INFORMATION REPORT

June 20, 2002 SECY-02-0108

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-02-0108 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 14, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

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/RA/
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06/20/02	06/20/02

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 14, 2002

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: M. Layton, OEDO by E-mail: mcl@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Meeting with NEI/EPRI on the Reactivity Insertion Accident Topical Report

On June 6, 2002, NRC staff members from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and interested licensees and fuel vendors to discuss the initiation of the staff review of a newly submitted EPRI topical report on fuel acceptance criteria for Reactivity Insertion Accidents. The report is the first part of an industry effort to propose acceptance criteria for extended fuel burnup above current licensing limits, and for new fuel cladding materials. EPRI presented an overview of the methodology, discussed the scope and depth of the supporting data, and showed the validation of a key computer code (FALCON) used to establish the acceptance criteria. The staff indicated that the topical report appears to be acceptable for review, and that a review schedule will be provided when the acceptance letter is issued later in June 2002. The staff anticipates that this review will last about 12-18 months, and will involve some technical assistance from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

NFPA 805 Rulemaking

On June 4, 2002, the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) Fire Protection Subcommittee on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805 Rulemaking, and on June 7, 2002, DSSA briefed the ACRS Full Committee on the same subject. The ACRS letter on NFPA 805 rulemaking is expected to be issued in June 2002.

On June 11, 2002, DSSA briefed the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) on the NFPA 805 rulemaking. CRGR provided a number of helpful suggestions and comments. CRGR will consider reviewing the planned NFPA 805 implementation planning guidance document for licensees (being developed by NEI), the Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff's endorsing regulatory guide, and the planned NFPA 805 Temporary Instruction (Reactor Oversight Program (ROP) inspection procedure).

Alert declared at DC Cook due to fire in switchyard

On June 12, 2002, a fire was reported in a 345 kV breaker in the DC Cook station's 345-kV switchyard. Several breakers in the switchyard tripped open, and as a result Transformers #5 and #4 were de-energized. These transformers provide preferred offsite power sources to the Unit 1 and Unit 2 safety buses. The licensee declared an alert based on switchyard fire. Since Unit 2 east essential service water pump was out-of-service for maintenance at the time, both units were placed in TS 3.0.5. Neither plant was directly affected because the safety buses of both units were normally powered from their respective auxiliary transformers; therefore, both units remained at power. Plant maintenance was in progress in the switchyard at the time of the event. One minor injury was reported. The NRC granted a Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) for 10 additional hours.

Subsequently, the licensee declared the Unit 2 essential service water pump operable and restored offsite power to both units. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the licensee. Region III is proceeding to initiate a special inspection of the event.

NEI Emergency Preparedness (EP) Information Forum

Staff from Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Security Incident Response, and the Regions attended the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Emergency Preparedness (EP) Information Forum on June 3rd and 4th in Providence, RI. NRC presentations included: NRC Response to 9/11, NRC Lessons Learned Panel, Evaluation of ICM Implementation, EP significance determination process (SDP) Revision (Randy Sullivan), and Overview of International Event Scale - INES (Tim McGinty). Attendees included over one hundred licensee EP representatives, as well as some State emergency management representatives. The forum was designed to facilitate interaction and was very successful in achieving information exchange on onsite emergency planning and preparedness issues.

Reactor Oversight Process

On June 6, 2002, the Inspection Program Branch staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) full Committee 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.

NRC Information Notice 2002-018: Effect of Adding Gas Into Water Storage Tanks on the Net Positive Suction Head for Pumps dated June 6, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to alert addressees to the potential impact of adding gas into water storage tanks on the available net positive suction head for pumps. The NRC anticipates that recipients will review this information for applicability to their facilities and consider taking appropriate actions.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-009: Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations dated June 6, 2002

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the NRC staff's need for updated information on projected site-specific operator licensing examination schedules and estimated numbers of applicants planning to take operator licensing examinations and the NRC's generic fundamentals examinations. This information will help the NRC to more effectively plan the use of its resources.

Turkey Point, Units 3 & 4, Renewed License Issued

On June 6, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) issued the renewed operating licenses for Turkey Point, Units 3 & 4. Turkey Point is the fifth nuclear facility to

successfully complete the license renewal process and received approval to operate for an additional 20 years beyond its original license term. This renewed license will allow the licensee, Florida Power & Light Company, to operate Turkey Point Unit 3, until July 19, 2032 and Unit 4, until April 10, 2033. This application for license renewal was completed in 21 months.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Technical Meeting with Sandia National Laboratory on Vulnerability Analyses for "Transportation and Storage of Spent Fuel" and "Transportation of Radioactive Material (Non-Spent Fuel)"

On June 10-12, 2002, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office attended a technical meeting, at Sandia National Laboratory, for program overview and contract status, for the vulnerability analyses of "Transportation and Storage of Spent Fuel" and "Transportation of Radioactive Material (Non-Spent Fuel)." The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a revision to the "Statement of Work" and conduct technical discussions regarding the analytic approaches to the aircraft analyses. These discussions addressed computer program (that are under development) limitations and means to overcome them. Discussions also focused on resources and events assessments.

Public Meeting on Draft Medical Inspection Procedures

On June 6, 2002, staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety held a public meeting at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters to obtain stakeholder input on the draft medical inspection procedures for implementing the revised 10 CFR Part 35 rule. The meeting agenda allowed for detailed discussions on specific topics that included: (1) the development and implementation of a risk-informed and performance-based inspection framework; (2) views on the draft medical inspection procedures (whether the draft medical inspection procedures are risk-informed and performance-based); (3) potential "disconnects" between the revised Part 35, licensing guidance, and the draft medical inspection procedures; and (4) issues related to the consistency of Agreement State inspection procedures. There were over 25 participants and attendees, who represented a broad spectrum of members of the regulated community, either as individuals or through professional organizations, representatives from specialty boards, and representatives from the Agreement States and other Federal agencies. Comments regarded the need to modify the draft medical inspection procedures to make them more risk-informed and performance-based. There were very specific comments, as well as very complimentary comments on the facilitated public meeting process.

Discussion of 10 CFR Part 35 at Medical Physicists Conference

On June 3-6, 2002, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety attended the National Conference of the American College of Medical Physicists, in Jackson, Wyoming. About 180 medical physicists attended the conference. The staff member made a presentation on the new 10 CFR Part 35 medical regulation. The main concern several attendees expressed was that some Agreement States might not implement the rule in a compatible manner.

Staff Meet with the Department of Energy on the Draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan, Revision 2

On June 4, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a technical exchange on the draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan, Revision 2, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The staff held the meeting to clarify, to DOE, the purpose and content of the draft review plan. The technical exchange was the fourth meeting on the review plan during the public comment period, which ends June 27, 2002. The staff discussed four main topics. First, it addressed the risk-informed, performance-based framework of the draft review plan. Second, it discussed the alignment of the draft review plan's format and content with a potential license application. Third, it described possible differentiation of requirements for different licensing stages. Finally, the staff discussed matters related to the consistent use of terminology in the draft review plan. DOE told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of its plans to provide written comments on the draft review plan.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Letters Signed with Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority for Cooperative Research on Analysis of High-Burnup Fuel

A formal Arrangement between NRC and the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) provides for the establishment of specific cooperative research programs by an exchange of letters. Such a letter was signed on May 6, 2002, for cooperative research on analysis of high-burnup fuel. Two computer codes are involved. One is NRC's FRAPTRAN transient fuel rod behavior code, which was developed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The other is the Technical Research Center of Finland's (VTT's) GENFLO fast-running thermal-hydraulic code, from which a FRAPTRAN-specific version has been developed with support from STUK. These codes will be run in a coupled manner to analyze fuel rod behavior during boiling water reactor (BWR) power oscillations related to postulated anticipated transients without scram (ATWS) and other transients. Currently, neither the thermal-hydraulic models in FRAPTRAN nor the fuel behavior models in NRC's thermal-hydraulic codes are alone adequate to analyze this complicated transient. A combination of advanced models for fuel behavior and thermal hydraulics is needed for the analyses that will be done with the FRAPTRAN-GENFLO coupled codes. The coupled codes will be installed at PNNL in September for NRC use.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Spent Fuel Exercise

On June 12, 2002, staff from the Executive Director for Operations (EDO), the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Region III, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety and the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACRS/ACNW) participated in an emergency response exercise in the NRC Operations Center. The scenario was a transportation accident involving spent fuel from a research reactor. The limited-participation exercise included callers from Region III, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and the University of Missouri-Columbia research reactor. The exercise was productive and successful. Participants identified a number of lessons, including the importance of realistic dose estimates.

Meeting with Department of Energy (DOE) to Discuss Power Reactor Cyber Assessments

Staff from NSIR, NRR and RES met with DOE on Wednesday June 12, 2002. Due to funding constraints, DOE can no longer support the cyber assessment project for power reactors, but DOE requested to be kept informed of the progress made. The NRC staff is considering alternative approaches for moving forward with this project.

NEI Workshop

On June 13, 2002, NRC personnel from NSIR and NRR attended the afternoon session of a workshop sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs) Technical Issues. Participants at the workshop, included licensee representatives on the industry Security Working Group. NRC participation included discussion of the status of power-reactor licensee responses to the Orders of February 25, 2002 and an unclassified intelligence briefing on threats and surveillance techniques. NRC participation culminated with a question and answer period.

Security Zones Implemented

The U.S. Coast Guard has implemented maritime security zones around intake structures for 29 nuclear power facilities. The Coast Guard is publishing notices about the establishment or extension of these zones in the Federal Register. The Regions are collecting information regarding coordination between licensees and the Coast Guard.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-021, Isomedics Corporation, NON-RADIOLOGICAL FATALITY.

2. PNO-IV-02-027, Construction Inspection and Testing, LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

3. PNO-IV-02-027A, Construction Inspection and Testing, LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE.

4. PNO-IV-02-28, B. J. Services, REPORT OF MISPLACED SEALED SOURCE.

5. PNO-IV-02-029, Albemarle Corporation, SOURCE DISCONNECT FROM SOURCE ROD.

6. PNO-IV-02-030, UCLA Harbor Medical Center, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING IODINE-131.

7. PNO-IV-02-031, The Boeing Company, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS.

8. PNO-III-02-025, American Electric Power Company (D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2), ALERT -- FIRE IN D.C. COOK UNIT 1 SWITCHYARD

9. PNO-IV-02-032, Furgo South Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

10. PNO-III-02-025A, American Electric Power Company (D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2), ALERT -- FIRE IN D.C. COOK UNIT 1 SWITCHYARD - UPDATE.

11. PNO-IV-02-031A, The Boeing Company, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS - UPDATE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Performance Technology; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-77)

A petition for rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on June 13, 2002, (67 FR 40622) that requests certain general design criteria in the NRC regulations governing domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities be amended to increase emergency diesel generator start times, enhance operator training, and delete the requirement that offsite electrical power is assumed disconnected from the nuclear unit switchyard during postulated accidents.

Solicitation of Public Comments on Agency Guidelines for Ensuring Information Quality: Reopening of Comment Period

A notice published in the Federal Register on June 10, 2002 (67 FR 39750) announcing the reopening of the comment period for the NRC draft Information Quality (IQ) Guidelines.

Acquisition Training and Certification Program

On June 11, 2002, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored an Acquisition Training Program module entitled “Negotiation of Project Terms and Conditions” with nine attendees. This workshop addresses the role of the Project Manager in negotiation of terms and conditions of NRC contracts and DOE laboratory agreements and documenting the negotiation in accordance with the FAR, NRCAR, and MD 11.7.

Advanced Issues in Source Selection Course

On June 6-7, 2002, the Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM) sponsored a one and one-half day course entitled “Advanced Issues in Source Selection” taught by Professor Ralph C. Nash, Jr. of the George Washington University. Staff from DCPM and the Office of the General Counsel were in attendance. Goals of the course included discussions of procurement streamlining techniques, key problem areas in the procurement process, changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and applicable case law.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of June 7, 2002 through June 13, 2002:

Contract GS00T98ALD00017, Seat Management Task Order off EER Systems (FOIA/PA-2002-0294)

Director's Decision, records related to National Whistleblowers Center's Petition (FOIA/PA-2002-0295)

Records on named individual (FOIA/PA-2002-0296)

Vacancy announcement, all records relating to selectee (FOIA/PA-2002-0297)

NRC license to use radioactive materials in York Co., PA, all entities, specific records (FOIA/PA-2002-0298)

NRC seal, copy (FOIA/PA-2002-0299)

Beaver Valley Power Station, Plant Issues Matrices (dockets 50-344 and 50-412) (FOIA/PA-2002-0300)

Mailing List (FOIA/PA-2002-0301)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Arrivals		
ARMSTRONG, Janine	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR
ASHKEBOUSSI, Nima	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
BELLARMINE, Thomas	SUMMER FACULTY	NRR
CLAYTON, Angela	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
DWYER, Brian	ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR INVESTIGATIONS	OIG
HIPSCHMAN, Thomas	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
IJAZ, SAIRAH	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
JOHNSON, Gilbert	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RI
MARTIN, Kamishan	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
MERZKE, Daniel	REACTOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
POERTNER, William*	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
REYES-MALDANADO, Ruth	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
SCHLAPPER, Beth	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
UNDERHILL, Rebecca	STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE INTERN	OIG
VALENTINE, Theresa	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
VANDEN BERGHE, John	REACTOR SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR

*Transferring from RII

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Media Interest

There was extensive media interest in “dirty bombs” as a result of the arrest of a suspected terrorist allegedly planning to detonate one in the U.S.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-073	NRC'S Office of Inspector General Schedules Annual Conference June 12
Regions:	
I-02-043	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant
II-02-033	NRC Draft Report Finds North Anna License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable; Public Input Sought at June Meetings
II-02-034	NRC Draft Report Finds Catawba License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable; Public Input Sought at June Meetings
III-02-034	NRC Staff Proposes $7,500 Fine Against Wisconsin Rapids Firm for Losing a Fixed Gauge with Radioactive Material
III-02-035	NRC Staff to Meet with St. Louis V.A. Medical Center To Discuss Improper Disposal of Radioactive Material
III-02-036	NRC Conducts Special Inspection of Circuit Breaker Damage At D.C.Cook Nuclear Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Kazakh Visit

On June 3-7, 2002, Dr. Timur Zhantikin, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KAEC), headed a delegation that met with the Commissioners and staff. The primary purpose of the visit was to participate in the bi-annual meeting to review the NRC program for nuclear safety assistance to KAEC. Topics that were discussed include Material Control and Accounting (MPC&A), BN-350 Spent Fuel Disposition, BN-350 Safe Shutdown and Decommissioning and development of an internal quality assurance/quality management system for KAEC.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0092	5/30/02	Status Report: Risk Metrics and Criteria for Pressurized Thermal Shock
2. SECY-02-0102	6/13/02	Weekly Information Report Week Ending June 7, 2002

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Earl P. Freilino, II, OHS, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Governor, dated June 5, 2002, responds to request for potassium iodide tablets offered by the NRC and concerns that the Food and Drug Administration approved dosage is not suitable for children.

2. Letter to Paul L. Leventhal, NCI, dated June 3, 2002, concerns security at nuclear power plants.

3. Letter to Representative Marcy Kaptur dated June 3, 2002, responds to request for an on-site fact-finding mission at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station for Members of Congress and expressed support for an independent review of the situation at Davis-Besse.

4. Letter to Congress dated June 3, 2002, provides monthly (March) report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, Notice of Meeting.

2. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, Notice of Telephone Conference Meeting.

3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Notice of Amendment of Charter.

4. Performance Technology; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

The Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Visits the Region II Office

On June 10, 2002, the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, was in the Region II Office to meet with Senior Managers and DRS/DRP technical staff.

Duke Energy Corporation - Visit to the Oconee Nuclear Power Plant

On June 11, 2002, the Regional Administrator and Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, accompanied the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, in a tour of the Oconee Nuclear Power Plant in Seneca, SC, and meetings with resident inspectors and licensee management.

Commissioner Merrifield Visits the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)

On June 12, 2002, the Regional Administrator accompanied Commissioner Merrifield and his assistant to INPO in Atlanta.

Discrimination Task Force Meeting

On June 13, 2002, the Regional Administrator attended an Information Meeting with the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs and other Regional Administrators on the Discrimination Task Force in Shepherdstown, WVA.

Dominion/Virginia Electric Power Company - North Anna Nuclear Power Plant

On June 13, 2002, the Deputy Regional Administrator visited the North Anna Site and attended an Information Management Meeting in Richmond, VA.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Vogtle Full Scale Nuclear Exercise

On June 11-14, 2002, the State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the Vogtle full scale nuclear exercise, involving officials of the States of Georgia and South Carolina, and the applicable local governments.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Commissioner Merrifield Visits Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant

On June 11, 2002, the Acting Director, Division of Reactor Safety, accompanied Commissioner Merrifield in a tour of the Vogtle Plant in Waynesboro, GA, and meetings with licensee management, plant staff, and resident inspectors.

Mitigating Systems Performance Index Meeting in Headquarters

On June 13, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, was in Headquarters to participate in a meeting on Mitigating Systems Performance Index.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 14, 2002

Cooper Nuclear Station 95003 Inspection Begins June 24

The Cooper Nuclear Station 95003 supplemental inspection team will begin their first onsite inspection week on June 24.

Commissioner Merrifield Visit at Wolf Creek

On June 14, 2002, Commissioner Merrifield visited the Wolf Creek site with the Regional Administrator. Meetings were held with licensee management and with local emergency response personnel.

South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) Licensee Promotions

The STPNOC Board of Directors has approved Joe Sheppard assuming the position of Vice President and Assistant to the President and CEO and Tom Jordan replacing Joe Sheppard in the position of Vice President, Engineering and Technical Services, effective June 16, 2002. Tom Jordan was the Engineering Manager. The Board also approved Joe Sheppard as the STPNOC President and CEO upon Bill Cottle's retirement in May 2003.