August 28, 2001 SECY-01-0166

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: SECY-01-0166 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA Debra J. Corley Acting For/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
G. Smith, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
GSmith:paa	JWCraig **DJC for**
08/28/01	08/28/01

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24, 2001

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

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant

On August 9, 2001, Carolina Power & Light Company submitted a request for a license amendment requesting a power uprate for Units 1 and 2. The licensee is requesting permission to increase the maximum reactor power level of their GE boiling water reactors (BWR-4) from 2558 MWt to 2923 MWt. This request represents an approximate 15% power increase from presently approved level. This increase is in addition to a previously granted amendment (in 1998) of 5% above the original license power level. Thirteen technical review sections are involved with the review of this request. The licensee is seeking approval by June 1, 2002.

Tritium Production Program — TVA License Amendment Request and Public Meetings

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted their Tritium Production Program (TPP) license amendment request on August 20, 2001, for the Watts Bar facility. TVA's technical specifications changes would allow them to irradiate up to 2304 tritium-producing burnable absorber rods at a time in the Watts Bar reactor to support the Department of Energy (DOE) in maintaining the nation's tritium inventory. The staff is scheduling about one year to complete this review.

The NRC held a public meeting with TVA and DOE on August 20, 2001, at NRC headquarters so that DOE could present an overview of the TPP. The NRC staff plans to schedule a public meeting near the Watts Bar site for in early October 2001. The NRC expects to conduct one additional public meeting near the Watts Bar site before the end of the amendment review process.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Department of Energy Announces Availability of Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation Document and Schedule for Site Recommendation Consideration Hearings

On August 21, 2001, the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management released a Federal Register notice (Volume 66, Number 162; Pages 43850-43851) for document availability and public hearing schedules. DOE announced the availability of the Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation and the date of September 20, 2001, for the closure of the public comment period on the possible recommendation by the Secretary of Energy to the President for development of a spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste geologic repository. DOE announced public hearing dates of September 5, 12, and 13, 2001, for three locations in Nevada.

Final Rule – "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Westinghouse MC-10"

On August 21, 2001, a direct final rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Westinghouse MC-10 Termination" was published in the Federal Register (66 FR 43761). The direct final rule amends 10 CFR Part 72 by removing the Westinghouse MC-10 cask system listing from the "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks" as requested by the Westinghouse Government Environmental Services Company. The MC-10 cask design was never used by any Part 72 general licensees. The final rule is effective November 5, 2001, unless significant adverse comments are received by September 20, 2001.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Meeting Regarding Importation of Depleted Uranium

On August 22, 2001, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and management met with representatives from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss a letter dated May 18, 2001, in which USEC presented its plans to import depleted uranium (DU), under the provisions of a general license. USEC is requesting that NRC confirm that DU can be imported as source material, as opposed to radioactive waste. USEC presented information describing how the DU will be used, its plans for importing DU, its distinction of DU from radioactive waste, and its plans for revising the USEC decommissioning funding plan to include the imported DU. USEC also presented the results of a ruling in the French courts, that determined certain forms of DU are not considered radioactive waste. Since this is a complicated policy issue, which may need to be determined at the Commission level, NRC cautioned USEC that a response to its request may take some time and that NRC would provide USEC with the NRC proposed schedule in the next few weeks.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

International Cooperative Agreement between the USNRC and the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) Relating to Participation in the USNRC Program of Severe Accident Research

On August 20, 2001, the Office of RES forwarded an international cooperative agreement to the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) between the USNRC and the HAEA relating to Participation in the USNRC Severe Accident Research Program (CSARP).

The Implementing Agreement defined the terms and conditions by which the USNRC and the HAEA will establish cooperation in the area of severe accident research on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. The Implementing Agreement will become effective upon signature of the HAEA and will remain in effect for 3 years.

Motor-Operated Valves Performance Study Completed

The Operating Experience Risk Analysis Branch completed NUREG-1715, Vol. 4, "Component Performance Study — Motor-Operated Valves, 1987–1998." This report documents an analysis of the performance of motor-operated valves used in risk important systems in PWRs and BWRs. This study found that the probability of failure on demand estimates were consistent with industry generic values and individual plant examinations. MOV failure probability on demand was decreasing (statistically significant) for seven of the twelve systems studied. There were statistically significant decreasing trends in the total number of MOV failures for PWRs and BWRs for the 1987–1995 period. No evidence was found of an increase in failure rates over time indicative of "aging" problems. The number of motor-operated valve (MOV) common-cause failures was consistent with expectations from the CCF database.

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 MOV unreliability and their causes for use in inspections, (2) determine from 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 MOV performance, (4) evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory activities, (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.

