent Fuel," and by the Department of Energy on its Biota Protection Initiatives. This meeting was ISCORS' annual meeting open to the public. Nine members of the public and one member of the trade press attended. The next ISCORS meeting will be held on September 17, 2001, at EPA.

Observation of the Department of Energy Audit of Framatome ANP, Inc.

On June 19-21, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's) audit of activities regarding the implementation of Framatome ANP, Inc.'s (Framatome's) quality assurance program. This audit was conducted at Framatome's facility in Lynchburg, Virginia. The audit evaluated the implementation of Framatome's quality assurance program for the welding and nondestructive examination of welded samples supporting the design of the high-level waste containers for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. During the audit, the staff observed welding and nondestructive activities for the production of welded samples that will be used for corrosion testing and analysis of the stresses in the waste-container closure weld. The DOE audit team identified some minor problems in the areas of documenting and processing nonconforming conditions, and identifying the status of measuring and test equipment. These problems were corrected during the audit. Additionally, the DOE audit team identified one potential deficiency in the area of procurement. The staff believes that this DOE audit was well-planned, thorough, and adequately evaluated Framatome's welding and nondestructive examination activities. Notwithstanding the DOE audit team's finding, the staff believes that Framatome is properly controlling welding and nondestructive examination activities within the scope of the DOE audit.

Observation of the Department of Energy Audit of Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC

On June 18-20, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's) audit of Bechtel SAIC Company (BSC), LLC, in Las Vegas, Nevada. BSC is DOE's Maintenance and Operating Contractor for the Yucca Mountain project. This audit was a continuation of an audit conducted by DOE on June 11-15, 2001, at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratory. The DOE audit team evaluated BSC's implementation of the DOE quality assurance program procedures and verified BSC's compliance with requirements. The audit team assessed the control of measuring and test equipment, nonconformances, software, scientific investigation, and control of the electronic management of data. The DOE audit team identified six potential conditions adverse to quality, and two deficiencies. The

NRC's observer reviewed the DOE audit team's preliminary findings and agreed with the results as presented at the post-audit briefing to the DOE management. The staff believes that this audit was well-planned, thorough, and adequately evaluated BSC's implementation of the DOE quality assurance program in the areas assessed.

Technical Exchange between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy on Igneous Activity

On June 21-22, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff conducted a technical exchange in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the Department of Energy (DOE) on igneous activity at the potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss staff comments and open items related to potential interaction between magma and the proposed repository, its drifts, the waste packages, and waste forms. In addition, biosphere-related igneous activity comments were also addressed. Significant progress was made in resolving the biosphere-related comments at the meeting. Although DOE acknowledged that additional work was warranted and desirable, to support a potential license application, it did not commit to defining any additional work related to magma interactions. As a result of the DOE position, the issue related to consequences of igneous activity remains open. Issues are "open" if the NRC has asked questions which are unanswered or DOE has not agreed to provide the additional information in a potential license application.

Staff Attendance at Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Meeting

On June 20-21, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff attended a meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The joint meeting of the NWTRB's performance assessment and the repository panels addressed the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Supplemental Science Performance Analyses report. This two-volume, 1300-page, report will be part of the basis for DOE's site recommendation decision. The report is not yet available and DOE was unable to provide an exact date when it will be available. DOE did indicate that the first volume of the report will be available in a few weeks. The presentations outlined the scope of the information provided in each volume and provided a road map of the documents.

Interagency Workshop on Terrorist Use of Radiological Dispersal Devices

On June 22, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff attended a Central Intelligence Agency-sponsored interagency workshop on the potential terrorist use of radiological dispersal devices against U.S. facilities, held in Ballston, Virginia. Other attendees were members of the Department of Energy, the National Laboratories, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Department of State, and noted terrorism experts from several organizations. The session provided useful insight on a variety of terrorist uses of radiological materials, and facility-security issues applicable both overseas and in the U.S. This was the second of two workshops, and a paper is being prepared based on the workshops.

