INFORMATION REPORT

September 25, 2002 SECY-02-0172

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: SECY-02-0172 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

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MLayton:paa	JWCraig
09/24/02	09/25/02

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 20, 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 September 20, 2002

North Anna Power Station, Unit 2

North Anna, Unit 2 is in the process of inspecting the reactor vessel head control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetrations for signs of cracking and boric acid leakage. Bare head visual inspection has been completed, and under-the-head eddy current inspection is about 30% complete. The licensee has identified 6 penetrations with boric acid deposits above the head to be suspect for leakage. Another 21 penetrations with some boric acid on the head are considered at this time to be masked, i.e., the boric acid may not have come from through-head leakage. The boric acid around most of those penetrations appears to have come from a recent conoseal leak. There are no signs of head wastage as was seen at Davis-Besse. Of the 6 suspected leakers, one was previously identified as having weld cracking and was repaired in the outage in late 2001. Of the 21 masked penetrations, two were previously identified as having weld cracking and repaired in late 2001. The eddy current testing, which is incomplete, has revealed reportable indications in the welds of 5 of the penetrations.

The staff is continuing to monitor the CRDM inspectors being performed by Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) licensees during the fall outage season and will continually assess if current regulatory actions remain appropriate.

Bulletin 2002-01 Requests for Additional Information

Bulletin 2002-01, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity,” the requested that licensees provide the basis for concluding that their boric acid corrosion (BACC) program was providing reasonable assurance of compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements discussed in Generic Letter 88-05 and the bulletin. Many licensee responses lacked specificity. As a result, the staff has determined that requests for additional information (RAI) will be sent to all affected licensees. The RAIs will be focused, based on the information that was provided in their previous responses, and will request each licensee to provide more detailed feedback on specific areas of their BACC program. In addition, it was determined that a Regulatory Issues Summary (RIS) would be issued to describe the course of action being taken on Bulletin 2001-01, “Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles,” Bulletin 2002-01, and Bulletin 2002-02, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs.” The NRC will monitor implementation of BACC program with the use of a temporary instruction (TI).

Meeting with BTB Jansky on September 16, 2002

On September 16, 2002 the staff met with representatives of the BTB Jansky GMBH company of Germany to discuss their “Process Data Reconciliation Software VALI III”, proposed for use in the measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate in nuclear power plants.

The process data reconciliation software uses existing plant instrumentation data in complex mathematical and statistical formulations to address instrument uncertainties, thereby allowing

potential future users of this software to request power uprates up to 1.5% without the use of additional feedwater instrumentation. Ultrasonic feedwater instrumentation is presently being installed in some nuclear plants for power uprates from 1 to1.7%.

A formal submittal of the VALI III system, for staff review, is expected shortly.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-16, Current Incident Response Issues dated September 13, 2002

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to discuss several incident response issues which may be of interest to nuclear power plant licensees. This RIS does not transmit any new requirements or staff positions.

License Renewal Staff Orientation

On September 17, 2002, the License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program (RLEP), hosted a license renewal training/orientation session for over 130 staff members and contractors. The focus of the session was the use of the new guidance documents to improve the efficiency of the license renewal process. The presentations included an overview of the license renewal requirements, review process, guidance documents, application format, and lessons learned. Divisional management and the Office of General Counsel also presented their expectations. The RLEP staff plans to conduct a license renewal inspection training session at Region IV for regional inspectors on October 3, 2002.

Exelon License Renewal Application for Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3

The safety evaluation report (SER) with open and confirmatory items was issued on September 13, 2002. The staff is scheduled to brief the ACRS on the SER on October 30, 2002. The applicant is expected to submit additional information to address the open and confirmatory items by November 29, 2002. The staff is scheduled to issue the final SER by February 6, 2003.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Finalization of NUREG-1623

The final version of NUREG-1623, "Design of Erosion Protection for Long-Term Stabilization," was published and distributed last week. This NUREG provides guidance applicable to a wide range of NRC licensees, including the uranium mills and sites that have site decommissioning management plans. This effort involved a multi-year task in which the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) staff developed new criteria for the design and placement of erosion protection. A wide range of stakeholders commented on the NUREG and FCSS staff conducted public workshops to introduce the new guidance and design concepts. FCSS estimates that the revised design criteria have resulted in more than 20 million dollars in savings to NRC licensees and the Department of Energy.

Observation of the Naval Nuclear Quality Performance Evaluation of Precision Components Corporation

On September 11-13, 2002, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Naval Nuclear Quality Performance Evaluation of Precision Components Corporation (PCC), located in York, Pennsylvania. PCC is the prime manufacturer of the Navy's cannister for temporary dry storage of nuclear spent fuel. The audit team evaluated the effectiveness of PCC's overall quality performance for compliance with the requirements imposed by the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP). Because of NNPP involvement with the potential geological repository for spent fuel, a representative from the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management also participated as an observer.

Fall Meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

On September 10, 2002, the NRC staff attended the fall meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting agenda included programmatic and technical subjects. The Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste, Department of Energy (DOE), provided an overview and status of the Yucca Mountain project. Several technical presentations were made that included: (1) science and engineering update of DOE's program; (2) regional ground-water monitoring program by Inyo County; (3) interim report of the igneous consequences peer review panel; (4) corrosion testing; (5) repository design; and (6) post-closure thermal conditions. A round-table discussion was held on performance assessment results including analyses for evaluating repository barriers. A staff member from, respectively, the Division of Waste Management and the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste participated in the round-table discussion.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Nuclear Energy Institute/Industry Meeting On High-Burn-Up Spent Fuel

On September 6, 2002, representatives from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and industry attended a meeting to discuss the recently issued Revision 2 to Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) 11, "Cladding

Considerations for the Transportation and Storage of Spent Fuel." SFPO staff presented an overview of the guidance and acceptance criteria, contained in the ISG, which are focused on the storage of high-burn-up spent fuel. NEI and industry representatives noted that with the issuance of ISG-11, Revision 2, the staff had reached a major milestone in developing an acceptable approach for dry cask storage of high-burn-up spent fuel. The industry had previously identified storage of high-burn-up spent fuel as the highest priority technical issue needing resolution for dry cask storage.

Staff and industry efforts will now focus on resolving the technical issues in the transportation of high-burn-up spent fuel. Staff provided an overview of possible paths forward to address the transportation issues, while EPRI representatives presented a generic approach to address the technical issues. SFPO staff indicated that high-burn-up spent fuel reviews for transportation casks will be done on a case-by-case basis, to support near-term industry needs, until a future revision to the ISG is developed to address the transportation issues.

Meetings of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency Working Party on Nuclear Criticality Safety, and Associated Expert Groups

On September 9-12, 2002, a member of the Spent Fuel Project Office represented the NRC at the sixth annual meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency Working Party on Nuclear Criticality Safety (WPNCS), and at meetings of the associated expert groups in Paris, France. The WPNCS is an international body of technical experts on nuclear criticality safety. The meetings provided a forum for discussing criticality safety issues in the various countries represented. In addition, the progress, ongoing activities, and future plans of the criticality safety programs in the various countries were discussed. The WPNCS-sponsored expert groups in the areas of burnup credit, minimum critical values, criticality excursion analysis, and experimental needs also met during this time, and discussed each of these topics in greater detail. Thirty-four representatives from 10 countries and two international organizations attended these meetings.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

International Cooperative Agreement on Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance between the NRC and the Ministry of Economics, Republic of Croatia

On September 17, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research forwarded an international cooperative agreement to Croatia for signature between the NRC and the Ministry of Economy, Republic of Croatia relating to Cooperation in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP).

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the Ministry of Economy, Republic of Croatia will continue cooperation in CAMP on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. It is understood by the Parties that the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, at the University of Zagreb, in the Republic of Croatia, will carry out the commitments of and act as agent for, the Ministry of Economy under this Agreement. The work performed under this Agreement will contribute to NRC's goal of maintaining nuclear safety by improving our analytical codes and to the efficient use of NRC resources. This Agreement will become effective upon signature, and will remain in force for a period of five years.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-Melt Coolability and Concrete Interaction (OECD-MCCI) Program

Two tests were conducted recently at the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) under the OECD-MCCI Program. The OECD-MCCI Program was launched in January 2002 to provide confirmatory evidence and test data for various mechanisms to cool ex-vessel core debris by an overlying water pool and hence, to determine the efficacy of severe accident management strategy of flooding the reactor cavity in the event of an ex-vessel core melt release. These tests are intended to address the effect of water ingression through cracks and pores of a molten debris on the melt quench rate. The two tests were performed under otherwise identical test conditions (i.e., melt mass, system pressure, etc.), but the melt composition was varied in these experiments. Preliminary data from the experiments indicate that water ingression is a viable coolability mechanism. Data analysis is in progress to quantify debris cooling rate by water ingression. Results from the tests will be used to develop coolability models for incorporation into analytical codes. The OECD-MCCI Program is hosted and coordinated by NRC with participation by 13 OECD countries and by the U.S. Department of Energy. Other potential coolability mechanisms such as melt eruption and crust breach will also be investigated under this program.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Seventh Conference on Human Factors and Power Plants

On September 18, 2002, a representative of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response participated in the IEEE conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona. The NRC representative led a panel discussion entitled "Fitness-for-Duty: Beyond Drugs and Alcohol." The objective of the panel was (1) to provide a series of brief presentations on the potential direction of fitness-for-duty (FFD) assessments in the future, and (2) answer participants' questions on the subject.

The panel topics were: (1) alternatives to urine specimens, measurement technology, industry perspective, and (2) behavioral observation. The panelists were Bill Sirois, Senior Vice President, Circadian Technologies, Inc.; Kathleen E. Burkett, Access Control Supervisor, American Electric Power; Dr. Valerie Barnes, President, Performance, Safety and Health Associates; and Colonel Greg Belenky, M.D., Director, Division of Neuropsychiatry, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-02-034A, Tennessee Valley Authority, UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED - UPDATE.

2. PNO-IV-02-048, Texas Engineering Experiment Station/Texas A&M University System, LEAK FROM FAILURE OF REACTOR POOL DIFFUSER PIPING SYSTEM.

3. PNO-III-02-037, Illinois Roof Consulting Associates, Inc., MOISTURE GAUGE REPORTED STOLEN.

4. PNO-II-02-035, Building and Earth Sciences - ALABAMA LICENSEE'S PORTABLE GAUGE STOLEN IN TENNESSEE

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Union of Concerned Scientists; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-72)

A document that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists (PRM-50-72) was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 2002 (67 FR 59025). The petitioner requests that the NRC require nuclear power plant owners to submit the performance indicator information needed for the NRC's revised reactor oversight program. The petition is denied because the current voluntary program meets NRC's regulatory needs, it would consume additional resources to codify the current practice, and if the current practice were to be codified, future changes in the definitions and guidance for reporting performance indicator information might be more difficult.

Acquisition Training

On September 17, 2002, the Division of Contracts conducted a half-day Acquisition Certification and Training Program module entitled "Acquisition for Supervisors and Managers of Project Managers" with 7 attendees. This workshop familiarized participants with the principles of the acquisition process with an emphasis on policies and procedures managers need to know.

Activity on Administrative Services and Clerical Support Contract

The first task order for clerical assistance was placed under the Administrative Services and Clerical Support Contract, NRC-10-02-161, on August 23, 2002. The contractor employee who will provide administrative support to the Office of General Counsel (OGC) was cleared by security on September 9, 2002, and reported to the OGC on Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

Contract Awards

Contract No. NRC-28-02-281(SBA No. 0303-02-205061) was awarded to Adept Consulting Services, Inc. on August 15, 2002, for work providing document processing services associated with entering documents into the Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) and data entry for NRC's Region I, under SBA's 8(a) program. The current estimated cost of this contract is $93,392 for the base period. However, there are four one-year options which, if exercised, will bring the total estimated cost to $510,640. The period of performance for the base period is 12 months commencing on the award date. If all options are exercised, the total period of performance will be 60 months. The following streamlining methods were used: the statement of work was electronically submitted and coordinated and proposal preparation time was reduced.

NRC-02-02-012, the five year renewal of the contract with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) for the Operation of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) was signed by the NRC Contracting Officer on September 19, 2002, and mailed to SwRI for signature. The total estimated cost is $86,213,679 and the period of performance is September 28, 2002, through September 28, 2007. The mission of the CNWRA is to provide technical assistance and research in support of NRC's high-level waste repository program under the Nuclear Waste

Policy Act of 1982, as amended. The following streamlining methods were used: electronic submission of SOW, abolition of D&F for cost type contract, simplified D&F for other than sealed bid, simplified evaluation report.

As a result of a competitive request for quotation (RFQ) sent to GSA federal supply schedule vendors, a firm, fixed price type Delivery Order No. ADR-10-02-167 was awarded to Kroll Security Services of Vienna, VA on September 19, 2002. The contractor will assess existing organizational physical security procedures and protective force staffing, and conduct an independent physical security assessment of the NRC Headquarters facilities. The period of performance is two months and is valued at $41,923. The delivery order was awarded in 60 days using email issuance of the RFP, fax submission of the proposals, and simplified evaluation criteria.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of September 13, 2002 through September 19, 2002:

Sylvania Electric Products Division, Hicksville NY facilities, licensing, environmental complaints, violations, reports, investigations, and conservation actions (FOIA/PA-2002-0412)

TIA 96-389, NRR's reply (FOIA/PA-2002-0413)

800 and 1300 Series staff promoted from Grade 14 to 15, last 5 years (FOIA/PA-2002-0414)

Part 21 reports for STP and Comanche Peak from construction to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0415)

Event notification and Part 21 reports, Waste Control Specialists, Andrew Co., TX, 1994 to present, all proposals, correspondence, rulings and actions (FOIA/PA-2002-0416)

Availability pay, OI, 2000-2001, all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0417)

Audit reports conducted by Advanced Technologies Laboratories International Inc. (FOIA/PA-2002-0418)

NUREG/BR-0216, "Radioactive Waste: Production, Storage, Disposal" (FOIA/PA-2002-0419)

Correspondence and meeting documents between members of Congress and their staffs and NRC, dated after August 1992 (FOIA/PA-2002-0420)

Correspondence and meeting documents between the President, Vice President, and members of the Executive Branch and their staffs and the NRC from August 1992 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0421)

Correspondence and meeting documents between any State governors and their staffs and NRC dated after August 1992 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0422)

IG Investigation on named individuals, 11/2000 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0423)

Entergy Corporation, all publicly available records regarding power plants it operates (Indian Point 2&3, Fitzpatrick, River Bend 1, Waterford 3, Grand Gulf 1, Pilgrim 1, Vermont Yankee and Arkansas 1&2) (FOIA/PA-2002-0424)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Arrivals		
ARRIGHI, Russell*	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
CORTINOVIS, Charles**	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
ROBERTS, Darrell***	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	NRR
TANNENBAUM, Anita	SECRETARY	RIV
WILLIAMS, Kevin	HEALTH PHYSICIST (EP)	NRR
YEROKUN, Jimi*	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	NRR
Retirements		
JOHNSON, Terry	SENIOR HYDROLOGIST	NMSS
Departures		
KRAYER, Peter	BRANCH CHIEF	RIV
MALLOY, Molly	STUDENT ENGINEER	RI
OUTEN, Sally****	SECRETARY	NMSS

*Transferring from RI
**Effective 9/19/02 - badging only
***Transferring from RII
****Effective 9/18/02

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Media Interest

A report published in Science Magazine countering assertions that the nation's nuclear plants are vulnerable to attacks like the one on the World Trade Center, received media interest.

There was continuing interest in FirstEnergy Company's efforts to repair damage to its Davis-Besse reactor in Ohio. Region III officials held a public meeting in Oak Harbor to discuss its oversight of the licensee's activities.

There was interest in an incident at the Sequoyah nuclear power plant in which a contract worker set off explosive-detecting alarms and improperly entered a secure area.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-108	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet September 25-26 in Las Vegas
Regions:	
I-02-059	NRC to Discuss Apparent Violation Involving Nuclear Gauge with N.J. Firm

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0127	7/11/02	Proposed Response to State of Ohio on its Assured Isolation Storage Facility Draft Rules
SRM on 02-0127	9/5/02	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 02-0127	9/5/02	(same)
2. SECY-02-0138	7/22/02	Denial of Petition for Rulemaking on Mandatory Submittal of Performance Indicator Information Needed for the Reactor Oversight Process (PRM-50-72)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0165	09/11/2002	SECY-02-0165 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 6, 2002

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey dated September 13, 2002 concerns conflicting accounts of a FedEx shipment of iridium-192 from Sweden, via Paris, France, to the United States.

2. Letter to Congress dated September 13, 2002 provides July report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

3. Letter to Governor George E. Pataki, New York, responds to request that the NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency review the safety and security measures in place at Indian Point and other nuclear facilities.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Union of Concerned Scientists - Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Indian Point Unit 2

On September 18, 2002, the NRC and FEMA briefed Congresswomen Kelly and Lowey, Congressman Gilman and staff members from Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton's offices, in separate meetings on the plans for the Indian Point Unit 2 Emergency Preparedness Exercise on September 24th. Topics discussed include the preparations for, and conduct of, the exercise week activities, and general questions on both emergency planning and security-related issues.

Region I Host to IAEA Fellow

Dr. Dejanira da Costa Lauria, representing the Brazilian Department of Environmental Radiation Protection, met with Region I managers and staff to discuss decommissioning issues and regulatory guidance. She also observed NRC inspections at two NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan facilities during the past week. Her scientific visit was awarded by the IAEA Fellowship Program and was coordinated by the National Research Council at the National Academies.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

Duke Energy Corporation - Full Scale Oconee Emergency Exercise

On September 17, 2002, Region II participated in the NRC/Oconee Emergency Exercise by sending a Site Team to the licensee's Emergency Operations Facility and the Oconee site in South Carolina. The Deputy Regional Administrator participated as the Site Team Leader/Director of Site Operations.

The State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Oconee exercise, involving officials of the State of South Carolina and applicable local governments.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

21st Century Technologies, Inc., Docket 030-34261

On September 17, 2002, the Region IV Regional Administrator, the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety Director, along with members of the Region IV staff held a meeting with 21st Century Technologies, Inc., management members to discuss NRC concerns with the licensee's answers to Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) 04-02-005, issued on May 21, 2002. The CAL was issued in response to the licensee's continued distribution of exempt products (gun sights and bow sights) containing millicurie quantities of tritium which do not appear to have been submitted for Sealed Source and Device Registry review and approval, and subsequently would not be authorized by the license. The meeting also focused on NRC concerns that the licensee did not fully satisfy the requirements of the CAL by failing to perform a detailed review of each product distributed to determine if each product is being manufactured in accordance with its sealed source and device registry.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 20, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 66					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	09/24/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	NRDC, Carnegie Endowment for Intl Peace, Former Director of Iraqi Nuclear Program	Combating Terrorism: Preventing Nuclear Terrorism	Reps. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform
Combs	Tentative	TBD	Dr. Paperiello, DOE, DOD, DOS	Combating Terrorism: Preventing Nuclear Terrorism	Reps. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform