INFORMATION REPORT

September 6, 2001 SECY-01-0170

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: SECY-01-0170 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 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

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S. Morris, OEDO

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/RA/

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09/06/01	09/06/01

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 31, 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	8	IP	*
IRO	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	22
CFO	*	Region IV	*
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Indian Point Units 1 and 2

On August 27, 2001, the NRC staff issued an Order approving the transfer of the licenses for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (IP1 and IP2) held by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison) to Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 2, as the proposed owner of IP1 and IP2, and to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., as the proposed entity to maintain IP1 and operate IP2. In a letter also dated August 27, 2001, Con Edison informed the NRC that the closing of the license transfers was scheduled to occur in early September 2001. Con Edison and Entergy expect to receive final approval for the transfers from the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) shortly.

Power Uprate

The staff held a public workshop on August 23, 2001, in the TWFN Auditorium to (1) discuss the draft guidance developed by the staff for licensee use in preparing applications for measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates, and (2) obtain feedback on the guidance with respect to scope, depth, clarity, and specificity of the guidance. Approximately 75 people attended the workshop, approximately half were external stakeholders. The purpose of the guidance discussed at the workshop is to improve the quality of licensee submittals so that requests for additional information may be minimized or eliminated. The overall objective of this effort is to reduce the NRC staff's review time for measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates by 2 to 3 months.

External stakeholders at the workshop were supportive of the approach the staff had taken (i.e., providing guidance to help licensees with preparation of their applications). Comments received during the workshop identified the need for the staff to: (1) clarify certain terms used in the draft guidance, (2) confirm that certain information provided in previous applications but not specifically identified in draft guidance is, in fact, not needed for staff review, (3) justify the need for certain information identified in the draft guidance, (4) clarify the role of 10 CFR 50.59, and (5) discuss the role of previously approved methods, both for the plant requesting the change and for other plants. The staff intends to finalize the guidance and issue it to licensees via a regulatory issue summary. The staff also plans to address the feedback received at the workshop and provide a disposition of the comments with the final guidance.

Safeguards Performance Assessment (SPA) Program Public Meeting

On August 28, 2001, the Chief of the Operator Licensing, Human Performance, and Plant Support Branch and representatives from the Reactor Safeguards Section met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), industry representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss implementation details of the Safeguards Performance Assessment (SPA) Program. The staff provided the Temporary Instruction for SPA. NEI provided the schedule of evaluated exercises for the SPA, including the eight sites that have agreed to participate in an exercise for the pilot program. They are Palo Verde, Comanche Peak, Braidwood, North Anna, Limerick, Surry,

Quad Cities, and ANO 1. Another meeting is planned following the first SPA exercise to review "lessons learned."

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project Review of WV-929, "Waste Incidental to Reprocessing"

On August 21-23, 2001, the Department of Energy at West Valley (DOE-WV) conducted a technical review of the West Valley Nuclear Services procedure for making incidental waste determinations in West Valley, New York. A sample evaluation performed using the procedure was also reviewed. Members of the technical review team were subject-matter experts from the DOE High-Level Waste Complex, and DOE Headquarters. Staff from the Division of Waste Management, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority were present as invited observers. After DOE-WV and DOE's Ohio Field Office have accepted the procedure, they plan to submit it to the NRC with a sample evaluation for review and comment.

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

On August 20-24, 2001, Division of Waste Management (DWM) 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. DOE's audit team evaluated BSC's processes and activities that support the Total System Performance Assessment for the Site Recommendation (TSPA-SR) technical report. The audit team evaluated the quality of the report by examining the development/analyses of scenarios; traceability/transparency of assumptions, uncertainties, and alternative conceptual models; data and other input; and software control. The audit team also assessed the defensibility of the TSPA-SR results/conclusions and evaluated the overall effectiveness of the TSPA-SR technical report. The DWM staff reviewed DOE's audit team findings and agreed with the results, as presented at the post-audit briefing to DOE management. The DWM staff believes that this DOE audit was well planned, thorough, and adequately evaluated the BSC's activities supporting TSPA-SR.

