

INFORMATION REPORT

November 9, 2001

SECY-01-0201

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0201 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 2, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
D. Loveless, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 2, 2001

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

Contact: D. Loveless, OEDO by E-mail: dpl@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.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1

On October 29, 2001, the staff issued a license amendment which replaces the Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 technical specifications in their entirety with new technical specifications based on the improved Standard Technical Specifications (iSTS). The licensee will implement these revised technical specifications within one year.

NRC Information Notice 2001-15: Non-Conservative Errors in Minimum Critical Power Ratio Limits

On October 29, 2001, the NRC issued this information notice to inform the addressees that NRC recently received reports of nonconservative errors affecting the minimum critical power ratio (MCPR) operating and safety limits.

Meeting with Exelon to discuss the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) Pre-application Review

On October 25, the staff held a public meeting with Exelon to discuss the PBMR pre-application review. Ward Sproat, VP-Exelon, provided an update on the status of the PBMR project in South Africa (RSA). Mr. Sproat said that the PBMR partners have concluded that the PBMR project has shown enough progress and promise to continue. However, due to various technical and political factors including uncertainty of the licensability of the design in the U.S., the partners have delayed the decision to build the RSA demonstration plant by one year. A decision is now expected in late CY 02. Exelon will continue pre-application activities with the staff to support this decision. Exelon would like to proceed on the current pre-application schedule, if possible, but the availability of technical details from RSA may be a factor. Mr. Sproat said that the U.S. COL application will be delayed until a least late CY 03, but preparations for an ESP application in 2002 are proceeding as planned. Other topics discussed were high temperature materials, graphite oxidation, and the PBMR design approach.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Atlas License Termination

On October 30, 2001, consistent with the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission terminated the license of the Moab Mill Reclamation Trust for the former Atlas Corporation. The site has been transferred to the Department of Energy for site reclamation.

Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects Meeting

On October 30, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) On-Site Representatives attended the meeting of the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Commission on Nuclear Projects provides recommendations to the governor and the legislature on policy matters on all State projects associated with the disposal of radioactive waste. The Commission on Nuclear Projects addressed the current status of the Nevada protection fund, the State of Nevada oversight program, and initiatives related to local governments. Transportation studies and the preliminary results of the State's Yucca Mountain impact report were also discussed. Several Commission on Nuclear Projects members commented on NRC's recent approval of the Department of Energy's site guidelines contained in 10 CFR Part 963. At the end of the meeting, local officials, public interest groups, and members of the public commented that they believed communications between the State and Federal agencies need to be improved.

Workshop on Coupled Models and Site Visit to Repository in Finland

From October 22-26, 2001, a Division of Waste Management staff member attended the DECOVALEX (DEvelopment of COupled models for VALidation of EXperiments) project steering committee meeting and workshop in Naantali, Finland. Representatives of the funding organizations from various countries provided results from thermal-hydrological-mechanical modeling studies of their high-level waste disposal programs. Workshop participants visited Finland's low- and intermediate-level waste repository at Olkiluoto. Disposal at this repository occurs in drums and metallic and concrete boxes stacked inside two silos approximately 100 meters below surface. Staff also visited the hydrological testing location that is a part of the site characterization program for the approved future high-level underground repository site.

Tri-Regional Radioactive Materials Transportation Meeting

On October 23-25, 2001, a Spent Fuel Project Office staff member attended the Tri-Regional Radioactive Materials Transportation Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was for selected Federal agencies to update representatives from three areas of the country (Northeast, Midwest, and Southwest) on activities associated with shipment of high-level radioactive waste. Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) provided updates on shipments from West Valley, New York, and Brookhaven National Laboratory; status of DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant; and changes in DOE's transportation emergency preparedness program. A Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) representative updated the task force on

high-level radioactive waste inspection activities. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DOE, and FRA staff participated in a panel discussion on the best ways to continue to work cooperatively with State governments in identifying issues of importance to states. Because of the September 11, 2001, terrorist event, the primary focus was on the safety and security responsibilities of various levels of government involved with radioactive materials shipments.

November 2, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Training Workshop for Estimating Uncertainty for Dose Assessments Related to the License Termination Rule

On October 29, 2001, RES conducted a training workshop on estimating uncertainty for dose assessment modeling with lessons learned from test case studies. The workshop focused on insights gained from RES-funded work to develop and test an "Uncertainty Assessment Methodology for Dose Assessment Modeling." The workshop was developed and presented by Drs. Philip Meyer, Glendon Gee and Shlomo Orr, of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The workshop attendees included: NMSS licensing and RES staff, CNWRA, U.S. EPA, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Department of Energy scientists and engineers. Recognizing the potential data limitations for decommissioning sites, the PNNL methodology provides generic hydrologic parameter distributions based on national or regional databases and categorized by soil textural class. The methodology also addresses probabilistic modeling, sensitivity analyses, scenario and conceptual model uncertainty for dose models, and Bayesian updating to incorporate site-specific information. The methodology and its supporting technical bases were developed to be of practical use to NRC licensing staff. A draft report documenting the methodology was provided to the workshop attendees. The report will be revised based in part on the workshop participants' comments. The methodology will be published as a NUREG/CR report next year.