Workshop on Fire Risk Assessment Research Results

On August 23-24, 2001, RES conducted a workshop in New London, CT on current results of the NRC Fire Risk Research Program. The workshop, which was coordinated with the SMiRT Post-Conference Seminar on Fire Safety in Nuclear Power Plants and Installations (held August 20-22 at the Millstone NPP Training Facility), was designed, organized, and run by staff from RES and Sandia National Laboratories. It was aimed at communicating detailed fire PRA research results to end users and was attended by over 70 participants from NRC (both regional and HQ fire protection and PRA staff), utilities, private engineering consulting firms, insurance companies, and several international governmental and research organizations. The

technical presentation topics included an overview of fire PRA, current fire PRA issues, circuit analysis, fire modeling, detection and suppression analysis, and lessons learned from past major events. Discussion at the end of the workshop and initial feedback indicates that the participants considered the workshop to be a useful activity, and that RES should continue to hold such workshops.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Briefing of National Transportation Safety Board

Staff from Incident Response Operations, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Regions I and II, met with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The purpose of the meeting was to provide NTSB with information on the staff's incident-investigation process. The briefings consisted of an overview of the investigation program as laid out in Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program," and a detailed presentation on some specific event follow-up activities, including the Indian Point 2 steam generator event of February 2000. A recent independent review by the RAND Corporation on how the Board conducts its investigations identified that the growing complexity of aircraft crashes had a profound effect on how investigations must be structured to reveal hidden failure modes. One of the recommendations for improvement was that the NTSB gain insight into complex system investigative methods by inviting speakers from other regulatory bodies to discuss their investigation process. The NTSB reported that it had also received a briefing from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-020, PPL Corporation, NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED FOR AN ATTEMPTED SECURITY BREACH - MEDIA INTEREST.

2. PNO-II-01-27, Geo Environmental Consultants, LOST GAUGE.

3. PNO-IV-01-036, Wyoming Medical Center, BRACHYTHERAPY MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.

4. PNO-IV-01-037, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Grand Gulf Nuclear Station), GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION SHUTDOWN FOR RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL REPLACEMENT.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Acquisition Training

On August 21, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management, in conjunction with the Office of Human Resources, sponsored a mandatory Acquisition Certification and Training Program module entitled "Contract Administration" with 40 attendees. This all-day module focuses on monitoring contractor performance, spending controls, modifying contracts and agreements, and remedying contractual problems. Each participant receives a course manual that serves as a reference tool for project managers in performing their day-to-day responsibilities.

On August 23, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Developing an Independent Government Cost Estimate" with 22 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.

Also, on August 23, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Preparing Statements of Work (SOW)" with 33 attendees. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete performance-based SOWs that ensure contractors and DOE laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost.

Government-wide Community of Practice Program

On August 22, 2001, representatives from the NRC's Division of Contracts and Property Management attended a kick-off meeting of the Community of Practice (COP). The COP is sponsored by the Procurement Executive Council (PEC) and the Chief Information Officer Council to demonstrate how communities of practice can foster interagency coordination and knowledge sharing. The COP will promote use of innovative contracting processes in agencies Government-wide and will share expertise and experiences on topics of mutual interest, add value by solving problems more efficiently, and promulgate best practices among procurement professionals.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of August 10, 2001 through August 23, 2001:

Cooper power plant, Significant Operations Event Report 98-02. (FOIA/PA-2001-0347)

Incyte Genomics, St. Louis, Missouri, Notices of Violations, Investigations, and Permit Information. (FOIA/PA-2001-0348)

Site assessment, property located at 170 South Main Street, Freetown, Massachusetts. (FOIA/PA-2001-0349)

Mailing list since March 13, 2001, NRC Publications. (FOIA/PA-2001-0350)

Sacred Heart Hospital of Cumberland, Maryland, records related to radiation overdoses during the 1987-1988 time frame. (FOIA/PA-2001-351)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Arrivals		
BEDI, Gurjendra	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
CHAN, Agnes	SITE SECRETARY	RIV
CUMMINGS, David	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
DAY, Lisa	SITE SECRETARY	RIV
GONZALEZ PIMENTEL, Hipolito	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
PASSARELLI, Anne	GENERAL ENGINEER (INTERN)	NRR
RIVERA-MARTINEZ, Dwight	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
Departures		
ASHKEBOUSSI, Nima	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
BUGG, Michael	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
CORTES, Ramon	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
DO, Cathy	STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE (ACCOUNTING)	OCFO
GARCIA, Alberto	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
GROTH, Katrina	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
HERTZ, Jeffrey	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
HUBAND, Charles	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
KARCAGI, Kim	STUDENT CLERK	NRR
LY, Valerie	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
OBLER, Topaz	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
PARK, Albert	STUDENT INTERN	NRR
PENNAMON, Bryan	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
PLUMMER, Tamiko	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
RODRIGUEZ, Veronica	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
TAYLOR, Ryan	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII

TURNBOW, Brandy	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OCFO
UMANA, Jessica	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST (COOP)	NMSS

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Media Interest

There was media interest in the Unusual Event declared at the Susquehanna nuclear plant after an unarmed man scaled a perimeter fence, gaining entry to a restricted area.

