

INFORMATION REPORT

June 13, 2002

SECY-02-0102

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0102 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JUNE 7, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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S. Rosenberg, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 7, 2002

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: slr1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Reactor Oversight Process

On May 30, 2002, the Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Plant Operations Subcommittee on the staff's efforts to date regarding the upcoming pilot program for the Mitigation Systems Performance Index. Overall, ACRS was supportive of the pilot program. Their major areas of interest were: (1) the calculational methodology of the performance indicators (PIs); (2) the basis for the baseline values; (3) the stated objectives of the pilot program and solving the known problems with the existing safety system unavailability PI; and (4) the tabletop exercises. In addition, the staff briefed results of the industry trends program.

Staff Holds Public Meetings on the Draft Surry Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

The NRC staff participated in two outreach activities last week related to the license renewal application for Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2. On May 29, 2002, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) issued on April 3, 2002. The staff conducted open houses for one hour prior to each meeting session. Several individuals took advantage of this opportunity to meet with the NRC staff and discuss the proposed renewal of the Surry Units 1 and 2 operating licenses.

The draft SEIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). Approximately 40 people attended the meetings, including representatives of the NRC staff, Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCo), the nuclear industry, the press, and members of the public. Eleven individuals spoke at the meetings, all of whom expressed support for extending the operating life of the two nuclear units at Surry. The comment period on the draft SEIS ends on July 12, 2002.

Extended Power Uprates approved for Brunswick Units 1 and 2

On May 31, 2002, license amendments were issued that allow Carolina Power & Light to implement Brunswick's 15% extended power uprate (EPU) from 2558 MWt to 2923 MWt per unit, an increase of 365 MWt. This represents a combined addition of up to 230 MWe for the Brunswick site. The licensee began implementation of the EPU on June 1, 2002, on Unit 1 and began performance testing immediately.

Unit 2 EPU implementation will be carried out following next year's refueling outage when the use of the Alternative Source Term (AST) will be implemented for Unit 2. A license condition requires the licensee to complete certain seismic verification walkdowns prior to implementing the AST on Unit 2. Therefore, Unit 2 cannot implement the EPU until the next refueling outage scheduled for March 2003. Unit 1 has completed the necessary walkdowns and has begun implementing the AST as approved by the NRC staff in accordance with a license amendment dated May 30, 2002. Although the license allows operation of the reactor at a full uprated

power level of 2923 MWt, Unit 1 will be limited in operation by balance-of-plant equipment in the current operating cycle.

Public Meeting on the Use of PRA Standards and Industry Programs to determine PRA Quality

On May 30 2002, the staff held a public meeting to discuss NRC expectations on the use and application of the ASME PRA Standard and the NEI Peer Review Process (as documented in NEI-00-02) in evaluating the technical quality of PRA results for risk informed activities. The staff discussed the outline and scope of the Reg Guide and Standard Review Plan that is to be published to address this issue. These documents are intended to provide guidance on how to use consensus PRA standards or industry peer review processes to demonstrate that the results used in the decision-making process are supported by the underlying PRA.

At the meeting, the staff presented preliminary findings on the ASME PRA Standard published in April 2002. Industry representatives thought that these findings were reasonable. NEI presented a "delta document" which tabulated the differences between the ASME PRA Standard and the subtier criteria used in NEI-00-02. NEI also described a process to be used by licensees to reconcile the differences between the ASME and NEI documents so that credit can still be taken for the NEI PRA peer reviews that have already been performed. This process will be formally submitted to the NRC by approximately the end of June.

June 7, 2002

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Staff Attendance at Department of Energy Northeast High-level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force 2002 Spring Meeting

On May 29, 2002, a staff member from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) attended the Department of Energy (DOE) Northeast High-level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force 2002 spring meeting in Concord, New Hampshire. The purpose of this meeting was to improve interactions between DOE and external groups interested in transportation of DOE's hazardous (particularly radioactive) materials. Members representing U.S. northeastern states, industry, and professional associations, as well as other Federal agencies, attended. Representatives from DOE provided updates on the Naval Reactor program and changes in DOE's transportation emergency preparedness program. A representative from the Federal Railroad Administration updated the task force on high-level radioactive waste inspection activities. The SFPO staff member made a presentation on the Agency's response to the events of September 11, 2001.

NAC Multi-Purpose Canister Spent Fuel Storage System Amendment Approved for Haddam Neck

On May 30, 2002, the NRC staff issued Amendment No. 2 to Certificate of Compliance No. 1025 for the NAC International Multi-Purpose Canister Spent Fuel Storage System. The amendment includes changes to the authorized contents to allow fuel from the Haddam Neck reactor and implements the standard technical specification format specified in NUREG-1745, "Standard Format and Content for Technical Specifications for 10 CFR 72 Cask Certificates of Compliance." The effective date of the amendment was May 29, 2002.

Staff Presentations at the American Geophysical Union Spring Meeting

On May 28-31, 2002, staffs from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington, DC. A total of 10 conference presentations dealt with the scientific and policy issues associated with the proposed Yucca Mountain Nevada repository. The staff presented four papers in oral and poster sessions on aspects of the NRC's high-level radioactive waste program. The staff posters were grouped in one session and NRC's high-level waste public outreach informational materials were made available to meeting attendees at the poster session.

Annual Decommissioning Counterpart Meeting

On May 29-31, 2002, the annual Decommissioning Counterpart meeting was held in Lisle, Illinois. Region III hosted this year's meeting. Meeting participants included representatives from each of the four Regions, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of the General Counsel, the Spent Fuel Project Office, and the Division of Waste Management. Topics discussed included inspection resources for the decommissioning reactor inspection program; changes to the inspection manual to address 10 CFR 50.59, security, and emergency

planning inspections for decommissioning reactors; and planning, conducting, and participating in public meetings. This year's meeting also included a tour of the Kerr-McGee West Chicago Rare Earths facility, a complex material site requiring significant remediation.

Public Meeting on 10 CFR Part 71 Proposed Rule

On June 4, 2002, staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, the Spent Fuel Project Office, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) held a public meeting in Chicago to hear stakeholder views/concerns on the NRC's 10 CFR Part 71 proposed rule for compatibility with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety standards (TS-R-1), and for other NRC-initiated amendments. DOT also published its proposed rule for compatibility of its 49 CFR with the same IAEA standards (the two rules were coordinated). All attendees received copies of the rules and supporting documents. Except for one person from the pharmaceutical industry, and another who is a Radiation Safety Officer, all the attendees were members of citizen and environmental groups. NRC and DOT staffs responded to the comments and assured the attendees that the rule provisions will maintain the same level of protection to the public, transportation workers, and the environment. Because of time limitations in the first session, the attendees were encouraged to submit additional written comments on the form provided at the meeting, on-line on the NRC web site, or by mail.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Meeting with DOE/RW on PPS

On June 4, 2002, the directors for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and members of their respective staffs met with Dr. Margaret Chu, the new Director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and members of her staff to discuss potential cooperation on the Package Performance Study. The NRC staff provided a brief presentation of the goals, work scope, and planned schedule for the study. The resultant discussion covered the need for NRC to maintain its independence, the role of stakeholder input in development of the study, the prospects for foreign partners, and overall funding for the study. Dr. Chu expressed high level technical interest in the study and indicated the appropriateness of DOE's support for the study. She or her staff will contact NRC about preparing an MOU after confirming the availability and timing of possible funding.

DOE NEPO meeting

On May 29 and 30, staff members from the Engineering Research Applications Branch and the Materials Engineering Branch represented the NRC at DOE Nuclear Energy Plant Optimization (NEPO) project screening meeting. The RES staff participated in the review and screening of potential research project for FY 2003. The NEPO Program is a DOE research and development program focused on enhancing performance of operating U.S. nuclear power plants. The primary areas of focus for this program are plant aging and optimization. The NEPO Program is also a public-private R&D partnership with equal or greater matching funds coming from the nuclear power industry.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Meeting of the Committee for National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications

On May 30, 2002, the Director of the Division of Incident Response Operations attended the meeting of the Committee for National Security and Emergency Preparedness Communications. These meetings, which take place every 3-6 months, are chaired by Lt. General Raduege, USAF and are held by the National Communications System. They are attended by most of the major Federal Departments or agencies, and are primarily information-sharing meetings. Areas of discussion included:

- Update on the OHS Homeland Security Advisory System, handling of sensitive homeland security information, and OHS information sharing activities.
- Update on National Strategy and Office of Cyber Security activities
- Critical Infrastructure Protection Board Taskings Overview, including backup dial-tone analysis for Washington D.C. area, emergency notification service and global early warning on potential Internet threats.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-02-028, B. J. Services, REPORT OF MISPLACED SEALED SOURCE.

June 7, 2002

ENCLOSURE D

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
May 31, 2002 through June 6, 2002:

Licenses, what office receives request for termination, and are documents publicly available
(FOIA/PA-2002-0287)

Training materials, resident inspectors, re: SDP (significant determination process), all
documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0288)

Commissioner Diaz' contract, to provide advice and guidance (FOIA/PA-2002-0289)

Indian Point 2, justification of 5-year extension on containment integrate leak rate test
(FOIA/PA-2002-0290)

Security file (FOIA/PA-2002-0291)

Davis Besse, correspondence between NRC and FirstEnergy re: safety concerns since 1995
(FOIA/PA-2002-0292)

FOIA/PA-2002-0245, all processing records (FOIA/PA-2002-0293)

June 7, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 7, 2002

Arrivals		
ARNETT, Daniel	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
DORSEY, Melissa	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
DOWLING, Jonathan	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
HANSON, Michael	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
KASCAK, Matthew	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
LIMATA, Laura	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
MARTIN, David	OFFICE ASSISTANT	RIII
PENNAMON, Bryan	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
RIDLEY, Stanley	CONSULTANT	NMSS
SCHNECK, Debra	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	NRR
SCOTT, Keianna	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
SKIDMORE, Karen	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
VARGAS-MÉNDEZ, Alexandra	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RII
WOLCHANSKY, Jennifer	STUDENT PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NMSS

June 7, 2002

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve's testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on nuclear power plant security issues was widely reported.

There was media interest in a meeting between NRC and FirstEnergy Company officials regarding the company's plans to replace the reactor vessel head at Davis Besse.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-068	NRC Renews Charter of Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
02-069	NRC Revises Public Meeting Policy
02-070	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant
02-071	NRC Renews License for Turkey Point Units 3 & 4 for an Additional 20 Years
02-072	NRC Advisory Committee on Medical uses of Isotopes to Meet June 21, July 8
Regions:	
I-02-041	NRC, Companies to Discuss Three Mile Island 2 Organizational Changes
I-02-042	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Oyster Creek
II-02-032	Atomic Safety & Licensing Board to Continue Hearing June 11 in Chattanooga on TVA Appeal of NRC Discrimination Ruling
III-02-032	NRC Staff to Meet with Northern Engraving on Possible Safety Violations
III-02-033	NRC to Hold 3 Public Meetings on Davis-Besse June 12 in Ohio
IV-02-027	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Fort Calhoun Station License Renewal
IV-02-028	NRC Names Mark A. Sitek Resident Inspector at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

German Visits

On June 4-5, 2002, Mr. Lothar Hahn, Technical Director of Gesellschaft fur Reaktorsicherheit, headed a delegation that met with the Commissioners and staff. The purpose of the visit was to identify areas of mutual interest for future research cooperation. Topics that were discussed included analysis of operational experience, reactor sump clogging, PRA activities, material aging, digital I&C and severe accident management. Additionally, the visitors were briefed on emergency response and they toured the Operations Center.

On June 6, 2002, Mr. Gerhard Feige, from the Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety, accompanied by Dr. Norbert Pelzer of the University of Gottingen, headed a team that wished to discuss the legal structure that provides nuclear regulatory independence in the U.S. Karen Cyr, General Council, represented NRC in this discussion.

Chinese Visit

On June 7, 2002, Vice Chairman Xu Yuming, China Atomic Energy Authority, visited the NRC and met with the Chairman and Commissioners Dicus and McGaffigan. He briefed on China's plans to expand its nuclear power program and was interested in the U.S. plans to build new plants. Vice Chairman Xu was also interested in NRC's reactor licensing process and whether there would be any problems for a U.S. reactor vendor to obtain an export license to China.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 7, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0077	5/8/02	Proposed Rule to Update 10 CFR Part 52 "Early Site Permits, Standard Design Certifications, and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants"
2. SECY-02-0088	5/17/02	Turkey Point Nuclear Plant, Units 3 and 4, Renewal of Full-Power Operating Licenses
SRM on 02-0088	6/5/02	(same subject)
Voting Record on 02-0088	6/5/02	(same subject)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0091	6/3/02	SECY-02-0091 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 24, 2002
2. SECY-02-0097	6/6/02	SECY-02-0097 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 31, 2002
Memoranda		
1. M020529	6/4/02	Briefing on the Status of New Reactor Licensing Activities

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ABB Prospects, Inc. - Designation of Presiding Officer - Notice.
2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company - Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Alert Declared at Peach Bottom

On June 2, 2002, at 01:02 a.m. hours, Exelon declared an Alert at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant because the CARDOX system (CO₂ fire suppression system) injected into the E3 emergency diesel generator room while the diesel was being operated for testing purposes. The applicable Emergency Action Level (EAL) was "Toxic gases within the plant vital structures in concentrations that will be life threatening to plant personnel." Two operators promptly evacuated the room when they recognized the CARDOX initiation.

Exelon notified the NRC of the Alert at 0133. The Deputy Regional Administrator; Director, Division of Reactor Projects; State Liaison Officer; Senior Public Affairs Officer; and several other Region I staff, established and maintained a communications bridge through the Headquarters Operation Center to monitor Exelon's response. Communications also were established with representatives from Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Senior Resident Inspector was dispatched to the site. Two Region I staff were dispatched to the Regional Office in the event the Region Incident Response Center required activation. The Region conducted briefings for the NRR Director, Deputy EDO for Reactor Programs, and Commissioner Technical Assistants. Exelon terminated the Alert at 0301. Exelon's post event investigation identified that the apparent cause of the CARDOX injection was a malfunction in a circuit card within the CARDOX system.

Yankee Rowe Fuel Movement to Dry Cask Storage

During the week of June 3, 2002, Yankee Rowe began the first steps to transfer spent fuel from the spent fuel pool to the onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. After resolving an issue with the alarm on the crane used to move the fuel casks, the licensee successfully placed a transportable storage container located inside a transfer cask in the spent fuel pool and loaded the container with fuel bundles. The loaded container will be moved out of the spent fuel pool, dried, have a welded lid installed, and moved to a vertical concrete cask and the ISFSI. Region I onsite inspection coverage continues by both health physicists from DNMS and engineering support from DRS.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 7, 2002

Trip to Area of Yucca Mountain

On May 31, 2002, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Director, Division of Waste Management, Region IV Regional Administrator, and the Regional State Liaison Officer met with government officials, DOE management, tribal contacts and local citizens in the Las Vegas, Pahrump and Amargosa Valley areas. Valuable insights into the technical knowledge level of the local officials (and citizenry) in Nye County were gained and contact with important key players in the local area was made.

Refueling Outage at Fort Calhoun Station

On June 1, 2002, Fort Calhoun Station achieved criticality at 5:48 a.m. and ended a record 29-day, 3-hour, and 19-minute refueling outage. During this outage, the licensee completed inspections of the reactor vessel head, steam generator tubes, and control element drive mechanism housings in addition to replacing the seal packages for all four reactor coolant pumps. The reactor vessel head inspection did not identify any degradation of the nozzles, welds or, vessel surface.

Regulatory Conference with Entergy

On June 3, 2002, Region IV staff conducted a public regulatory conference with Entergy personnel from River Bend Station. The subject was a proposed Yellow finding regarding emergency preparedness deficiencies in the licensee's plan to evacuate the owner-controlled area.

Entergy Public Meeting

On June 6, 2002, a public meeting was conducted at Entergy's corporate headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, between Entergy senior managers and NRC to discuss the general performance of Region IV Entergy sites (Arkansas Nuclear One, Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, River Bend Station, and Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station). The meeting was attended by the Region IV Regional Administrator, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and other Region IV staff.