Cooperation with Finnish Agency on High-Burnup Fuel Analysis

NRC's computer code, FRAPTRAN, for analyzing the behavior of fuel rods during transients is being used to address regulatory criteria and other issues associated with high-burnup fuel. At the recent Nuclear Safety Research Conference, preliminary work done in Finland was presented on the coupling of FRAPTRAN with the thermal-hydraulic code, GENFLO. GENFLO is a fast running code developed for the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority in Finland, and the code is being made available for use by NRC. After the conference, further discussions were held to arrange for formal cooperation on future work on these codes. NRC's contractor for the FRAPTRAN code, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will further development of the coupling and then apply the codes.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-032, St. Barnabas Medical Center, BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION DUE TO TREATMENT OF WRONG SITE.
2. PNO-I-01-033, Temple University, PACKAGE CONTAINING 0.5 MILLICURIES OF PHOSPHORUS-32 REPORTED MISSING.
3. PNO-II-01-038, GEO Engineering, DAMAGED MOISTURE AND DENSITY GAUGE.

November 2, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in a Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada (Parts 2, 19, 20, 21, 30, 40, 51, 60, 61, 63, 70, 72, 73, and 75)

A final rule that establishes licensing criteria for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive wastes in the proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2001 (66 FR 55731). As mandated by law, this final rule makes changes to the NRC's technical requirements necessary to be consistent with the final environmental standards for Yucca Mountain issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The criteria address how a repository system at Yucca Mountain must perform and specify that the system must be comprised of both natural and engineering barriers. The final rule becomes effective December 3, 2001.

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

A document confirming the effective date of November 5, 2001, for a direct final rule that amends the list of approved spent fuel storage casks by terminating Certificate of Compliance Number 1001 for the Westinghouse MC-10 cask system was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2001(66 FR 55559).

Three Mile Island Alert; Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-73-11)

A document announcing the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by Three Mile Island Alert (PRM-73-11) was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2001 (66 FR 55603). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations governing the physical protection of plants and materials to require its licensees to post at least one armed guard at each entrance to the "Owner Controlled Area" surrounding all U.S. nuclear power plant or plants. The comment period on this petition closes January 16, 2002.

National Mining Association; Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-170-5)

A document announcing the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by the National Mining Association (PRM-170-5) was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2001 (66 FR 55604). The petitioner requests that the NRC conduct a rulemaking that would enable the NRC to waive the assessment of all annual and periodic inspection and licensing fees imposed on NRC uranium recovery licensees or, as an alternative, to establish the basis for waiving fees associated with a contemplated rulemaking that would establish requirements for licensing uranium and thorium recovery facilities (Part 41). The comment period on this petition closes January 16, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
October 26, 2001 through November 1, 2001:

NRC Organizational Charts. (FOIA/PA-2002-0033)

Site assessment, Wyeth-Ayerst Research Bldg. 145, 145 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA
19087, owned by Wyeth Laboratories, Inc. (FOIA/PA-2002-0034)

Contract NRC-31-97-246, handling of modification no. 9 and processing records for
FOIA/PA-2001-0230 and FOIA/PA-2001-017A. (FOIA/PA-2002-0035)

Report on hazards of damage to a reactor. (FOIA/PA-2002-0036)

Contracts, S. Cohen & Associates (SC&A), listing of all contracts with NRC for past 5 years.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0037)

November 2, 2001

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Arrivals		
COCHRUM, Steven	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
DIAS, Antonio	NUCLEAR ENGINEER	NMSS
HAIRE, Mark	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RIV
MILLER, Geoffrey	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
SOLO, Clara	SECRETARY (OA)	OPA
VOGT-LOWELL, Rene*	TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTOR	HR
Departures		
HAROLD, Jeffrey	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
FORD, Joseph	STUDENT CLERK	RI
MASON, Eileen	TEAM LEADER, HR DEVELOPMENT	HR
SMITH, Stephanie	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR

*Transferring from RIII to HQ

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve was interviewed by ABC-TV, the Jim Lehrer News Hour (PBS), the New York Times and Washington Post regarding nuclear power plant security issues.

A statement by the International Atomic Energy Agency about the potential of terrorist attacks on nuclear power plants and theft of radioactive materials prompted media inquiries.

There was media interest in the steam generator tube failure at Three Mile Island and NRC's announced Special Inspection.

A report issued by NRC's Office of Investigations regarding the loss of spent fuel rods at Millstone received media attention.

Press Releases	
Regions:	
I-01-062	Two Gauges Containing Radioactive Material Reported Stolen in Greater Philadelphia Region
I-01-063	NRC Sends Special Inspection Team to TMI
III-01-048	NRC Cites Nuclear Management Company For Safety Violation at Palisades Nuclear Plant

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0193	10/25/01	SECY-01-0193 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 19, 2001
2. SECY-01-0191	10/18/01	Litigation Report - 2001 - 04
3. SECY-01-0190	10/17/01	Status of the Transfer of the Atlas-Moab Facility to the Department of Energy
4. SECY-01-0195	11/01/01	SECY-01-0159 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 26, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated October 23, 2001 provides the August monthly report on the status of licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 170 [Docket No. PRM-170-5]; National Mining Association; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. 10 CFR Part 73 [Docket No. PRM-73-11]; Three Mile Island Alert; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and Advisory Committee on Nuclear waste Joint Subcommittee Meeting; Notice of Meeting.
4. ACRS Joint Meeting of the Subcommittees on Human Factors and Safety Research Program; Notice of Meeting.
5. Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy, Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, and Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Pilgrim Public Meeting On Site Security

On October 29, 2001, Congressman William Delahunt, (DMA), and the Board of Selectmen from Plymouth, Mass., sponsored a meeting to discuss security issues at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. The meeting participants included the NRC, FAA, USCG, and local authorities and officials. Mr. James Wiggins, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 1, represented the NRC. Congressman Delahunt, local town officials, and the public questioned the various agency representatives regarding measures that have been taken, as well as those planned to be taken, to ensure safety at the Pilgrim nuclear facility. Some of the issues discussed included: potential damage caused by a plane crash involving the primary containment, the status of the Yucca Mountain spent fuel repository, and the possible use of surface-to-air missiles for defense at nuclear sites for airborne terrorist threats. About 40 members of the public and media from print, radio and television attended.

Confirmatory Surveys for Portions of the Molycorp, Inc. York, PA site

Molycorp, Inc. and contract staff are currently decommissioning the York, PA site under the NRC-approved Decommissioning Plan. The site is included on the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan list. Decommissioning activities, which began in April 2001 included remediation of affected buildings and soil areas, demolition and removal of structures and concrete pads, and restoration of site land areas. All affected structures and concrete slabs were demolished and removed. Contaminated soil is presently being excavated and shipped by railcar to an offsite disposal facility. Soil remediation of selected site areas was completed to meet the final status survey guidance of NUREG/CR-5849.

During the week of October 29, 2001, the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), under contract from NRC, conducted confirmatory radiological surveys on a limited number of site areas to determine acceptability for release. Soil scans and sampling and exposure rate measurements were taken for comparison with the licensee's final status survey results. The NMSS Project Manager, Region I inspection staff, and members from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection were present during the survey.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Carolina Power and Light Company's Configuration Management Benchmarking Conference

On October 29-31, 2001, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety participated as a presenter in the Configuration Management Benchmarking Conference hosted by Carolina Power and Light Company in Durham, North Carolina. The focus of this conference was the development of strategies to maintain design basis configuration over 60 years of plant operation using information technology. Workshops were used to share best practices among licensees from all four Regions.

Virginia Electric and Power Company Reactor Vessel Head CRDM Nozzle Inspections

At Surry Unit 1, the reactor vessel head dye penetrant examinations (PT) have identified 2 CRDM nozzles with through wall cracks and three nozzles with flaws that are not acceptable. Preparations are being made to repair these five nozzles. At North Anna Unit 2, the licensee's video-taped visual inspection of the head has revealed three nozzles which were potentially leaking. Removal of the reactor vessel head to begin further NDE inspection is planned for Saturday, November 3.

Duke Energy Corporation's Annual Government Training Program

On October 30-31, 2001, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated in the Annual Government Training Program, sponsored by Duke Energy Corporation, for officials of the States of North Carolina and South Carolina, and applicable local governments for officials of the States of North Carolina and South Carolina, and applicable local governments.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 2, 2001

Commissioner Merrifield Visits Sites in Wisconsin

On November 1, 2001, the Regional Administrator accompanied Commissioner Merrifield on site visits to the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant in Wisconsin and on November 2, 2001, the University of Wisconsin in Madison. While at the university, the Commissioner toured the university's research reactor and met with administrators of the Engineering Department to discuss their nuclear engineering programs.

Regional Staff Holds Mallinckrodt Management Meeting

On November 1, 2001, regional staff met with Mallinckrodt officials in the regional office to discuss Mallinckrodt's progress toward completing previously established corrective actions. The corrective actions were developed to address issues that had been identified in an independent assessment of the radiation protection program at the company's Maryland Heights, Missouri, facility.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 2, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 37

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	11/09/01 2154 RHOB	10:00	GAO	Report Card on Federal Computer Security	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Fin'l Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform
Keeling	11/13/01 2154 RHOB	9:30	TBA	Effectiveness of Interactions between Federal, State, & local law enforcement agencies	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Fin'l Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations Reps. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs, and International Relations Government Reform
Combs	11/13/01 SD-416	TBA	Chairman Meserve, DOE, other groups POSTPONED	Price-Anderson Act	Senators Reid/Inhofe Transp, Infrastr & Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works