

INFORMATION REPORT

May 2, 2002

SECY-02-0073

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0073 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 26, 2002

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	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/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
J. Colaccino, OEDO

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 26, 2002

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

Contact: J. Colaccino, OEDO by E-mail: jxc1@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	18
NSIR	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	*
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Staff Issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal for the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2

On April 18, 2002, the NRC staff delivered the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) it has prepared regarding license renewal for the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2, to the Environmental Protection Agency. The draft EIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). The draft is being issued for public comment, with the comment period closing on July 12, 2002. On May 29, 2002, the staff will hold public meetings in Surry, Virginia to provide the public with information about the results of the staff's review and to collect comments on the draft EIS. After the comment period ends, the staff will resolve the comments received and develop the final EIS.

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

Members of the EPHP Section attended the four-day, annual National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference. The conference was hosted by the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency. There were approximately 300 attendees representing State and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, the nuclear industry, vendors and federal government agencies.

The focus of the conference dealt with emergency management activities predominantly related to accidents at nuclear facilities. However, the impact of September 11, 2001 was obvious in that each day had some topic related to a "security threat." Additionally, updates of current and projected activities were provided by NRC (NRR & IRO), along with NEI, FEMA and DOE.

A panel representing NRC, FEMA and 2 different State emergency management agencies, discussed their representative positions on the use of KI. This panel generated the most questions and overall interactions of the conference.

Public Meeting with Stakeholders Concerning Development of a Proposed Worker Fatigue Rule

On April 19, 2002, the staff held the second stakeholder meeting concerning the development of a rule concerning worker fatigue at nuclear power plants. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the Electric Power Research Institute, the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Professional Reactor Operator Society, the Union of Concerned Scientists, individual utilities, and members of the public. The staff discussed findings from the assessment of the NRC's worker fatigue policy, the technical basis for proposed changes to the current policy guidelines, and a UCS proposal for revised working hour limits. NEI proposed to develop a guidance document for fatigue management methods. The participants set June 5, 2002 as the date for the next public meeting to discuss the rulemaking and NEI's progress in developing a guidance document.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2

The staff has approved a request by the licensee to increase the maximum authorized reactor core power level from 2815 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3026 MWt, which represents a power increase of about 7.5 percent and is considered to be an extended power uprate. This power uprate is the first PWR uprate over 5%. The staff's evaluation of the power uprate focused on several areas, including the nuclear steam supply system; systems, structure and components; balance-of-plant systems; human factors; radiological consequences; probabilistic risk assessment; and technical specification changes. The licensee is implementing the power uprate during the current refueling and maintenance outage.

Oconee 1 Steam Generator Tube Examinations

In April 2002, Duke Power Company was inspecting and unplugging tubes in the Oconee Unit 1 steam generators in response to the Fall 2001 inspection findings at TMI described in IN 2002-02, "Recent Experience With Plugged Steam Generator Tubes". The licensee identified a wear scar on a plugged tube. The licensee performed a secondary-side visual and discovered a circumferentially severed plugged tube at the secondary face of the lower tubesheet (LTS). The licensee performed in-situ pressure tests on the tubes with wear scars and reported that the test results were satisfactory indicating that the severed tube had not significantly impacted the integrity of its neighboring tubes (all of which were plugged during prior outages). The licensee removed portions of several of the affected tubes for destructive examination including the severed tube. The severed tube was one of twelve tubes instrumented with thermocouples during the first cycle of operation and subsequently plugged. Region II is conducting a special inspection at Oconee. The findings at Oconee have some differences from the severed plugged tube found at TMI.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Observation of the Department of Energy's Audit of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

On April 15-19, 2002, the Division of Waste Management staff observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's), Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) audit of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California. The scope of the audit was to evaluate the implementation, compliance, adequacy, and effectiveness of the quality assurance (QA) program and procedures supporting the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project. The OQA auditors reviewed LLNL's material service investigations for waste packages and various studies for the Yucca Mountain Site repository. The audit identified two potential administrative-related deficiencies, three quality observations related to not following procedures verbatim, and one deficiency identification and referral for continuing to be late on performing technical and compliance reviews. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission observers initiated one Audit Observer Inquiry, requesting OQA to verify if its management and operating contractor implemented the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's (OCRWM's) QA program in the procurement of welded-metal materials and non-destructive examination services. On receipt of LLNL's response outlining the actions taken to correct the deficiencies identified by DOE's OQA, the staff will conduct a review and determine if the actions taken to preclude recurrence are adequate. The staff will follow up on OQA's verification of compliance with OCRWM's QA program procurement requirements.

Yucca Mountain Technical Agreement Discussions with the Department of Energy

On April 15-16, 2002, members from the Division of Waste Management participated in a Technical Exchange and Management Meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE) in Las Vegas. DOE's Key Technical Issue (KTI) Agreement Item Planning Strategy and the KTI agreements that DOE plans to address in FY 2002 were discussed. During the overview of the DOE KTI Planning Strategy, DOE discussed the process it used for binning the agreements, how the schedule for addressing the agreements was developed, and the method it used to document the work scope needed to address the agreements. DOE then discussed, briefly, each of the agreements it plans to address in FY 2002. No new agreements were reached at this meeting; however, the due dates and/or documentation method for several agreements were changed, one agreement was modified, and two agreements were closed. To date, 41 of the 293 agreements are closed. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission currently has 16 agreements under review and DOE plans to address an additional 50 agreements before the end of FY 2002. A second Technical Exchange to discuss DOE plans to address FY 2003 and FY 2004 agreements is being scheduled for late June in Las Vegas.

Staff Briefing of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste on Risk Insights Initiative and Unlikely Event Rulemaking

On April 16, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management presented two briefings to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste. One presentation was a status report, on the high-level-waste risk insights initiative, a communication and integration exercise the staff is

conducting. The staff presented an overview of the activities that comprise the risk insights initiative, and the results from the communication exercise. Staff described the process it is using in the exercise to collect the basis, including any risk information, for each of the 293 key technical issue agreements with the Department of Energy. It described topics where additional training is needed and addressed how communications can be improved. It also described the steps being taken to implement the improvements. In addition, the presentation also identified those additional areas where analyses need to be conducted to obtain the risk insights. Finally, the staff outlined how the results of the risk insights initiative would be documented. The other staff presentation was an update on the expedited rulemaking to amend 10 CFR Part 63 to address the probability limit for unlikely events to be used in groundwater and human intrusion standards. Staff presented the approach used in the proposed draft amendment. It also described the comments obtained from the public comment period and the next steps in the rulemaking.

West Valley Demonstration Project Meetings, West Valley, New York

On April 16-17, 2002, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in a series of meetings, in the vicinity of the West Valley site, to address NRC's "Final Policy Statement on Decommissioning Criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project," the "Regulators' Communication Plan", roles and responsibilities of NRC and other agencies involved in the cleanup of the West Valley site, and other regulatory issues. On the evening of April 16, 2002, NRC staff met with the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) to address questions and concerns about the Final Policy Statement. On the morning of April 17, 2002, NRC staff met with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the New York State Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss various topics, such as concerns raised in the CTF meeting, the "Regulators' Communication Plan," status of the planned West Valley Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and other important issues related to site decommissioning.

On the evening of April 17, 2002, NRC and other Federal and State agencies participated in a public meeting to clarify their roles and responsibilities related to the cleanup of the West Valley site, present information on NRC's Final Policy Statement, and afford an opportunity for public questions and answers. The major concerns expressed included the flexibility of the Final Policy Statement, the potential for exemptions, authorization for providing criteria for waste incidental to reprocessing, and status and content of the West Valley Decommissioning EIS. A transcript of this meeting will be available to the public on the NRC website.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Department of Energy (DOE) Management Meeting to Discuss Items of Mutual Interest on High-Level Waste Repository Program

On April 18-19, 2002, the management of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards held a quarterly meeting with the management of the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, to discuss pending items of mutual interest related to their respective High-Level Waste (HLW) Repository Programs. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, with video-conference and/or audio-conference participation from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the DOE Forrestal Office Building, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, and the NRC Region IV Offices. The meeting included observers

from the State of Nevada, Affected Units of the local government, Nuclear Energy Institute, and public interest groups. The NRC management provided a HLW program update, expressed concern about the DOE Quality Assurance program, and the importance of addressing the agreements related to the subissues of the Key Technical Issues deemed important to repository performance by NRC staff. In addition, NRC management summarized its efforts on the public outreach program, including public meetings to be held in May 2002, in Nevada, on the draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan. DOE management provided updates on the HLW program and the Employee Concerns program. Further, DOE discussed its management improvement initiatives for correcting past problems. The next management meeting will be held in July 2002 at NRC Headquarters.

Private Fuel Storage Application

During the week of April 21, 2002, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) participated in adjudicatory proceedings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The proceedings regarded the Private Fuel Storage application for a license to construct and operate an away-from-reactor independent spent fuel storage installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. Hearings during the week of April 21, 2002, concerned the remaining environmental contentions. Supporting SFPO staff as witnesses were representatives of the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

National Academy of Science Workshop on Fire Safety Research

On April 15-16, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council "Workshop to Identify Innovative Research Needs to Foster Improved Fire Safety in the United States." The workshop involved invited presentations by leading researchers on issues in fire and explosions, materials and fire retardants, fire protection, fire protection engineering tools, structural performance, human behavior, and public policy. The papers and subsequent discussion were aimed at identifying key areas where research was needed to improve fire safety. A paper by a RES staff member addressed the treatment of uncertainties in fire safety assessments. The workshop proved to be a useful forum for discussing limitations in the current state of the art of fire analyses, as well as for identifying possible steps for developing a broad, national program for fire safety research.

Multi-agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) Workgroup Meeting

The mission of the Workgroup is to provide technical processes and methods, which are accepted and endorsed across the Federal government and State governments, that regulators and users of radioactivity can use to measure radioactivity to demonstrate compliance with regulatory criteria. The MARSSIM Workgroup met April 16-18, 2002, to work on drafts of two supplemental survey manuals—one for radiation measurements of materials and equipment, the other for surveys of subsurface radioactive materials. In addition, the Workgroup addressed updates for the MARSSIM and the MARSSIM website—including answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Representatives from the author agencies, DOD (Air Force, Navy), DOE, EPA, NRC, participated, and two members of the public attended. The Workgroup produced a preliminary draft Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Materials and Equipment (MARSAME). The second supplement, a manual for surveys of subsurface radioactive material, has progressed to the level of an annotated table of contents. The region of interest for this manual is between 15 centimeters below the surface to the water table. Surveys of the water table is out of the scope of this manual, however, an appropriate bibliography of measurement techniques for saturated zones will be included as an appendix. These Workgroup activities are geared toward producing draft manuals for inter-agency review in a year.

Internet Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/marssim/>

Prestressed Concrete Containment Vessel (PCCV) Overpressurization

A staff member of the Engineering Research Applications Branch presented a paper at the 10th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering (ICONE-10) in Arlington, Virginia on April 18, 2002. The title of the paper was "Results of Overpressurization Test of a 1:4 Scale Prestressed Concrete Containment Model." The Nuclear Power Corporation of Japan (NUPEC) and the NRC co-sponsored a research program at Sandia National Laboratories to investigate the response of representative models of nuclear containment structures beyond their design

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE C

conditions. The first project, a 1:10 scale model of a steel BWR containment structure was tested to failure in December 1996. A 1:4 scale model of a prestressed concrete containment vessel (PCCV) was constructed by NUPEC at Sandia from January 1997 through June 2000. Concurrently, Sandia instrumented the model with over 1500 transducers to measure strain, displacement and forces in the model from the time of introduction of prestress forces through the pressure testing. The test to failure of the PCCV model was conducted in September 2000 at Sandia. This paper describes the conduct of that test which resulted in a failure due to liner tearing. Pressure was raised in steps and leakage was first detected at about 2.5 times the design pressure. At about 3.3 times design pressure, leakage had increased beyond the capability of the supply system and the model was depressurized.

Peer Review Meeting for Package Performance Study

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) convened the first technical peer review panel meeting for Package Performance Study (PPS). The panel reviewed the test protocols report and other PPS info. Two panels have been assembled: the structural panel to review the proposed impact test and the thermal panel to review the proposed fire tests. The structural panel strongly endorsed (1) a regulatory (30') drop of a Holtec Hi-Star cask with impact limiter, followed by (2) a ~60 mph impact of the same Hi-Star either with 'real' impact limiter or a substitute (easier to analyze and cheaper) limiter. The thermal panel recommended a series (10-12) of calorimeter tests and orientations with a goal of understanding fire physics and the CAFÉ code's modeling; to be followed by one or two cask tests. They recommended a PPS goal of demonstrating CAFÉ's ability to predict time to limiting temp for seal, lead, and fuel. Both the thermal and structural panels had questions on the fuel experiments (there is not a separate fuel panel). Main issues included the appropriateness of the aging process for the fuel cladding and the wide variation of fuel (representativeness).

CSNI Workshop

A staff member from RES was a member of the Organizing Committee for, and chaired a Session at the OECD/NEA Workshop on "Evaluation of Defects, Repair Criteria and Methods of Repair for Concrete Structures in Nuclear Power Plants." The Workshop, which was hosted by the GRS and held in Berlin on April 10-11, 2002, was very successful. Twenty papers were presented by authors from fourteen countries. Conclusions and recommendations are currently being drafted by the Organizing Committee based on the information developed at the Workshop. Final conclusions will be developed by the Working Group on the integrity and aging of components and structures later this year.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

NSIR Meeting on ICMs for Decommissioning Reactors

On April 19, 2002, NSIR staff held a closed meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs) for enhanced security and associated guidance for Decommissioning Reactors. NEI provided draft guidance for NRC staff for information and discussion. The ICMs are intended to (1) enhance the licensee's capability to detect unauthorized activities at decommissioning reactors, (2) ensure communication capability between the licensee and outside support agencies, and (3) enhance the coordination of response activities performed by licensees and outside support agencies.

Subcommittee on International Safeguards and Monitoring (SISM)

The SISM met on April 24 to review the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) work plan for protecting against nuclear terrorism, which was supported by the Board of Governors. The plan will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the IAEA Advisory Group on Security.

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference (NREP)

On April 15-18, 2002, staff from NSIR, NRR, and NRC Regional offices represented NRC at the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference (NREP) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The NREP is a forum for state and federal responders, as well as licensee emergency preparedness directors, to discuss emerging issues in radiological emergency response. NRC presented current NRC issues including NRC emergency response to the 9-11 events, KI, and exercises with terrorism aspects. In addition to the formal presentations, NRC staff answered questions from the conference participants. Two licensees expressed interest in incorporating terrorism aspects into exercises, and one state also approached NRC to request a terrorism exercise. NRC staff is following up with the interested parties, and will incorporate these exercises into the 2003 exercise schedule.

Division of Incident Response Meeting with U. S. Postal Service

On April 18, 2002, the Division of Incident Response Operations, the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of Administration staff met with the U. S. Postal Service (USPS) to discuss potential emergency response issues and areas where the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expertise may be of assistance for USPS emergency planning. Among the specific issues discussed were dispersion modeling. Issues discussed included NRC's dispersion modeling capabilities and NRC's experience regarding Joint Information Centers.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-02-11, Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., STOLEN SEALED CALIBRATION SOURCE.

2. PNO-II-02-17, University of Alabama Medical Center, MISSING BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCE.
3. PNO-III-02-016A, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, DISCRETE RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES FOUND OUTSIDE THE RADIOLOGICALLY RESTRICTED AREA.
4. PNO-III-02-018, Riverside Methodist Hospital, INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION (OVERDOSE).

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Performance-based Contracting

On April 22, 2002, Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM) staff participated in an interagency Performance-Based Contracting Communities of Practice meeting called by the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP). At the meeting, the Administrator tasked this interagency group to develop a consistent definition of performance-based contracting that can be agreed upon and used government-wide. The group's recommendation, being developed through electronic communications, will be submitted to OFPP at the end of this month.

E-procurement

On April 23, 2002, DCPM staff and two representatives from OCFO attended a demonstration of the Department of Interior's Electronic Acquisition System (IDEAS) at DOI's National Business Center in Reston, Virginia. IDEAS, which interfaces with the Interior-FFS system currently used by NRC, is an alternative that DCPM is considering to replace its current contract writing system.

Small Agency Council

On April 23, 2002, DCPM, participated in the Small Agency Council (SAC) Executive Board meeting held at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission headquarters in Washington, D.C. The staffer, a Co-chair of the SAC Procurement Committee, reported on the committee's three FY 2002 programs (contingency planning for continuation of procurement activity in case of emergencies, legislative activity including the proposed Service Acquisition Reform Act, and E-procurement). The topics for the May 22, 2002, meeting are E-procurement and an update of the Administration's procurement priorities.

Award

On April 19, 2002, an open market competitive purchase order (No. DR-01-0265) for "NRC's Child Care Tuition Assistance Program" was awarded to Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA) in the amount of \$248,000. The period of performance is five years. Streamlining initiatives used were: use of one panel member, electronic submission of SOW, and simplified evaluation criteria.

Medical Use of Byproduct Material (Parts 20, 32, and 35)

A final rule that revises the regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2002 (67 FR 20250). The final rule is intended to focus NRC's regulations on those medical procedures that pose the highest risk to workers, patients, and the public and to structure the regulations to be more risk-informed and more performance-based. The final rule becomes effective October 24, 2002.

A document modifying the NRC's Enforcement Policy to reflect these revised regulations was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2002 (67 FR 20187).

Salary Offset Procedures for Collecting Debts Owed by Federal Employees to the Federal Government (Part 16)

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations concerning procedures used to collect debts that are owed to the NRC by Federal employees was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2002 (67 FR 20059). The proposed rule would conform NRC regulations to the legislative changes enacted in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures contained in the Federal Claims Collection Standards. The comment period for this action closes July 8, 2002.

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
April 19, 2002 through April 25, 2002:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Versuchreaktor or AVR, all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0231)

Thorium High Temperature Reactor (THTR), all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0232)

OIG Semiannual Reports 3-31-01 through 9-30-01, OIG Strategic Plans, Financial Statement Audits 9-30-00 through 9-30-01, Performance Reports for FY2000 & FY2001 (FOIA/PA-2002-0233)

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Arrivals		
DIAZ TORO, Diana	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
MOODY, Frederick	CONSULTANT	ACRS/ACNW

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Media Interest

There was continuing interest in the reactor vessel head degradation problem at Davis-Besse and its consequences for FirstEnergy Corp.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-050	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing on Diablo Canyon Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
02-051	NRC Approves Power Uprate for South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2
02-052	NRC Amends Rule on Debt Collection Procedures
Regions:	
III-02-022	NRC Staff to Meet with Nuclear Management Co. To Discuss Safety Significance of Cooling System Issue at Point Beach Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Visit of UK Liabilities Management Unit to Discuss Site Clean Up

On April 22, 2002, representatives of the Liabilities Management Unit (LMU) of the United Kingdom (UK) Department of Trade and Industry and representatives from BNFL and the UK Atomic Energy Agency (UKAEA) met with the Director, Division of Waste Management; the Decommissioning Branch Chief, and other NRC staff. The LMU officials are in the U.S. to discuss clean up and decommissioning of nuclear sites. They will also meet with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) representatives and visit two DOE sites: Rocky Flats and Savannah River throughout the week. The context of the visit is the formation, by the U.K. government, of a new organization to address site clean up and decommissioning within the next year and a half. In its discussions with NRC, the LMU delegation was interested in funding mechanisms, organization infrastructure for regulating decommissioning, as well as in the interaction with the general public.

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0067	4/15/02	Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) for Operational Programs (Programmatic ITAAC)
2. SECY-02-0032	2/22/02	Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences for Fiscal Year 2001
SRM on SECY-02-0032	3/27/02	(same subject)
Voting Record on SECY-02-0032	3/27/02	(same subject)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0064	4/5/02	Results from Pilot Program for NMSS Initiative on Streamlining Inspection and Enforcement
2. SECY-02-0069	4/19/02	SECY-02-0069 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 12, 2002

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Markey dated April 15, 2002, concerns the NRC policies and procedures for the protection of nuclear materials from theft or diversion.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Parts 20, 32, and 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material - Final Rule.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (Full Committee) - Meeting Notice.
4. Entergy Nuclear Indian Point2, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2- Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.
5. NRC Enforcement Policy; Modification, Medical Use - Policy Statement: Modification.

April 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Heritage Minerals, Inc. Meeting

On April 23, 2002, DNMS staff and management met with representatives from Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) at the Region I office to discuss results of the December 2001 confirmatory survey conducted at the Lakehurst, New Jersey site by the NRC's contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). The site is on the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list of contaminated sites. During the period July-October 2001, the licensee performed remediation of licensed site areas, submitted a Final Status Survey to NRC, and requested release of the property for unrestricted use. However, ORISE subsequently identified residual material in mill buildings and soil at the site. During the April 23 meeting HMI's plans and schedule for completing necessary remediation of contaminated areas were discussed. Staff from the NRC Division of Waste Management and representatives from the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection participated in the meeting.

Pilgrim Public Meeting On Site Security

On April 21, 2002, Congressman William Delahunt of Massachusetts hosted a meeting to discuss security and emergency planning issues at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. Representatives from various federal and state agencies, including NRC, DOE, FEMA, the Coast Guard and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, participated in the meeting, as did the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Regional Administrator represented the NRC on the panel. Individuals from NRR and NSIR provided technical support. For about two hours at the start of the meeting, the public was provided an opportunity to raise questions or provide concerns. After the public comment period, the Congressman questioned the various agency spokespersons regarding measures that have been taken, as well as those planned to be taken, to ensure safety at the Pilgrim nuclear facility. This was the third meeting sponsored by Congressman Delahunt on security-related topics since September 11, 2001. About 70 members of the public attended. Reporters from several newspapers and a local radio station covered the meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Workshop with Region II Power Reactor Licensees

On April 23-24, 2002, the Regional Administrator and the Chief Nuclear Officer for Progress Energy hosted a workshop with representatives from the nuclear power reactor facilities in Region II. There were over 100 participants, including representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and senior licensee Vice-Presidents. The workshop was sponsored by the American Nuclear Society with the purpose of fostering communication through discussion of current issues that challenge both industry and the NRC. Keynote presentations were made by the NRC Chairman and Deputy Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Region II's Participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Review in Armenia

On April 25-May 10, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety is supporting NRC's program to aid IAEA. The Deputy Director is participating as a team member in an International Regulatory Review of the country of Armenia's nuclear regulatory program.

Savannah River Site Nuclear Exercise

On April 23-26, 2002, the Region II, State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the FEMA, Regional Assistance Committee to evaluate State and DOE response during an emergency preparedness exercise at the Savannah River Site. This exercise was sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE), involving officials of the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Bristol-Meyers Squibb, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

On April 12, 2002, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, a nuclear pharmacy in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, reported that an internal investigation in response to NRC's Information Notice 2000-10, "Recent Events Resulting in Extremity Exposures Exceeding Regulatory Limits", identified possible radiation over exposures to the extremities of two radiopharmacists. This past week, a Special Inspection Team from Region II conducted an assessment of the licensee's response and corrective actions to the possible over exposures.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

Reactive Team Inspection at Framatome ANP Richland

On April 18, 2002, the onsite portion of a reactive inspection was completed at Framatome, ANP Richland to review an April 3, 2002, Bulletin 91-01 notification of a loss of a criticality safety control (see PNO-IV-02-019). The inspection included a RIV Fuel Cycle Decommissioning Branch staff member, along with two NMSS (FSSS) staff members. A State of Washington representative observed the inspection. The inspection confirmed that corrective actions taken by the licensee were adequate to continue the dry powder loading operations. However, the NRC engaged the licensee at the preliminary exit briefing and by telephone conference call on April 23, 2002, to request additional followup actions to address potential broader concerns related to procedures and management controls at the facility. In the telephonic conference call, the licensee committed to send a letter to NRC confirming their plans to continue with additional reviews to address the NRC concerns and to hold a followup conference call with the NRC by May 8, 2002, to discuss the initial results of the reviews and plans for any further actions based on the results.

Public Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc. at Waterford 3

On April 24, 2002, an public meeting was conducted with Entergy Operations management in the Region IV office to review the Waterford 3 Refuel 11 outage. Discussions included an event that occurred on March 23, 2002, involving the inability to initiate shutdown cooling for about 1½ hours (reference PNO-IV-02-016). During the event, operators declared an ALERT, and Region IV activated its Incident Response Center to monitor plant conditions until shutdown cooling was established.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included the failure of the anti-rotation device on Reactor Coolant Pump 2B, voiding in the shutdown cooling suction piping, results of the reactor vessel head inspection, and overall plant performance during the outage.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 26, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 51

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	04/30/02 Atlanta, GA	9:00	TBA	Field Hearing on Federal Building Security	Reps. Burton/Waxman Government Reform
Gerke	05/02/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Federal Information Security	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmnt and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform

April 26, 2002

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