National Nuclear Security Conference

On June 18-20, 2001, two staff members from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) attended the bi-annual National Nuclear Security Conference, held in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference brings together NRC licensee reactor and fuel cycle security managers and personnel from around the country, as well as Canada, to discuss security-related issues and to view vendor exhibits. The next national conference will be in 2003.

Mixed-Oxide Fuel Licensing Hearing Page for the MOX Website

On June 25, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with Judge Thomas Moore and staff from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to discuss a cooperative effort to add and maintain a Mixed-Oxide Fuel (MOX) Licensing Hearing page to the MOX website at http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NMSS/MOX/index.html. The MOX website is currently a resource for all MOX-related license application environmental and technical information. The effort will result in a new, consolidated resource for stakeholders to find significant hearing documents and reduce the overall staff effort needed to respond to stakeholders' requests for hearing documents.

Meeting with Portland General Electric Company

On June 27, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives of Portland General Electric (PGE) and Holtec International in a publicly noticed meeting to discuss a license amendment request that will be submitted by PGE in August 2001. The amendment will request authorization to use Holtec-designed canisters at the Trojan independent spent fuel storage instillation, using Trojan's existing concrete overpacks. PGE and Holtec outlined their plans for the amendment application and discussed some of the technical details associated with the request.

Health Physics Society Legislation and Regulation Committee Meeting

On June 13, 2001, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in the Health Physics Society Legislation and Regulation Committee. Participants included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Energy Institute.

The following were among the topics discussed:

(1) Energy Employee's Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requested comments from the Health Physics Society regarding responsibilities delegated to NIOSH by this Act.

(2) Department of Energy University Nuclear Science and Engineering Act
- The Health Physics Society will provide a position statement regarding the need for a Health Physics education program.

(3) Congressman Ehlers has requested support from the Health Physics Society for strengthening science at EPA.

Presentation on Revised 10 CFR Part 35, at Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting

On June 25, 2001, staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in a continuing education session on the revised 10 CFR Part 35 and its implementation. The session was sponsored by the Society of Nuclear Medicine at its annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The session included presentations by: (1) the NRC on the rule; (2) a representative of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors on the States' perspective; and (3) a representative of the Society of Nuclear Medicine/American College of Nuclear Physicians on the profession's perspective. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion, with numerous questions and comments from the approximately 400-person audience.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Brunswick SPAR Model Review

Staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and INEEL participated in the June 25-27 visit to the Brunswick plant site to perform a QA review of the staff's Level 1, Revision 3i Simplified Plant Analysis of Risk (SPAR) model. The event tree structure, success criteria, system dependencies, probability values for equipment failure and human error, and equipment operational philosophy were compared with those in the licensee's PRA model. Differences between the SPAR model and the licensee's PRA model were identified and discussed with the licensee to obtain an understanding of their cause and significance with respect to the contributors to CDF. Changes to better reflect the as-built, as-operated performance of Brunswick will be incorporated into the SPAR model. The model will be designated as a Revision 3QA model (in accordance with the SPAR Model Development Plan) for use in regulatory activities such as: (1) determining the risk significance of inspection findings or events, (2) reviewing risk-informed license applications, (3) resolution of generic/safety issues, (4) accident sequence precursor analyses, and (5) risk-based performance indicator development.

Air-Operated Valve Performance Study

Research issued NUREG-1715, Vol. 3, "Component Performance Study — Air-Operated Valves, 1987–1998." This report documents an analysis of the performance of air-operated valves used in PWRs and BWRs in U.S. commercial power reactor plants. The study found that the probability of failure on demand estimates were consistent with industry generic values and individual plant examinations. No evidence was found of an increase in failure rates over time indicative of "aging" problems. The number of air-operated valve (AOV) common-cause failures was consistent with expectations and there was a statistically significant decreasing trend in the number of AOV failures for PWRs for the 1987– 1995 period. The findings of this report are intended to assist in decision-making related to inspection and licensing activities to: (1) determine the dominant contributors to AOV unreliability and their causes for possible use in inspections, (2) determine from the trend information whether more, less, or the same level of inspection is appropriate, (3) review licensee risk-informed applications under RG1.174 (et al) relating to AOV performance, (4) evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory activities such as GSI A-45 (Shutdown Decay Heat Removal Requirements), (5) develop risk-based performance indicators, (6) provide input to SPAR model development, and (7) analyze operating experience for quantitative risk analyses independent of the licensee risk assessments.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-01-024, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, SWITCHYARD FIRE CAUSED BY THE FAILURE OF THE PHASE A BUS POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER.

2. PNO-IV-01-025, Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper Nuclear Station, FIRE AFFECTING THE STARTUP TRANSFORMER AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION.

3. PNO-IV-01-26, Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc., LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Acquisition Training

On June 28, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled “Overview” with 59 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.

Also, on June 28, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management featured a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled “Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate” with 51 attendees. This half-day (a.m.) module focuses on the importance of establishing an independent Government cost estimate, the mechanics of the process, and components which can be used in its development.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NUHOMS-24P and -52B Revision (Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the NUHOMS-24P and -52B cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2001(66 FR 34523). The amendment modifies the present cask system design to add the -61BT dry storage canister, the storage portion of a dual purpose cask design to both store and transfer spent fuel, and makes other changes to the technical specifications. The direct final rule becomes effective September 12, 2001.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2001 (66 FR 34588). The comment period closes July 30, 2001.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of June 22, 2001 through June 28, 2001:

Robert L. Thompson Hospital at Carswell Air Force Base, by-product material license application for license #42-23539-01AF. (FOIA/PA-2001-0292)

Site assessment, St. Agnes Hospital, 305 North Street, White Plains, Westchester County, New York. (FOIA/PA-2001-0293)

Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, records related to the May 22-23, 2001 meeting and site tour. (FOIA/PA-2001-0294)

San Onofre (SONGS) plant, report #OI-4-2000-054. (FOIA/PA-2001-0295)

FOIA/PA-2000-0357, copy of documents released under the FOIA. (FOIA/PA-2001-0296)

William W. Backus Hospital, Norwich, CT, license # 06-11734-02, investigation documents regarding a 1994 medical misadministration. (FOIA/PA-2001-0297)

Material Licensing Tracking System, active licensees for medical, industrial and academic licenses. (FOIA/PA-2001-0298)

Radioactive waste/materials inhibitor known as “karst”, records related to the properties, features, or characteristics of the geologic material or formation known as “karst.” (FOIA/PA-2001-0299)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Arrivals** | | |
| DAVIDSON, Lawrence | SR POLICY & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST | HR |
| FICKS, Ben | HR MANAGEMENT ANALYST | HR |
| GAMBLE, David | STUDENT LAW CLERK | OGC |
| GLADDEN, Karen | SECRETARY (OA) | R-III |
| JONES, Steve* | REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER | NRR |
| KARCAGI, Kim | STUDENT CLERK | NRR |
| KARJALA, Duane | REACTOR ENGINEER | R-III |
| LARE, Megan | STUDENT CLERK | R-I |
| RIVERA, Jonathan | GENERAL ENGINEER (INTERN) | NMSS |
| SHIN, Jessica | STUDENT ENGINEER | NMSS |
| **Retirements** | | |
| CLEARY, Donald | SR TASK MANAGER | NRR |
| LONG, Annie | FOIA COORDINATOR | R-I |
| LONG, William | SR PROJECT MANAGER | NRR |
| TUREL, Stanley | REGULATORY ANALYST | NMSS |
| **Departures** | | |
| BROWN, Keith | HEALTH PHYSICIST | R-I |
| CLEMENT, Robin | EEO ASSISTANT | SBCR |
| HIGGINS, Peggy | CONTRACT SPECIALIST | ADM |
| MAREK, Frances | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | OCM |
| SHACKELFORD, Jeff | BRANCH CHIEF | R-IV |

* Transferring from Region I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Media Interest

There was media interest in the switchyard fire caused by the failure of potential transformer at the San Onofre nuclear plant.

| **Press Releases** | |
|---|---|
| **Headquarters:** | |
| 01-074 | NRC Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Plant |
| 01-075 | NRC Seeks Comments on Preliminary Assessment of Nuclear Industry Consolidation on Agency's Regulatory Oversight |
| 01-076 | NRC Seeks Members of Public to Join an ADAMS User Group to Enhance Communications with Agency |
| 01-077 | NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Applications for North Anna, Surry |
| **Regions:** | |
| I-01-042 | NRC to Meet with Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation to Discuss Performance at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant |
| I-01-043 | NRC Assigns New Sr. Resident Inspector to TMI Nuclear Plant |
| III-01-026 | NRC to Meet with Nuclear Management Company to Discuss Safety Performance at the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant |
| III-01-027 | NRC Staff Proposes $55,000 Fine Against Michigan Nuclear Plant for Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Information |
| IV-01-037 | NRC Monitoring Events at Cooper Nuclear Station |

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| **Decision Documents** | | |
| 1. SECY-01-0096 | 5/30/01 | Proposed Rule on Revision of the Skin Dose Limit |
| SRM on 01-0096 | 6/22/01 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on 01-0096 | 6/22/01 | (same) |
| 2. COMJSM-01-0001 | 4/12/01 | Coordination with Mexico and Canada |
| SRM on COMJSM-01-0001 | 6/26/01 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on COMJSM-01-0001 | 6/26/01 | (same) |
| **Information Papers** | | |
| 1. SECY-01-0100 | 6/4/01 | Policy Issues Related to Safeguards, Insurance, and Emergency Preparedness Regulations at Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants Storing Fuel in Spent Fuel Pools (WITS 200000126) |
| 2. SECY-01-0109 | 6/26/01 | SECY-01-0109 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 15, 2001 |
| 3. SECY-01-0117 | 6/28/01 | SECY-01-0117 Weekly Information Report Week Ending June 22, 2001 |
| **Memoranda** | | |
| 1. M010627 | 6/27/01 | Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0108-Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22; Review of LBP-01-19 |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Vice President dated June 15, 2001, concerns Federal Response to Terrorism.

2. Letter to Senator Ted Stevens dated May 30, 2001, provides follow-up to testimony before the joint Senate hearing on May 8th concerning U.S. Federal efforts to combat terrorism.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Tennessee Valley Authority; Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1; Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3; Docket Nos. 50-390-CivP, 50-327-CivP, 50-328-CivP, 50-259-CivP, 50-260-CivP, 50-296-CivP (EA 99-234); Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

2. Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel; Notice of Public Meeting.

3. Tennessee Valley Authority; Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1; Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3; Docket Nos. 50-390-CivP, 50-327-CivP, 50-328-CivP, 50-259-CivP, 50-260-CivP, 50-296-CivP (EA 99-234); Notice of Hearing.

4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.

5. ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Annual Assessment Meetings

Region I conducted annual assessment meetings at six sites: Limerick, Pilgrim, and Calvert Cliffs on June 26, 2001;Three Mile Island on June 27, 2001; Vermont Yankee and Susquehanna on June 28, 2001. The responsible Branch Chiefs chaired the meetings at all sites, which included presentations to the operating licensees and question-and-answer sessions with the public, media, and elected officials after the meetings.

Indian Point 2 95002 Inspection

On June 18-25, 2001, an inspection was conducted that focused on the licensee's efforts to address the three white findings identified from the February 15, 2000 steam generator tube failure event. In addition, the inspection team evaluated the June 21 emergency preparedness exercise (partial offsite participation) to assess the licensee's corrective actions for past drill performance issues and to assess the implementation of activities pertaining to the white findings.

NRC Meeting with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

On June 25, 2001, Region I representatives met with representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 regarding the Safety Light Corporation (SLC) site. The SLC site is a Site Decommissioning Management Plan site, because of widespread radiological contamination in buildings, soils and groundwater, and because of inadequate financial assurance for decommissioning. The meeting was held to gain an improved understanding and coordination of mutual concerns, pending decisions, and respective statutory responsibilities and regulations. Major issues discussed included potential liability of other parties, near-term actions for resolution of the silo remediation project, and other remediation funding sources.

The Director, DNMS, led the meeting for NRC. In addition to management and staff of DNMS, NRC participation included OGC and NMSS. David Allard, Director, Bureau of Radiation Protection, PADEP and State Liaison Officer, led the discussions for PADEP, which included both legal and technical staff. EPA Region 3 was represented by Radiation Protection and Superfund Program staff. The meeting resulted in several commitments related to specific information and planned actions regarding the SLC site.

Decommissioning Work to Begin at Heritage Minerals, Inc.

The Region I DNMS project manager met with licensee and contractor staff at the Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) site in Lakehurst, NJ, on June 29, 2001, to discuss remediation plans for the HMI property. HMI is on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list due to questions concerning the disposal of 700 $m^3$ of thorium-contaminated sand. Contracts are now in place to allow the primary work activity, excavation of the monazite tailings pile, to begin on July 9, 2001. The material also contains natural uranium and will be shipped to the IUC uranium mill near

Blanding, UT for processing as alternate feed. Final surveys of soil and structures will be performed following removal of licensed material. Remedial actions are expected to last approximately 1-2 months. The licensee will request unrestricted site release, after removal of the monazite tailings. Region I projects removal of the HMI site from the SDMP list could occur in FY02.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

NRC's First Agency Action Review Meeting

On June 26-28, 2001, Region II hosted the first "Agency Action Review Meeting" in the Region II office with the Chairman and numerous senior agency managers.

NRC's Discrimination Task Force Group

On June 25, 2001, members of the NRC's Discrimination Task Force Group, and Region II's Enforcement Staff met to discuss recommendations and solicit input on potentially needed changes in how the Agency handles discrimination.

Annual Professional Reactor Operator Society Meeting

On June 28-29, 2001, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety participated as a speaker at the Annual Professional Reactor Operator Society (PROS) meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Annual Licensee Assessment Public Meeting

On June 27, 2001, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety conducted the Annual Licensee Assessment Public Meeting at the Oconee Facility in South Carolina.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - Full Scale Surry Exercise

On June 25-29, 2001, the State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Surry exercise, involving officials of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the applicable local governments.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - North Anna Annual Licensee Assessment Public Meeting

On June 26, 2001, the Virginia Electric and Power Company Annual Assessment meeting for North Anna was held at the North Anna facility Training Center's main auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss NRC Reactor Oversight Process Annual Assessment.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

Results from VA Master Material Readiness Review

An NRC team from January 24, 2001 to June 22, 2001, conducted a readiness review of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) National Health Physics Program. The review was in response to a DVA request for a Master Materials License. A licensing review is being performed in parallel with the readiness review. The review team, with members from each of the regions and NMSS, visited the DVA National Health Physics Program office, field offices, and 44 DVA medical centers nationwide to judge the licensee's ability to effectively implement a Master Materials License. A finding of "satisfactory" was identified for each of the six performance indicators evaluated. No recommendations were identified. The licensing review of the request is continuing.

Prairie Island End-of-Cycle Public Meeting

Staff members met with Nuclear Management Company officials on Friday, June 29, to discuss the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station's latest plant performance results. The meeting was held at the plant which is located near Red Wing, Minnesota.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 29, 2001

| CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 22 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
| Gerke | 07/11/01<br>SD-342 | 9:30 | TBA | Establishing a Federal CIO | Senators Lieberman/Thompson<br>Governmental Affairs |
| Gerke | 07/18/01<br>SD-366 | 9:30 | TBA | Energy R&D, S. 472, S. 242 | Senators Bingaman/Murkowski<br>Energy and Natural Resources |

Note: The House is in recess until July 10; the Senate returns on July 9.