

INFORMATION REPORT

March 20, 2002

SECY-02-0049

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0049 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 15, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Bergman, OEDO

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/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Bergman, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 15, 2002

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

Contact: T. Bergman, OEDO by E-mail: tab@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Tritium Production Program

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), established to preside over a proceeding involving Tennessee Valley Authority's license amendment requests to produce tritium at Watts Bar and Sequoyah, previously received petitions to intervene from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, We the People of Tennessee, and Jeannine Honicker.

The ASLB's Memorandum and Order of February 7, 2002, provided for the filing of amended petitions to intervene by February 21, 2002. On February 14, 2002, Jeannine Honicker submitted an amended petition to intervene. The NRC staff sent to the ASLB its answer to Ms. Honicker's amended petition to intervene concluding that Ms. Honicker had failed to demonstrate standing, and failed to demonstrate that she should be granted discretionary intervention in connection with the license amendment proceedings. Ms. Honicker entered her contentions with the ASLB on March 7, 2002.

On March 6, 2002, We the People of Tennessee, with assistance from Dr. Kenneth Bergeron, filed a motion with the ASLB to dismiss both of TVA's license amendment requests.

Davis Besse Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) Head Degradation

The licensee performed inspections of its CRDM nozzles last week and identified 5 nozzles in need of repair. During repairs of a CRDM nozzle, the licensee identified significant RPV head degradation adjacent to CRDM penetration number 3. The licensee continues to characterize the area of degradation discovered on the Davis Besse RPV head. However, to date, an approximately triangular shaped area with a height of approximately 5 inches and a base of approximately 4 to 5 inches was degraded all the way to the cladding. The cladding is nominally 3/8 inch thick stainless steel.

The licensee is currently removing permanently installed insulation above the reactor pressure vessel head in order to better examine the RPV head. The licensee has formed a root cause investigation team to determine what caused the degradation.

Region III dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team to the Davis Besse site early this week. The staff issued Information Notice 2002-11, "Recent Experience with Degradation of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head," on March 12, 2002. The staff is in communication with NEI and the members of the industry Materials Reliability Program (MRP) to discuss generic implications of the Davis Besse finding. The staff is also evaluating the need for additional generic communications on this issue.

NRC Information Notice 2002-10: Non-conservative Water Level Setpoints on Steam Generators dated March 7, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to alert addressees to the potential for non-conservative setpoints for steam generator water level.

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NRC Information Notice 2002-11: Recent Experience with Degradation of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head dated March 12, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees about findings from recent inspections and examinations of the reactor pressure vessel head at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

Proposed Amendment to be Signed by the EDO

On March 1, 2002, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed amendment for publication in the *Federal Register* to incorporate by reference three regulatory guides listing NRC-approved code cases with alternatives to the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants by amending 10 CFR 50.55a.

AP1000

On March 8, 2002, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Office of Research (RES) presented the staff's assessment of the AP1000 pre-application review to the full Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The presentation included the staff's conclusions that:

- (1) the AP600 test program and analysis codes are, in general, applicable to the AP1000 standard design, with some exceptions (e. g., the adequacy of test data and code modeling of liquid entrainment in the hot leg and upper plenum during a loss-of-coolant accident),
- (2) Westinghouse's proposed use of design acceptance criteria (DAC) in lieu of providing detailed design information, in the instrumentation and communication (I&C), control room (human factors engineering), and piping design areas is acceptable, and
- (3) three exemptions from the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 50.34, Section 50.62, and Appendix A, General Design Criteria 17, should be applicable to the AP1000 standard design (these exemptions were granted for the AP600 standard design).

Fitness for Duty Web Page

The Reactor Safeguards Policy Section has posted a new NRC external web page for Fitness-for-Duty. The FFD web page describes the history of the program, information related to previous FFD programs at licensee facilities, background information about the FFD program, and current information about FFD rule making activities. The link is:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/fitness-for-duty.html>

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch staff conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on February 28, 2002, with the NRC/industry working group on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). The key issues discussed included: NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline," Revision 2, safety system unavailability performance indicator(PI) policy issues; status update of NRC ROP web page changes; recent planned changes to Inspection Manual Chapters and inspection procedures; time line meeting status of the safety system unavailability (SSU) PI pilot program; radiation protection significance determination process(SDP); draft steam generator tube degradation SDP; and frequently asked questions. In addition, the working group discussed the recent decision to not adopt changes to the scram PI. The proposed changes had been pilot tested in 2001. The working group discussed the feasibility/desirability of reconsidering previous options and any alternative approaches that could be pursued. Based on the discussions, the working group did not identify any potential replacement candidates that could potentially address the concerns by the industry. The working group agreed to address this issue further as an agenda item at the May 2002 meeting. The next industry/staff ROP public meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2002.

The NRC has issued annual assessment letters along with a 12-month inspection plan for all operating nuclear power plants and posted them to its web site on March 4, 2002. A press release was issued on March 6, 2002, by the NRC's Office of Public Affairs announcing the issuance of annual assessment letters for all 103 operating nuclear power plants. The assessment letters sent to each licensee are available on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html> and through ADAMS, the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System. Public meetings at each plant are planned. Details of the meetings, which will be open to the public, will be announced as they are scheduled. The performance period to be discussed is April 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001.

Potassium Iodine (KI) Update

As of March 12, 2002, 10 states have requested KI tablets. The most recent state to request KI was Delaware, with a request for about 90 thousand tablets. Delaware's request has been forwarded to FEMA for review. Upon approval by FEMA, the appropriate number of tablets will be ordered.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Denial of Petition for Rulemaking from the States of Nevada and Minnesota

On March 11, 2002, the NRC denied a petition for rulemaking submitted on behalf of the States of Nevada and Minnesota (67 FR 10853). The petition, and a subsequent amendment, were docketed, respectively, as PRM-60-2 and PRM-60-2A. In PRM-60-2, the petitioners requested that NRC adopt a regulation, governing the implementation of certain generally applicable environmental standards for high-level radioactive waste (HLW), that had been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1982. Subsequently, in PRM-60-2A, the petitioners amended their original petition after EPA issued final standards in 1985. The amended petition was placed on hold, pending development of new disposal standards specifically applicable to the Yucca Mountain site, by both EPA and NRC, as directed by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. During the development of 10 CFR Part 63 for HLW at Yucca Mountain (66 FR 55732; November 2, 2001), NRC considered the substantive issues the petitioners raised. However, NRC has decided not to revise, at this time, the generic regulations dealing with disposal of HLW in Part 60, which is the subject of the amended petition.

Staff Participates in University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Seminar on Yucca Mountain

On March 8, 2002, the NRC's On-Site Representatives participated in a continuing education seminar at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The staff gave a presentation in response to an invitation by the UNLV faculty. The topic of the evening seminar series was "What is Being Done to Protect Nevada." The evening seminar included two presentations. The Department of Energy staff presented information on the design for the potential Yucca Mountain repository. The presentation by the On-Site Representative addressed NRC's responsibilities, independent oversight role, and licensing process. The audience appreciated NRC's presentation, and the question and answer session that followed. The seminar provided an opportunity for NRC staff to interact with students and members of the community. This opportunity allowed the attendees to learn more about NRC's role as regulator of the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain. Because this seminar is part of a continuing education series, the UNLV faculty pointed out potential topics that NRC could be invited to address in future seminars. The staff plans to support such requests.

Regulators Meeting on Decommissioning of West Valley Site

On March 8, 2002, NRC staff met with the Region 2 Environmental Protection Agency, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the New York State Department of Health, to address issues related to decommissioning of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). Discussion topics included: the NRC Final Policy Statement on decommissioning criteria for WVDP; the regulators' communication plan for the decommissioning of the West Valley site; the staff's response to previous NYSDEC issues; and planning for the upcoming public meeting on the NRC Policy Statement. Representatives from the Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority also participated in an afternoon session of this meeting via teleconference. As a result of this meeting, the regulators agreed to finalize revision 1 of the regulators'

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communication plan, and schedule an April 17, 2002, public meeting on the NRC Policy Statement on decommissioning criteria for WVDP. This public meeting will be held in the vicinity of the West Valley site and will provide an overview of the policy statement and allow time to address public questions/comments.

Regional Training on Environmental Review Guidance

Staff from the Division of Waste Management recently provided training on the NRC's environmental protection regulations in 10 CFR Part 51 and the use of NUREG-1748, "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs." Training focused on the application of categorical exclusions and the preparation of environmental assessments. To date, the training has been provided for Regions I, III, and IV, with a Region II presentation being planned for the end of March.

MDS Nordion Model No. F-430/GC-40

On March 5, 2002, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued a Certificate of Compliance for the MDS Nordion Model No. F-430/GC-40 transport package. This package is designed to transport MDS Nordion's Gammacell-40 irradiator containing cesium-137 sealed sources in special form. The Gammacell-40 is a research irradiator with lead shielding and a lead-filled source drawer.

Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Application

On March 14, 2002, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued an acceptance letter and review schedule for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility application submitted by the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC), under contract to the Department of Energy. FWENC will construct, operate, and license this facility, which will provide repackaging capability and interim dry storage for spent fuel, from previous operations of the Peach Bottom Unit 1 high-temperature gas-cooled reactor and the Shippingport light-water breeder reactor, and a limited number of TRIGA spent fuel assemblies. As the proposed facility will incorporate certain fuel-handling features beyond those associated with typical interim spent fuel storage facilities, the staff anticipates a more complex technical review and has established the schedule with a completion date of March 2004.

Proposed Rule Signed by the Executive Director for Operations

On March 13, 2002, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule revising 10 CFR Part 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," revising the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 cask system listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment will modify the present cask system design, under a general license, to: (1) add four new multipurpose canisters - three for pressurized water reactor fuel and one for boiling water reactor fuel; (2) add new containers for damaged fuel; (3) add the HI-STORM 100S overpack and the 100A and 100SA high-seismic anchored overpacks; (4) allow the storage of high-burnup fuel; (5) delete the Technical Specifications for special requirements for the first systems in place and for training requirements and relocate these requirements to the main body of CoC 1014; and (6) allow the storage of selected nonfuel hardware. The amendment will also use revised thermal analysis tools to include natural convection heat

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transfer, revise the helium backfill requirements to allow a helium density measurement to be used, allow a helium drying system rather than the existing vacuum drying system, and require soluble boron during canister loading for certain higher enriched fuels. In addition, modifications will be made to Conditions 1.a., 1.b., 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, and 11 of the CoC; Sections 3.0 and 5.0 of Appendix A to the CoC; and Sections 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 of Appendix B to the CoC to reflect the changes.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Annual Radiation Exposure Reports can now be Submitted Electronically on REIRS.com

The 10 CFR 20.2206 requires licensees to submit annual dose records for individuals monitored for exposure to ionizing radiation. These records must be submitted to the Radiation Exposure Information and Reporting System (REIRS) project manager by April 30 each year for the previous calendar year's radiation exposures.

In the past, this has been done by sending an NRC Form 5, "Occupational Exposure Record for a Monitoring Period" (either paper copies or an electronic version on a diskette or CD) for each employee to the REIRS project manager at NRC Headquarters. The REIRS project manager forwards the data to the REIRS database administrator in Oak Ridge where the data is input into the REIRS database. Due to irradiation and delays in receiving mail (several computer disks were received corrupted), the contractor accelerated the process to provide a secure mechanism to submit the dose records electronically directly to Oak Ridge via the REIRS web site. This new feature enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of this reporting system. An e-mail was sent to many of the licensees who submit large numbers of dose records to announce the availability of this new process. For licensees who choose not to submit electronically, additional instructions for submittal have been added to the REIRS web site to address mail irradiation issues since the anthrax mail contamination cases.

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Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

National Response Team Annual Meeting

On March 5-7, 2002, the Director of Incident Response Operations participated in the annual National Response Team (NRT) and Regional Co-Chairs meeting. The NRT chaired by the Environmental Protection Agency, consists of 16 Federal agencies, including the NRC. Much of their focus has involved hazardous chemical releases, oil discharges, and other toxic spills. The annual meeting activities focused on national response issues over the past year, with emphasis on terrorism and homeland security. Although some agencies have been actively engaged with the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), there was general consensus that increased interaction between the NRT and OHS would be highly beneficial to OHS and the NRT. Other significant areas of emphasis included continuing activities to assure alignment of various Federal response plans and re-enforcing the incident command system/unified command system as a response management approach.

Nuclear Event Scale Training

On March 12-13, 2002, two representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided training to staff members from the offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and Nuclear Reactor Regulation on the International Nuclear Events Scale (INES). This training is the next step in having NMSS and NRR become the lead organizations for conducting INES ratings of events at NRC-licensed facilities. The training was well received by the staff, who proposed numerous corrections and enhancements to the INES User's Manual. Feedback from the IAEA regarding the staff attending the training sessions was extremely positive. On March 14, 2002, representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency met with the IAEA representatives and IRO personnel to discuss the potential uses of INES by other agencies involved in the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-02-007, Yale University, MISSING "EXIT" SIGNS CONTAINING HYDROGEN 3 (TRITIUM).
2. PNO-1-02-008, Fox Chase Cancer Center, REPORT OF A MISSING VIAL CONTAINING PHOSPHORUS-32.
3. PNO-II-02-011, ATC Associates, STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.
4. PNO-II-02-012, Roadway Express, MEDIA INTEREST IN TRUCK ACCIDENT.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Conference on Competitive Sourcing

On March 12-13, 2002, four members of the NRC A-76 Core Team attended the Government-wide Conference on Competitive Sourcing sponsored by the Procurement Executive Council at the Department of the Interior. Presentations included sessions on in-house estimates, human resource considerations, and the Army's cost comparison software win.COMPARE2. Presentation materials for this paperless conference are available at <http://www.pec.gov/>.

States of Nevada and Minnesota; Denial of Petitions for Rulemaking (PRM-60-2 and PRM-60-2A)

A document that denies petitions for rulemaking submitted by the States of Nevada and Minnesota was published in the Federal Register on March 11, 2002 (67 FR 10853). In PRM-60-2, the petitioner requested that the NRC adopt a regulation governing the implementation of certain generally applicable environmental standards for high-level waste that had been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. In PRM-60-2A, the petitioners amended their original petition after the final EPA standards had been issued. The NRC denied the petition because the NRC considered and partially addressed the petitioners' concerns in the development of site-specific standards for a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, and amending the NRC's generic repository licensing at this time would unnecessarily expend limited Commission resources because there is no current expectation that the generic regulations will be used in their current form.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC Revision (Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the NAC-MPC cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on March 15, 2002 (67 FR 11566). This action allows for modification of the design of the cask system to accommodate a new type of fuel. The direct final rule becomes effective May 29, 2002.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on March 15, 2002 (67 FR 11629). The comment period closes April 15, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
March 8, 2002 through March 14, 2002:

OI report 1-2000-045 and all other documents related to the case. (FOIA/PA-2002-0170)

Proposed rule, Site Criteria for the Evaluation of Proposed Sites for Nuclear Power and Test Reactors, published 5/23/59, all comments received and all site criteria documents for 1957-1962. (FOIA/PA-2002-0171)

Investigation related to Florida and the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the anthrax investigation in South Florida. (FOIA/PA-2002-0172)

OIG report related to alleged harassment incident in 1992 against named individual. (FOIA/PA-2002-0173)

Indian Point 2, 5-year extension on containment integrated leak rate test, Entergy's response to 2/5/2002 NRC directive. (FOIA/PA-2002-0174)

University of Connecticut, harassment allegations made by named individual, all related documents. (FOIA/PA-2002-0175)

Security clearance file on self. (FOIA/PA-2002-0176)

Contract, acquisition of microcomputer hardware/software support, solicitation RS-IRM-96-177. (FOIA/PA-2002-0177)

Mailing List, NRC publications. (FOIA/PA-2002-0178)

Information regarding terrorist in the USA and other countries, mind control/hypnosis, and remote control germs. (FOIA/PA-2002-0179)

Westinghouse nuclear fuel facility, Hematite, MO, materials handled at site, possible or known radiological or chemical contaminants, and what materials are believed buried on the site. (FOIA/PA-2002-0180)

BNFL Fuel Solutions, OI report 4-1999-066. (FOIA/PA-2002-0181)

Research reactor programs, report authored by Nils Diaz between July 2001 and October 2001, regarding advice on how NRC can best interact with research reactor communities. (FOIA/PA-2002-0182)

Comsecy-01-0030 (10/29/01), Staff Requirements Memorandum (1/25/02), and all commissioner vote sheets related to criteria for release of information to public. (FOIA/PA-2002-0183)

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Indian Point power plant, Differing Professional View (DPV) related to performance and restart of Unit 2, all related documents. (FOIA/PA-2002-0184)

Material licensees in Camden County, NJ, all reports of complaints, inspections, accidents and incidents, including those at Cooper Hospital/University Medical or Coriell Institute. (FOIA/PA-2002-0185)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign Kick-Off

On March 12, 2002, Henry Rubin attended the U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign Kick-Off at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC. The meeting was chaired by Robert C. Roane, Executive Vice President of Riggs Bank, who is the Chairman of the Washington area U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign. The keynote speaker was Knight Kiplinger, editor of the Kiplinger Report. There was a training session for all the Agency Savings Bonds Coordinators following the Kick-Off.

| Arrivals | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----|
| FLEMMING, Jason | NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN | NRR |
| HUGHES, Daniel | PROJECT MANAGER | NRR |

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 15, 2002

Media Interest

There was interest in the reactor pressure vessel head degradation found at Davis-Besse.

| Press Releases | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Headquarters: | |
| 02-028 | NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet March 19-21, 2002 in Rockville, Maryland |
| 02-029 | NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letter on Davis-Besse; Schedules Meetings; Establishes Web Link for Info on Reactor Vessel Degradation |
| Regions: | |
| I-02-015 | NRC to Discuss Millstone Performance with Dominion Nuclear |
| I-02-016 | NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letter to Pennsylvania Medical Firm |
| I-02-016 | NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at Millstone Unit 2 |
| II-02-004 | NRC to Meet With FPL Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-005 | NRC to Meet with TVA Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-006 | NRC to Meet with Florida Power & Light Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-007 | NRC Staff Proposes \$7,500 Civil Penalty Against Hospital In Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, for Noncompliance with Regulations |
| II-02-008 | NRC to Meet with Virginia Power Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at North Anna Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-009 | NRC to Meet with Southern Nuclear Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-010 | NRC to Meet with Duke Energy Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Catawba Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-011 | NRC to Meet with Virginia Power Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Surry Nuclear Power Plant |

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| II-02-012 | NRC to Meet with Duke Energy Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at McGuire Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-02-013 | NRC to Meet with TVA Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant |
| III-02-02 | NRC to Conduct Augmented Inspection Of Davis-Besse Reactor Vessel Damage |
| III-02-003 | NRC to Meet With Exelon March 18 to Discuss Clinton Nuclear Plant Performance |
| III-02-04 | NRC to Meet with Nuclear Management Co. March 18 to Discuss Duane Arnold Energy Center Performance |
| IV-02-008 | NRC to Meet with Entergy To Discuss Safety Performance at Waterford 3 |

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Decision Documents | | |
| 1. SECY-02-0009 | 1/14/02 | Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-60-2/60-2A) - The States of Nevada and Minnesota |
| 2. SECY-02-0033 | 2/27/02 | Amergen's Request to Consolidate the Clinton Power Station Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) into the Centralized EOF Operated by Exelon Generation Co. |
| SRM on SECY-02-0033 | 3/15/02 | (same) |
| Voting Record on SECY-02-0033 | 3/15/02 | (same) |
| Information Papers | | |
| 1. SECY-02-0039 | 3/7/02 | SECY-02-0039 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 1, 2002 |
| Memoranda | | |
| 1. M020304 | 3/11/02 | Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of Nuclear Waste Safety |
| 2. M020206B | 3/12/02 | Staff Requirements - Briefing on EEO Program (SECY-02-0011) |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of Nevada, dated March 7, 2002, responds to objection to the process by which the NRC concurred on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) draft final "General Guidelines for the Recommendation of Sites for Nuclear Waste Repositories" (10 CFR Part 960) and its "Yucca Mountain Site Suitability Guidelines" (10 CFR part 963).
2. Letter to Dr. Victor H. Ransom dated March 7, 2002, offers an appointment to a four-year term on the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.
3. Letter to Adam Vonnegut dated March 7, 2002, congratulates on completion of requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Earthline Technologies "Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board," dated March 6, 2002.
2. The States of Nevada and Minnesota; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking, 10 CFR Part 60, dated March 5, 2002.
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Notice of Meeting, dated March 5, 2002.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

NRC Holds Public Meeting on Maine Yankee License Termination Plan and Partial Site Release

On the evening of March 11, 2002, NRC representatives from NRR, NMSS, and Region I held a public meeting in Wiscasset, Maine, to receive comments on and input to the License Termination Plan and Partial Site Release Request for the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station. In addition to the NRC presentations, representatives from Maine Yankee, the State of Maine, the USEPA, and the Friends of the Coast also made presentations. The meeting was held at the Wiscasset Middle School and was moderated by State Senator Marge Kilkelly, Chairman of the Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel. A question and comment period for the public followed the prepared presentations. Approximately 60 members of the public, local government officials and local media representatives were in attendance.