Observation of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses Annual Audit

On August 20-23, 2001, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards observed the Center for Nuclear Regulatory Waste Regulatory Analyses' (Center's) annual internal audit. The audit was conducted at the Center facilities in San Antonio, Texas, using quality assurance (QA) and technical staff from the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). Several Center deliverables supporting the Division of Waste Management, the Spent Fuel Project Office, and the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards were selected for review. The SwRI auditors and technical specialists performed a technical and programmatic review of the deliverables and evaluated the adequacy of the process controlling each deliverable.

The observers agreed with the SwRI audit team's findings and concluded that the Center had made significant progress to upgrade and properly implement its QA Program.

Regional Counterpart Meeting

On August 23, 2001, to enhance communications between the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and the Regions, Division Directors from NMSS met with their counterparts from the Regional Divisions of Nuclear Materials Safety at the NRC headquarters. These managers are responsible for the regulation of nuclear materials; fuel cycle safety and safeguards; waste and decommissioning; and spent fuel storage and transportation activities. The meeting laid the foundation for beginning a number of FY 2002 program initiatives, and provided an opportunity to resolve comments on FY 2002 NMSS and Regional Operating Plans. Approximately 25 managers, supervisors, and senior staff attended this meeting. This was the second of two scheduled Division Director counterpart meetings held this year. Tentative plans call for the next meeting to take place in either January or February 2002.

Meeting with Pacific Gas and Electric on Diablo Canyon Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Proposal

On August 28, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation met with representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) at the offices of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. The purpose of this pre-application meeting was to discuss the status of PG&Es development of a license application for an independent spent fuel storage installation at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Station. PG&E indicated that the application may be submitted in December 2001.

Meeting with Dominion Resources on 10 CFR Part 72 License Renewal Review Guidance

On August 29, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Dominion Resources (formerly Virginia Power) to discuss the ongoing development of review guidance for 10 CFR Part 72 license renewal. The discussion focused on specific comments provided by the utility in its June 26, 2001, letter on the staff's preliminary guidance, which was transmitted in a March 29, 2001, letter to Virginia Power. The staff intends issue the draft guidance for comment as a supplement to NUREG-1567, "Standard Review Plan for Spent Fuel Dry Storage Facilities." Additional discussion topics included Dominion's possible amendment request for approval of an additional dry cask storage design, after its submittal of the Part 72 license renewal application for the Surry independent spent fuel storage installation, which is expected in the Spring of 2002.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

South Carolina Electric & Gas Sample

In a letter dated August 22, 2001, South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) agreed to provide a sample from the V C Summer hot leg weld that leaked about 200-lbs of boric acid through a crack discovered October 7, 2000. The sample is about nine-inches long, six-inches wide and the full thickness of the weld section (sufficient to create eight, one-inch specimens). The specimens will be used to further research efforts on Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking. Discussions are underway to transport the sample to Argonne National Laboratory for testing.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-021, Providence Hospital, MISADMINISTRATIONS INVOLVING A STRONTIUM-90 EYE APPLICATOR.

2. PNO-II-01-028, Mt. Storm Coal Generating Plant, MISSING GENERAL LICENSED DEVICE.

3. PNO-III-01-019D, Nuclear Management Co. (Palisades), SMALL LEAK IN CONTROL ROD DRIVE HOUSING (FOURTH UPDATE).

4. PNO-III-01-029, Crompton Corporation, FIXED GAUGES DAMAGED IN FIRE.

5. PNO-III-01-030, American Electric Power Co. (D.C. Cook Unit 2), SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE LOW ESSENTIAL SERVICE WATER FLOW.

6. PNO-III-01-031, St. Mary's Hospital, REPORTED MISADMINISTRATION.

7. PNO-IV-01-038, Nebraska Public Power District (Cooper Nuclear Station), CONTROL ROOM LICENSED OPERATOR REMOVED FROM OPERATIONAL DUTIES.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Acquisition Training

On August 28, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM) presented a mandatory Acquisition Certification and Training Program module entitled "Contract Administration" with 31 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.

Contract Award

On August 28, 2001, DCPM awarded a competitive contract to Nuclear Placement Services, Inc. The objective of this contract is to obtain contractor assistance to search and recruit for highly qualified individuals for hard to fill positions. The contract period of performance is August 29, 2001, through August 28, 2002, with the option to extend for an additional one-year period. The total contract amount is $50,000.00 for the base period, and $50,000.00 for the one-year option period. This contract was awarded using streamlined procedures under NRC's Memorandum of Understanding with the Small Business Administration which allows NRC to waive the Congressional Business Daily notice when soliciting proposals from five small businesses.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC, Revision

A direct final rule that amends the Westinghouse NAC-MPC cask system in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on August 30, 2001 (66 FR 45749). This action permits a licensee to use an alternate fuel basket design with enlarged fuel tubes in corner locations and makes other adjustments in the Technical Specifications. The direct final rule becomes effective November 13, 2001.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 30, 2001 (66 FR 45788). The comment period closes October 1, 2001.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of August 24, 2001 through August 30, 2001:

Health records on self. (FOIA/PA-2001-0352)

Rancho Seco power plant, allegation records regarding safety, misconduct, and discrimination concerns raised by named individual. (FOIA/PA-2001-0353)

Allegation records related to case number RII-2000-A-0085. (FOIA/PA-2001-0354)

OI investigation report numbers 4-1999-054 and 4-1998-048. (FOIA/PA-2001-0355)

Investigation file on self. (FOIA/PA-2001-0356)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Arrivals		
FOX, Stacy	GENERAL ENGINEER (INTERN)	NRR
GROSSMAN, Christopher	GENERAL ENGINEER	NMSS
MCANALLEN, Julia	GENERAL ENGINEER	NMSS
SPIVACK, Ian	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	NMSS
Retirements		
WILSON, Jayne	SECRETARY (OA)	RES
Departures		
KELLY Mary Jane	SECRETARY	RI
MARSHALL, Sharita	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	ACRS/ACNW

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Media Interest

There was media interest in an announcement by Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio) that he would co-sponsor legislation to make it easier for utilities to build new nuclear plants.

The Energy Department unveiled a pilot program to encourage private utilities to consider new nuclear plant sites and earmarked $700,000 to subsidize permitting studies.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-106	NRC Staff Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses For Indian Point 1 and 2 to Entergy Corporation
01-107	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing on License Renewal for Pennsylvania's Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
Regions:	
I-01-055	NRC Determines Inspection Finding for Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant to Be of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
III-01-042	NRC Cites Clinton Plant for Emergency Preparedness Violation of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
IV-01-047	NRC Names Leonard M. Willoughby Resident Inspector at Ft. Calhoun

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0162	08/23/01	Staff Plans for Proceeding with the Risk-Informed Alternative to the Standards for Combustible Gas Control Systems in Light-Water-Cooled Power Reactors in 10 CFR 50.44 (WITS 20010003)
2. SECY-01-0131	07/17/01	Rulemaking Plan: Revision of Appendix E, Section IV.F.2, to 10 CFR Part 50, Concerning Clarification of Emergency Preparedness Exercise Participation Requirements for Co-Located Licensees
SRM on 01-0131	08/31/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0131	08/31/01	(same)
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-01-0150	08/06/01	Memorandum of Understanding and Interagency Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Review of Incidental Waste Determinations for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
SRM on 01-0150	08/29/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0138	7/26/01	Removal of Cabot Corporation's Revere Site from the Site Decommissioning Management Plan
3. SRM on 01-0138	8/30/01	(same)
Memoranda		
1. M010815C	08/28/01	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Organization of Agreement States and Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors

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. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. and Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 2, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 1 and 2; Docket Nos. 50-003-LT and 50-247-LT; Designation of Presiding Officer.

