

October 23, 2002

SECY-02-0189

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0189 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 18, 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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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18, 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 October 18, 2002

Oconee 2, Preliminary Head Inspection Results

During the qualified bare metal visual inspection of the Oconee 2 reactor vessel head and control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzle penetrations, evidence of through-wall leakage was detected on 7 CRDM nozzle penetrations. None of these 7 nozzles had been previously repaired. Five additional nozzle-to-head penetrations were masked by boron deposits suspected of being from a separate source. Of these five, two had been previously repaired. Non-Destructive Evaluation will be performed to characterize the status of these masked penetrations.

San Onofre, Unit 1 (SONGS-1)

On October 12, 13, and 14, 2002, Southern California Edison successfully removed the reactor pressure vessel and the "A" steam generator from the SONGS-1 containment structure. This is a major milestone in the rapidly progressing decommissioning of the SONGS-1 site. Over the past year, a great deal of equipment removal has taken place at the site. The plan is to move the reactor vessel by barged to Charleston, SC and from there it will be shipped by rail to the Barnwell facility.

Steam Generator Tube Structural and Leakage Integrity Models Training Course

On October 15-16, 2002, the staff of the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch (EMCB) sponsored a training course on steam generator tube structural and leakage integrity models. The course was attended by staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and the Regions. The course was taught by experts from Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). ANL is the main contractor for RES's steam generator tube integrity program.

The purpose of the course was to: 1) expose new NRC reviewers to the various models used in assessing tube integrity, and 2) to re-familiarize more experienced reviewers of recent developments and the strengths and limitations of various models.

Health Physics Society Symposium

An Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics (EHPH) staff member attended the Northeast Chapter of the Health Physics Society's Symposium on "Management of Terrorist Events Involving Nuclear Reactors or Radioactive Materials." The all day symposium was held on October 8, 2002, and addressed how the society, as a professional organization, could support the efforts addressing terrorist activities from a national level to a local level. Several papers were presented related to this area, including one on why nuclear power plants were poor targets.

Special Inspection at Comanche Peak 1

Steam generator staff from the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch, along with a regional inspector, are participating in a special inspection at Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, chartered on October 17, 2002. A shutdown was initiated by the licensee on September 28, 2002, in response to elevated primary to secondary leakage in one of their steam generators. Inspection data gathered by the licensee after shutdown indicated that data gathered for the leaking tube during a previous steam generator examination may not have been properly identified and characterized. In addition, pressure tests of the leaking tube have indicated that accident leakage margins which are assumed to exist in the plant design and licensing basis were not present. Preliminary calculations indicate structural margins may not be met. The special inspection team will evaluate the effectiveness of the examination methods for the previous steam generator inspection, as well as for the current inspection.

October 18, 2002

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

NRC Issues Orders to Implement Security Enhancements for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations

On October 16, 2002, NRC issued orders, to licensees, affecting 31 independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs) across the U.S. The orders modify either the general or site-specific license issued to the ISFSIs to require compliance with specified interim safeguards and security compensatory measures.

Louisiana Energy Services Public Information Forum

On October 14, 2002, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and Region II staff participated in a public information forum sponsored by Trousdale County, Tennessee, on the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) gas centrifuge enrichment plant. About 200 people attended the forum. Representatives from LES, the Tennessee Environmental Council, and a local engineer also participated. NMSS staff made presentations on the licensing and environmental review process, and Region II staff made a presentation on the inspection program. Issues raised by the public included: depleted uranium tails disposition; effluent releases; transportation; physical security; extending the comment period on the LES policy-issue white papers; and benefits to local residents.

Confirmatory Action Letter Issued to Nuclear Fuel Services

On October 15, 2002, Region II issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS). The CAL was sent in response to the issues associated with the NFS Material Control and Accounting (MC&A) program implementation identified in NRC inspection report 70-0143/2002-010 and discussed in a meeting between NRC and NFS management on October 3, 2002. Most of the actions specified in the CAL require a response from NFS by late October 2002.

Exemption from Requirement to Perform Biennial Emergency Exercise, Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On October 10, 2002, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards forwarded, for publication, in the Federal Register, a Notice of Approval of Request for Temporary Exemption, concerning the U.S. Enrichment Corporation's (USEC's) Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The notice includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and FONSI were provided to the States of Illinois and Kentucky, and the Department of Energy, for pre-publication consultation; no objections were received.

USEC requested the exemption to permit the Paducah plant to delay its Emergency Preparedness (EP) biennial exercise to next summer, to avoid conducting it while USEC is in the midst of efforts to implement the new security requirements called for by the Commission Order issued on June 17, 2002. The EP exercise was scheduled for November 13, 2002, and

will now be held between July 15, 2003, and August 15, 2003, a time frame when NRC personnel are available to participate.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Holds Quarterly Meeting

On October 10, 2002, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards held its quarterly meeting at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress on addressing Federal radiation protection issues. Among the issues discussed were: the guidance currently being prepared for publicly owned sewage treatment plants (due by end of the year); the NRC/EPA Memorandum of Understanding on sites undergoing decommissioning; and U.S. participation in a Nuclear Energy Agency review of an International Commission on Radiological Protection report on protection of non-human species from ionizing radiation.

October 18, 2002

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Asian Trip in Support of Research Plan for Digital Instrumentation and Controls

On September 21 through October 12, a member of the Division of Engineering Technology staff and a contractor traveled to Asia in support of the activities outlined in NRC Research Plan for Digital Instrumentation and Controls (SECY-01-0155). The visits included the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS), the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), the Hanaro research reactor, and the Wolsong Nuclear Power Plant; Taiwan's Institute of Nuclear Energy Research (INER), the Republic of China Atomic Energy Council (ROCAEC), INER, and Taiwan Power Company (TPC); and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Toshiba, Hitachi, the Nuclear Engineering Corporation (NUPEC), the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI), the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI), and the High Temperature Test Reactor (HTTR). The discussions focused on digital instrumentation and control applications in their respective nuclear plants as well as interest in prospective international collaborative research initiatives on the safety aspects of instrumentation, control, and human-machine interface (IC&HMI) technologies for nuclear power plant applications. In addition, the staff member also visited nuclear power plants and plant system suppliers to survey the state of the technology for digital instrumentation and controls (I&C) in Asia.

An international collaboration research initiative is being explored which would provide a forum for technical exchange of research findings and serve as a vehicle to identify potential areas for collaborative research activities among the international participants. Each of the research organizations visited identified areas of common research interest. Each organization expressed interest in continuing discussions about the formation of such a program. In particular, the research organizations in South Korea and Taiwan suggested that the initiative be added as an item of discussion under the existing Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation (JSCNEC). Staff from the Division of Engineering Technology will continue the dialog on the international collaborative research initiative to determine if a formal joint research effort is warranted.

SPAR Model Development Program

On October 11, 2002, a member of the Division of Risk Analysis and Applications staff gave a presentation to the ACRS on the SPAR Model Development Program. His presentation covered the following areas: (1) Low Power/Shutdown (LP/SD) SPAR Model Development Program Plan, (2) Insights from the Onsite QA Review of the LP/SD SPAR Model for Surry 1 & 2, and (3) Cancellation of Development of Revision 4i SPAR Models and possible enhancement of SPAR 3 models to meet future needs. One member requested more detail on the SPAR 4i project, but the committee agreed that considering other, more important needs (e.g., development of external events, low power/shutdown, and LERF models, and making the analysts' interface with the SPAR models more user-friendly), the decision to cancel the development of Revision 4i SPAR models was a reasonable decision.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Public Meeting Between NRC Staff and Stakeholders on the Fitness-for-Duty Rule

On October 16-18, 2002, the NRC staff met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other stakeholders at NRC Headquarters. The topics discussed were (1) draft rule language, (2) anticipated costs and savings associated with the draft rule revisions, and (3) contemplated Part 26 requirements for decommissioning and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations. The staff and stakeholders agreed that future stakeholder meetings would be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

Dry Storage ISFSI Orders Issued to Licensees October 16, 2002

The Orders to dry storage ISFSI licensees were issued on Wednesday October 16, 2002. The order packages included RIS 2002-12D, "Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations Using Dry Storage NRC Threat Advisory and Protective Measures System."

NSIR met with representatives of NEI on Wednesday October 16, 2002 to discuss the staff's comments regarding NEI's implementing guidance for the ISFSI ICMs. NEI will send the guidance to NRC shortly for NSIR's endorsement.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-02-055, St. Patrick Hospital - MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
2. PNO-IV-02-056, The Queen's Medical Center - MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
3. PNO-IV-02-057, Construction Inspection and Testing - LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-IV-02-058, Kleinfelder, Inc. - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE RECOVERED.
5. PNO-IV-02-059, GEOCON Northwest, Inc. - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
6. PNO-I-02-018, Crest Foam Industries - UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF A NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE FROM STORAGE

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Cost Recovery for Contested Hearings Involving U.S. Government National Security Initiatives (Part 170)

A final rule that amends the Commission's fee regulations was published in the Federal Register on October 17, 2002 (67 FR 64033). This amendment to 10 CFR 170 establishes a provision for assessing Part 170 fees to the affected applicant or licensee so that NRC can recover its full costs of contested hearings on licensing actions which involve U.S. Government national security initiatives. This final rule is a special exception to the Commission's longstanding policy of not charging this type of fee for contested hearings. Under this exemption, the Commission will charge its contested hearing costs directly to the involved licensee or applicant rather than recovering its costs through the annual fees assessed to all licensees within the affected class. The final rule becomes effective November 18, 2002.

October 18, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
October 11, 2002 through October 17, 2002:

Philotechnics Ltd., License No. 37-28329-01 and 37-29329-02, issuances and amendment requests (FOIA/PA-2003-0010)

Enforcement activities regarding Vermont hospitals from 1985 (FOIA/PA-2003-0011)

Nuclear cardiac diagnostic imaging, total listing of facilities granted and not granted licenses in states of NJ, PA, MD, and FL (FOIA/PA-2003-0012)

License for irradiator, pre-1995, 21-00741-13, information regarding leaks and spills (FOIA/PA-2003-0013)

OI report 3-2001-005 (FOIA/PA-2003-0014)

Employment discrimination at Florida Power & Light Co., all records. (FOIA/PA-2003-0015)

October 18, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Arrivals		
BOWMAN, Gregory	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
CARON, Dana	PHYSICAL SECURITY INSPECTOR	RI
COLANTONI, Carey	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
CRANSTON, Gregory*	REACTOR INSPECTOR	NRR
DEL-VALLE, Waldemar	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RII
SILVA, Patricia	CHEMICAL ENGINEER	NMSS
Retirements		
HICKS, Mona	SENIOR POLICY & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	HR
Departures		
CRONENBERG, August	SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER	ACRS

*Transferring from RI

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Media Interest

The exposure of 32 nuclear power plant workers at St. Lucie to low levels of radiation during a maintenance outage drew media interest.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-122	NRC Invites Public to Submit Nominations for Advisory Committee on Nuclear waste
Regions:	
I-02-062	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Hope Creek Nuclear Plant
I-02-063	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Statement for Proposed R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal
II-02-047	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting with FP&L on October 25 to Discuss Initial St. Lucie Plant License Renewal Inspection
IV-02-043	Nancy Salgado Named Senior Resident Inspector at Palo Verde
IV-02-044	Michael Peck Named Senior resident Inspector at Callaway

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0176	9/30/02	Proposed Rulemaking to Add New Section 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components" (WITS 199900061)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0174	9/27/02	Litigation Report - 2002 - 03
2. SECY-02-0181	10/10/02	SECY-02-0181 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 4, 2002
3. SECY-02-0177	10/1/02	Initial Analysis and Plan for Addressing License Termination Rule Issues
Memoranda		
1. M021001B	10/16/02	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Decommissioning Activities and Status (SECY-02-0169)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Governor Scott McCallum, Governor of Wisconsin, dated October 10, 2002, responds to request that the NRC and the State of Wisconsin establish an agreement pursuant to Section 274b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended .
2. Letter to Senator Robert C. Byrd, dated October 7, 2002, provides legislative proposals to enhance security at nuclear facilities regulated by the NRC. Universities.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of establishment of the Peer Review for Source Term Modeling.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Management Meeting

On October 15, 2002, representatives from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) attended a management meeting in the Region II Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss TVA's nuclear strategic objectives.

Duke Energy--annual Government Training Workshop

On October 15-16, 2002, the Regional State Liaison Officer, accompanied by officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IV, participated in the annual government training program sponsored by Duke Energy, Inc., which was conducted this year at the McGuire nuclear facility, Cornelius, North Carolina. Approximately sixty five North Carolina and South Carolina State and local government officials were in attendance, as well as appropriate utility representatives. The purpose of this training was to discuss emergency preparedness subjects of mutual interest, and the current NRC and FEMA perspectives on radiological emergency response planning.

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie Nuclear Plant

There was continued media interest in the personnel contamination events that occurred earlier in the outage during the reactor vessel head hydrolazing and the incore detector replacement work. The licensee also reported this week that one of the worker's involved in the hydrolazing was improperly released from the site with low level, discrete particle contamination on his under garments. The resident inspector has been monitoring these issues, and the Region will conduct a follow-up inspection in the near future.

Louisiana Energy Services (LES) Public Information Forum

On October 14, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety participated with the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards representatives and others, in a Public Information Forum for the LES gas centrifuge enrichment plant proposed to be located in Hartsville, Tennessee. Approximately 200 members of the public attended.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

Regional Administrator Visit to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

On October 11-12, 2002, the Regional Administrator visited the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and met with licensee management. The purpose of the visit was to tour Unit 1 which is presently being decommissioned, observe the heavy lift of the reactor vessel, observe placement of the reactor vessel in its shipping container, and attend the exit for the verification inspection for safeguards interim compensatory measures.

Meeting with Framatome ANP, Inc.

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and other members of the NRC staff, conducted a video teleconference on October 15, 2002, with the Framatome ANP, Inc., representatives to discuss the NRC's review of Framatome's performance for the period January 1, 2000, through April 30, 2002.

Pacific Gas and Electric Management Changes

On October 17, 2002, the licensee announced that the Board of Directors has elected the Station Director to Vice President Diablo Canyon Power Plant Operations and Station Director. The Vice President Diablo Canyon Operations is now Vice President and General Manager, Diablo Canyon. The licensee is creating a new position, Director, Operations Services, that will have responsibility for operations, radiation protection, chemistry, and environmental reporting. The reorganization was done in anticipation of a new generating company as part of the plan of reorganization. This plan proposes the Senior Vice President Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer as President of GenCo; the Vice President and General Manager, Diablo Canyon, as Chief Nuclear Officer; and the Vice President Diablo Canyon Power Plant Operations and Station Director as Site Vice President.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 18, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 70

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	10/24/02 Cleveland	10:00	Jack Grobe, First Energy, UCS	Davis-Besse	Field Briefing for Rep. Kucinich
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

October 18, 2002

ENCLOSURE R