A film crew from PBS' Jim Lehrer News Hour toured the Dresden nuclear plant and interviewed NRC's Senior Resident Inspector as part of a report being prepared on the nuclear industry.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-105	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet September 5-8 in Rockville, Maryland
Regions:	
I-01-052	NRC Issues Notices of Violations Following Investigation of Improper Efforts to Dispose of Waste from New Jersey Center
I-01-053	NRC Cites Exelon Nuclear Generation Company for Violation of Low to Moderate Risk Significance at Peach Bottom
II-01-035	NRC Determines Farley Nuclear Plant Security Issue to Be of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
II-01-036	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Surry Nuclear Station License Renewal
IV-01-046	Michael S. Peck Named Resident Inspector at Columbia Generating Station

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0106	06/12/01	Child Care Tuition Assistance
SRM on 01-0106	8/17/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0106	8/17/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0145	8/2/01	Proposed License to Export Heavy Water to Japan for Non-Nuclear End Use (XMAT0401)
SRM on 01-0145	8/17/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0145	8/17/01	(same)
3. SECY-01-0144	8/2/01	Proposed License to Export Components for Reprocessing Plant in Japan (XCOM1142)
SRM on 01-0144	8/17/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0144	8/17/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0159	8/23/01	Weekly Information Report Week Ending August 17, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010822	8/22/01	Staff Requirements: Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0120 - Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 2, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Decision on Standing and Admissibility of Contentions in License Transfer Proceeding

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated August 10, 2001 provides the June monthly report on the status of licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Application for a License to Export Radioactive Waste (Framatome ANP).

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Regional Administrator - Temporarily Detailed to the Department of Energy

From August 20, 2001 until November 24, 2001the Regional Administrator is on a detailed assignment to the Department of Energy in Washington, D. C. for a period of three months. The current Deputy Regional Administrator is acting as the Regional Administrator and the Director, Division of Reactor Projects is acting as the Deputy Regional Administrator for the duration of this assignment.

Acting Regional Administrator - Participates in the Region II Licensing Managers Meeting

On August 22, 2001, the Acting Regional Administrator and the Director of Project Directorate II in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) met with the licensing and regulatory affairs managers from the power reactor facilities in Region II. The discussion included feedback on the reactor oversight process, the use of risk information in considering action on notices of enforcement discretion and action on license amendment requests.

Senior Resident Inspectors Participated in the Reactor Oversight Process Lessons Learned Workshop

On August 21-22, 2001, the Senior Resident Inspectors participated in the Reactor Oversight Process Lessons Learned workshop in the Region. The Director and Deputy Director DIPM/NRR and managers from Region II participated in the meeting.

Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Visit the Region II Office

On August 22-23, 2001, two representatives from the Office of the Inspector General visited the Region II office. This is part of the OIGs liaison program. The representatives met with regional managers and staff.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Management Meeting

On August 23, 2001, representatives from Duke Energy Corporation were in the Region II office to attend a management meeting. The purpose was to discuss NRC's inspection of the licensee's activities and how to better integrate the Reactor Oversight Process inspection schedule with the licensee's ongoing design basis upgrade project for the Oconee Nuclear Plant.

Commissioner Dicus Visits National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Florida

On August 22, 2001, Commissioner Dicus accompanied by the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety visited the NASA facility in Florida. The Commissioner toured the licensee's broad scope facilities and discussed regulatory issues with managers.

Martin Marietta Aggregates - Rockville, Virginia Rock Quarry

On August 21, 2001, Region II issued an escalated enforcement action to Martin Marietta Aggregates for the unauthorized transfer of a fixed gauging device to an unauthorized metal recycling facility.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

Wisconsin State Official Receives Training

An official with the State of Wisconsin was in the regional office during the week of August 20 undergoing materials licensing training. His training is part of an assistance program that is being provided to support the state's efforts to become an agreement state. The target date for Wisconsin to become an agreement state is mid-2003.

VA Master Material Readiness Review Report Issued

On August 20, 2001, an NRC team issued its Readiness Review Report on the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) National Health Physics Program. The team, comprised of members from each of the regions and NMSS, spent six months earlier this year conducting a readiness review of the DVA's program. Team members visited numerous DVA sites throughout the country 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 during the review.

PBS Interview with Dresden Resident Inspectors

On August 21, 2001, resident inspectors at the Dresden plant were interviewed by a television crew from "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" program which airs on PBS. The program will focus on the future of nuclear power. The TV crew interviewed the Chairman the week of August 13, and were conducting numerous other interviews in the Chicago area this week. During their Tuesday visit to the Dresden plant, crew members spent most of the day with the Exelon officials filming in various parts of the plant. Crew members did not know specifically when the piece will air on PBS but did say that it will not air before Labor Day.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 24, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 27					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	09/07/01 2322 RHOB	9:30	DOE Deputy Secretary Blake	Price-Anderson Act	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce

Note: The Senate returns from August recess on September 4; the House returns on September 5.