Keeping America Safe

On the morning of March 12, 2002, A. Randolph Blough, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region I, made a presentation to the conference on Homeland Security: "Keeping America Safe," which was presented by Cape May County, New Jersey. Guest speakers included Congressman Frank LoBiondo, an F.B.I. representative, and State and local officials. The conference was well attended and did not involve any question and answer sessions.

Indian Point 2

Senior NRC and Entergy management conducted a public annual assessment meeting the evening of March 14, 2002. IP2 performance for the period 4/1/01 through 12/31/01 was reviewed. IP2 has remained in the multiple degraded cornerstone column of the NRC's action matrix throughout this period. During the meeting, Entergy's management stated they were in agreement with NRC's annual assessment, and recognized the challenges that remain for them. They reviewed progress in implementing their 2002 IP2 Fundamentals of Improvement Plan (FIP). The meeting provided a useful exchange of information regarding Entergy's actions to address areas of weakness, which include human performance issues and corrective action effectiveness. A review of several performance indicators was included. NRC was represented by Messrs. W. Kane, Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, H. Miller, Regional Administrator, and others. Entergy was represented by F. Dacimo, Vice President - Operations, L. Temple, General Manager - Operations, Paul Rubin, Operations Manager, and Geoff Schwartz, Director, Design Engineering, IP2. Other Senior Entergy managers were also in attendance. Following the meeting, the NRC responded to a variety of questions from the public and media over a 2-hour period. Topics discussed included concerns regarding performance of the plant, emergency planning, and security.

Advanced Medical Imaging, Inc. -- License No. 37-30690-01

A Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) was issued to Advanced Medical Imaging, Inc. (AMI), an NRC licensee in Hazleton, PA on March 13, 2002. In the CAL, the licensee committed not to use NRC licensed material until a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) was obtained.

March 15, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

On March 14-15, 2002, the licensee responded to the CAL and supplied the name of the individual who would be the RSO. Region I requested additional information concerning the individual and is awaiting a response. The NRC will perform an inspection of the facility prior to issuing the amendment and permitting the resumption of licensed activities.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Commissioner Diaz Visited the Region II Office

On March 13, 2002, Commissioner Diaz visited the Region II office to attend the Region II Counterpart meeting. He met with the Regional Administrator, other senior managers, and spoke to the regional staff on Agency issues.

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie and Turkey Management Meetings

On March 15, 2002, representatives from Florida Power and Light Company were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the engineering initiatives and activities at the St. Lucie and Turkey Point facilities.

Browns Ferry Meeting - Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

On March 14, 2002, in a meeting open to the public in the Region II Office, Tennessee Valley Authority representatives discussed plans for the dry storage of spent fuel at the Browns Ferry Nuclear facility. The meeting was beneficial and provided the NRC with an understanding of the project schedule so that adequate resources could be more effectively scheduled to conduct pre-operational inspection activities.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 15, 2002

Public Meeting to Discuss Operator Licensing

A public meeting was held in Arlington, Texas, on March 13, 2002, between NRC and power reactor licensees. At the meeting, representatives from Region IV, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and utilities discussed the NRC operator licensing program policies, requalification inspections, the operator requalification human performance significance determination process, and examination schedules.

Region IV Administrator Briefs NPPD's Board of Directors (Nuclear Committee)

On March 14, 2002, the Region IV Regional Administrator met with the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) Board of Directors Nuclear Committee, in Columbus, Nebraska. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the board members on the reactor oversight process and the Cooper Nuclear Station's current performance assessment. This meeting was held at the request of the NPPD president.

Deputy Director NRR Visits the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

On March 14, the Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, visited the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). He was accompanied by the branch chief who is responsible for the site. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the site resident inspectors, tour the facility, and meet with SONGS management.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 15, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 45

| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Gerke | 03/18 & 19 SD-342 | 10:00 | OPM, GAO, NTEU, Brookings Institution | Federal Workforce Policies | Senators Akaka/Cochran Intl Security, Prolif & Federal Services Governmental Affairs |
| Combs | 03/21/02 2322 RHOB | 10:30 | DOE, NRC and others | Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository | Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce |
| Gerke | 03/21/02 TBA | TBA | OMB, OPM, DOL, SBA | E-Government and Information Technology | Reps. Davis/Turner Technology and Procurement Policy Government Reform |

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