

INFORMATION REPORT

November 16, 2001

SECY-01-0203

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0203 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 9, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
H. Nieh, OEDO

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11/19/01

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 9, 2001

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

Contact: H. Nieh, OEDO by E-mail: hkn@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Canadian Nuclear Safety Division Meeting

On October 24, 2001, members of the Operator Licensing and Human Performance section met with Andre Vachon and Dave Shaw, members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Personnel Qualification Assessment Division. Topics of discussion included a review of NRC training inspections, and discussions of NRC involvement in the training program accreditation process and INPO-managed accreditation team visits.

Public Meeting with NEI and Industry Representatives on Radiation Safety Cornerstones

On October 30, 2001, members of the Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, NRR, conducted a public meeting with the NEI radiation safety taskforce and other stakeholders. The NEI taskforce requested the meeting to discuss their draft comments concerning proposed changes to the radiation safety cornerstones of the reactor oversight process (ROP) resulting from the March 2001 implementation lessons learned workshop. The lessons learned ROP changes are currently out for NRC regional staff comments, and are scheduled to be in place by January 2002. All comments received will be considered before implementation.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted a public meeting on October 31, 2001, with industry's working group on the ROP for the finalization of the draft Revision 2 of NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline." During this meeting, the working group discussed: changes to the unplanned scram replacement performance indicator (PI); clarifying notes for unplanned scrams with loss of normal heat removal PI; frequently asked questions; safety system unavailability (SSU) PIs; guidance for a pilot program to test the long-term changes to the SSU indicators; and other changes to NEI 99-02.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) License Renewal Forum

NEI held its annual license renewal forum in Charleston, South Carolina, from October 31 through November 2, 2001. The purpose of this forum was to discuss various aspects of license renewal issues such as project management, effective renewal applications, communication and outreach programs, technical issues, environmental impacts, and inspection lessons. Over 125 executives and managers from utilities, industry organizations, and international representatives participated in the forum. NEI also invited several NRC staff who are involved in license renewal issues to speak and participate.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Public Meeting to Solicit Stakeholder Input on the Use of Risk Information in the Nuclear Materials and Waste Regulatory Process

On October 25, 2001, the Risk Task Group (RTG) held a public meeting in the Two White Flint auditorium to: (1) present insights, from case studies, about finalization of the screening considerations, regulatory process improvements, and development of safety goals for use of risk information in the nuclear materials and waste regulatory process; (2) discuss plans for moving forward with risk-informed activities in the materials and waste arenas; and (3) solicit comments and recommendations on the development of safety goals and the planned activities. More than 30 people representing a cross-section of stakeholders attended the meeting, including representatives from industry, the Federal government, non-governmental organizations, and NRC.

Meeting on International Regulations for Transitional Arrangements for Transport Packages

On October 29 through November 2, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office participated in a meeting at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The meeting concerned the transitional arrangement being developed for the 2003 edition of the IAEA transportation regulations. The transitional arrangements, or "grandfathering" provisions, allow the continued use of packages certified to previous editions of the regulations. The meeting was held to evaluate member-state comments on the proposed transitional arrangements. The nine participants represented six countries and an industry group. The participants developed specific options and recommendations for further consideration in the IAEA revision development process.

Observation of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, Audit of Lambda Research, Inc.

On October 31 through November 1, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Bechtel SAIC Company (BSC), LLC, quality assurance (QA) supplier audit of Lambda Research, Inc. BSC is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) maintenance and operating contractor for the Yucca Mountain project, and Lambda Research, Inc., is a supplier for BSC. The BSC/DOE audit team evaluated the effectiveness of Lambda's QA program implementation.

Status of the Revised 10 CFR Part 35

The appropriation bill for the NRC (H.R. 2231), containing the revised 10 CFR Part 35, cleared the House and Senate on November 1, 2001, and has been signed by the President (public law 107-66). The bill prohibited NRC spending on implementation or enforcement of those portions of the revised Part 35 concerning diagnostic nuclear medicine (except training and experience requirements), and directed the Commission to report to Congress by January 31, 2002, why regulatory burden from diagnostic nuclear medicine could not be further reduced without adversely affecting public health and safety.

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

NASA Human Error Modeling Workshop

On October 18-19, 2001, representatives from RES attended the 2001 Human Error Modeling (HEM) Workshop at the NASA Ames Research Center. The workshop serves as the annual summary of HEM activities in NASA's System Wide Accident Prevention program. From the introduction to the workshop, "[t]he ultimate objective of HEM is to promote the development of computational models with predictive capabilities that will enable designers to identify likely vulnerabilities in future human/system aviation operations."

Overall, the workshop discussions addressed some of the "first principles" approaches to human modeling. These approaches may have value in coordination with "top-down" human reliability analyses, particularly for analysis of low-likelihood events where operational data is sparse or non-existent. Both during and since the workshop, contact has been made with NASA staff and contractors involved in the HEM program to explore the possibilities for collaborative research concerning human performance and human reliability.

NRC Staff Participation at the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) Annual Meeting

On October 16, staff presented an invited paper on "Future Trends in Hydrogeologic Analyses at the U.S. NRC" at the AIH annual meeting. The AIH meeting, which commemorated its 20th anniversary, focused on "Hydrologic Science: Challenges for the 21st Century." The paper was authored by RES and NMSS staff, and provided insights into current and future trends in NRC staff technical assessments involving hydrogeologic analyses using a risk-informed, performance-based approach. The paper was submitted for publication in the AIH journal, Hydrological Science and Technology. The meeting attendees included: U.S. Geological Survey management and staff, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, EPA scientists, university professors and students, DOE national laboratory scientists, DOE consultants, State and local government representatives, and industry vendors and consultants.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-034, University of Pennsylvania, RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL THERAPY MISADMINISTRATION.
2. PNO-I-01-035, Conam Inspection, FAILURE OF RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE TO RETRACT TO FULLY SHIELDED POSITION.
3. PNO-III-01-036, Mallinckrodt, Inc., POTENTIAL SMALL FIRE EVENT.

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
November 2, 2001 through November 8, 2001:

Document access to NUREG-1301, and Regulatory Guide nos. 4.8, 1.111, and 1.109.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0038)

SECY-01-0072, "Draft Rulemaking Plan: Distribution of Source Material to Exempt Persons and
to General Licensees and Revision of 10 CFR 40.22 General License" (FOIA/PA-2002-0039)

Allegation file RIV-94-A-032. (FOIA/PA-2002-0040)

Starmet Corp. (formerly Nuclear Metals, Inc.), Concord, MA, 1950 to date records related to site
operations or conditions. (FOIA/PA-2002-0041)

South Texas Project, plant security. (FOIA/PA-2002-0042)

University of Missouri, records submitted to NRC for a 7/23/01 predecisional enforcement
conference. (FOIA/PA-2002-0043)

OIG investigative report and transmittal letter to identified branch chief. (FOIA/PA-2002-0044)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Arrivals		
BOWLIN, Elizabeth	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
STAMPLEY, Lydia	ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	OIG

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve was interviewed by CNN about physical protection at Indian Point 2.

Christopher Grimes was interviewed by the Philadelphia Inquirer about license renewal for the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-127	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant
Regions:	
III-01-049	NRC Staff Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Palmerton & Parrish, Inc. of Missouri For Failing to Control Licensed Material

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0192	10/18/01	Rulemaking Plan: Revision of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50
SRM on 01-0192	11/06/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0192	11/06/01	(same)
Memoranda		
1. M011018	11/5/01	Staff Requirements - Meeting with NRC Stakeholders - Progress of Regulatory Reform

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Anselm Schaefer signed by OIP Director transmits tribute for Professor Birkhofer's retirement.
2. Letter to Kay Cole James, Director, OPM, urges support for S. 1129 and H.R. 1824.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.
2. Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy; Notice of Meeting.
3. Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Human Factors and Safety Research Program; Postponed.
4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Notice of Meeting.

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Nine Mile Point, Units 1 and 2

As of 12:01 a.m., November 7, 2001, Constellation Nuclear took 100% and 82% ownership of Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2, respectively. The ownership interests, as well as operating authority, will actually be held by an indirect Constellation subsidiary, Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC (NMP LLC).

The NRC approved such transfers by an order dated June 22, 2001, which was revised by a supplemental order dated October 30, 2001. The NRC revised the operating licenses and associated documents to reflect NMP LLC's ownership and operating authority by conforming amendments issued on November 7, 2001.

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

Under Secretary of the Department of Energy Visits the Regional Office and Attends the 2001 INPO Chief Executive Officer Conference

On November 8, 2001, the Under Secretary of the Department of Energy, Robert Card, accompanied by the Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator, visited the Regional office and attended the 2001 INPO Chief Executive Officer Conference in Atlanta.

Office of Investigations All Agents Meeting

On November 6, 2001, the acting Regional Administrator gave a presentation at the Office of Investigations All Agents Meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Atlanta.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Recruitment Job Fair

On November 5-6, 2001, the acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects participated in a recruitment job fair at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, NC.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar Full Scale Emergency Exercise

On November 5-9, 2001, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Watts Bar nuclear exercise, involving officials of the State of Tennessee and the applicable local governments.

Regional Counsel Counterpart Meeting

On November 6-7, 2001, Region II hosted the Regional Counsel Counterpart Meeting.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 9, 2001

European Nuclear Regulatory Officials Visit Region

On November 8-9, 2001, ten senior officials from ten eastern European countries' nuclear regulatory agencies and two officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency visited the region. About 14 regional staff members met and discussed the new Reactor Oversight Program with the visitors. The visitors met with regional staff members in the regional office and then traveled to the Palisades and D.C. Cook nuclear power plants, where they met with resident inspectors and licensee officials to further discuss the Reactor Oversight Program.

November 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 9, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 38

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
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 Nat'l 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