2. 10 CFR Parts 2, 20, and 50; Releasing Part of a Power Reactor Site or Facility for Unrestricted Use Before the NRC Approves the License Termination Plan; Proposed Rule.

3. Request to Amend a License to Export Highly-Enriched Uranium (Transnuclear, Inc.).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Millstone Units 1, 2, and 3

On August 29, 2001, five unmanned Amtrak railroad cars accidently rolled down a spur leading into the Millstone site and crashed through a portion of the protected area fence. The railroad cars were stopped by a concrete vehicle barrier positioned a few feet inside the fence line. No personnel were injured. No plant equipment was damaged, although the protected area fence was damaged. The railroad cars had been parked on the railway spur and contained equipment to support ongoing Amtrak railway maintenance. A small spill (about 30 gallons) of diesel fuel oil from the train cars resulted from the crash and Millstone site fire brigade and environmental personnel responded to the scene to contain the spill. The oil was contained by trap rocks onsite and did not reach any receiving waters. Also, site security personnel witnessed the event, verified that no unauthorized entry to the site occurred, and took immediate action to assure the integrity of the entire site, as well as to compensate for the loss of the portion of protected area fence.

The cause of the cars rolling down the spur into the fence is still under investigation. Amtrak removed the railroad cars by August 31, and repairs to the protected area fence were completed thereafter.

The region issued a Preliminary Notification (PNO-I-01-022). NRC Regional and resident staff observed the licensee's actions, including reviewing the licensee's event classification. The Information Assessment Team was notified of the event.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - Closed Predecisional Enforcement Conferences

On August 27, 2001, Region II held closed Predecisional Enforcement Conferences with individuals. The purpose of these conferences was to discuss an apparent violation of 10 CFR 50.5, Deliberate Misconduct, associated with a Department of Labor Final Decision and Order finding that TVA discriminated against an employee.

Virginia Power Company and Tennessee Valley Authority - Potential Emergency Diesel Generator Issue

During April, July, and August 2001, both of the subject licensees found degradation of some of their emergency diesel generators (EDGs) at the Surry and Sequoyah nuclear power plants. The EDGs were found to have degraded surfaces on the wrist bearings and pins for the pistons. The degradation could have rendered the EDGs inoperable if called upon to perform their intended function. All the degradations have been corrected with the exception of one EDG at Sequoyah. This issue may be generic in that the threshold used for detection of degradation (i.e., the amount of silver in lubricating oil) may not be set at an appropriate level. A list of sites with the potentially affected EDG types has been provided to all Regional offices for information.

Internal Communication on the Electronic Information Exchange Program

On August 29, 2001, an individual from the Office of the Chief Information Officer provided a session on the process the Agency is using for Electronic Information Exchange with certain power reactor licensees. The session provided Region II managers and staff with an understanding of the how the process impacts their duties.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

U.S. Senator Visits Ohio Plant Site

On August 27, 2001, Senator George Voinovich visited the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio. While at the plant, Voinovich spoke briefly with the NRC's Senior Resident Inspector in the Control Room. Voinovich also held a press conference in which he announced he would co-sponsor legislation promoting the construction of new nuclear power plants and propose changes in the NRC's authority regarding new plant construction.

Region III Staff Participates in Clinton Emergency Exercise

On August 29, 2001, Region III staff members participated in a post-plume exercise in Springfield, Illinois, following the August 28 exercise at the Clinton Nuclear Power Station in Clinton, Illinois. The State of Illinois and other federal agencies also participated in the exercise.

Region III Staff Meets with State Officials Regarding Missouri Plant Decommissioning

On August 30, 2001, eight staff members from Region III and Headquarters met with various Missouri state officials in Jefferson City, Missouri, to discuss plans for the decommissioning of the Westinghouse Electric Co.'s nuclear fuel processing plant in Hematite, Missouri. The plant formerly was known as the Combustion Engineering plant. Staff members met with members of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Health, and the State Attorney General's Office.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 31, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 28					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	09/06/01 2322 RHOB	2:00	DOE Deputy Secretary Blake	Price-Anderson Act	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce