November 22, 2002 SECY-02-0206

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: SECY-02-0206 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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C. Glenn, OEDO

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/RA/
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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
C. Glenn, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15, 2002

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

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

Refueling outage 1R17 is complete. Major activities accomplished include refueling, steam generator tube inspection, reactor vessel head inspection, and vessel bottom inspection.

The steam generator tube inspection resulted in the plugging of 76 tubes in the A steam generator and 43 tubes in the B steam generator. The overall number of indications were lower as compared to previous steam generator inspections and no new degradation mechanisms were detected. The licensee plans to replace the steam generators in 2005.

The vessel head inspection, which included a bare metal examination of the head and a volumetric examination of all 69 nozzles, revealed indications that were primarily the result of axially-oriented primary water stress corrosion cracking and resulted in the repair of 8 nozzles. Two nozzles were repaired with a J-groove weld overlay and 6 nozzles were repaired by installing a new pressure boundary weld between the shortened nozzle and the inside bore of the vessel head base material. The licensee plans to replace the vessel head in 2005.

Regarding the vessel bottom head, while conducting a visual inspection on the outside of the insulation, the licensee identified 4 instrumentation nozzles with boric acid deposits on the nozzle and on the insulation, at the plane where the insulation intersects the nozzles. For these 4 nozzles, the licensee removed the insulation ring around the nozzle and inserted a boroscope through the insulation and videotaped 360-degrees around where the nozzle intersects the vessel. No wastage was observed by the licensee during this visual observation. The licensee concluded that the boric acid staining is a result of previous overfill/splashing events during past refueling outages, and not leakage from the instrumentation nozzles. The licensee provided detailed diagrams, drawings, and descriptions of the vessel bottom, and other information, to support their conclusion.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-21, National Guard and Other Emergency Responders Located in the Licensee's Controlled Area dated November 8, 2002

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary to remind addressees that their existing emergency plans and procedures must accommodate the potential deployment of the National Guard, State police and other emergency responders in the controlled and unrestricted areas at a nuclear power station. This guidance covers both emergency preparedness and personnel radiation protection issues for emergency responders.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

NRC/DOE Technical Exchange and Management Public Meeting

On November 5-6, 2002, the Division of Waste Management held a technical exchange/ management meeting with the newly renamed Department of Energy (DOE) Yucca Mountain Office of Repository Development, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Meeting topics included: (1) potential use of a phased approach to repository construction; (2) proposed alternate design of the repository; (3) DOE's document hierarchy; (4) license application (LA) projects; and (5) the level of design detail in the LA. DOE also presented a preliminary LA "Table of Contents."

At the meeting, the State of Nevada provided a paper on its views about using 10 CFR Part 50 provisions (Preliminary Safety Analysis Report/Final Safety Analysis Report concept) in licensing a repository under Part 63. A Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) representative stated that NEI plans to submit a position paper on this same topic.

NRC/DOE Meeting on Preclosure Seismic Design Strategy

On November 7, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses and its contractor participated in ameeting with DOE. Representatives from the State of Nevada and Nye County observed the meeting. The purpose was for DOE to present a modification to its proposed preclosure strategy, with the rationale for an additional 2000-year return period design basis earthquake. DOE also indicated that this strategy will incorporate risk information obtained from its preclosure risk assessment. At the meeting, DOE indicated that it would provide NRC with a white paper, within 2 months, to explain its rationale for adding a new design basis earthquake and to address NRC staff comments made at the November 7, 2002, meeting.

Meeting with Croft, Inc., Regarding New Transport Package Designs

On November 12, 2002, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with Croft, Inc., to discuss two new transport package designs -- the Model Nos. SAFESHIELD 2999A and SAFEKEG 2863K. The SAFESHIELD 2999A is being developed for the transport of a variety of radioactive materials. Croft estimated that the applications for package approval could be submitted to NRC in mid- to late-2003.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

TOPOFF2 Exercise Preparations

Top-Officials 2 (TOPOFF2) is the second Congressionally-mandated, national-level exercise involving weapons of mass destruction. Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) participated in the TOPOFF2 Mid-Term Planning Conference, the latest in a series of interagency planning sessions, on November 13 & 14, 2002. The meeting was chaired by the Office for Domestic Preparedness within the Department of Justice, the group charged with managing TOPOFF2. The meeting addressed exercise preparation activities, scenario development, and agency participation. The TOPOFF2 program consists of a year-long series of increasing-complexity training seminars and limited-scope exercise activities leading to the exercise in May 2003. Headquarters and the Region III and IV offices are participating in the seminars and limited-scope activities, and will participate in the full-scale exercise. DIRO and the Regional Offices are participating in the ongoing planning and scenario development process.

Amalgam Virgo (AV) 03 Initial Planning Conference

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) staff participated in the Amalgam Virgo 03 Initial Planning Conference with other emergency response functional area leaders from the United States, and Canadian Federal departments and agencies, on November 5-7, 2002, at McChord Air force Base in Tacoma, Washington.

Operations Center Tour

NSIR staff provided a presentation of the Operation Center Information Management System (OCIMS) and tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to representatives of DOE and TRW on Wednesday, November 13. Information pertaining to NRC's EOC physical design characteristics, business processes, and technological infrastructure were provided. DOE intends to use the information provided as part of an assessment they are currently conducting in their Emergency Operations Center.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-038, Huntington Testing & Technology, Inc. - RADIOGRAPHER EXPOSURE

2. PNO-IV-02-057A, Construction Inspection and Testing - UPDATE - LOST PORTABLE GAUGE FOUND

3. PNO-II-02-039, GEOVERSE, Inc. - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

4. PNO-IV-02-068, Entergy Operations, Inc. - INADVERTENT ACTUATION OF EMERGENCY SIRENS IN THE VICINITY OF ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule, "Electronic Maintenance and Submission of Information" (E-Rule)

On September 6, 2002, the staff issued a "direct final rule" that would have amended the NRC's regulations to clarify when and how applicants, licensees, and other members of the public might communicate with the NRC electronically (see SECY-02-0096 and 67 Fed. Reg. 57084). The rulemaking is intended to bring the agency further into compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. The staff is withdrawing the rule because the agency received significant adverse comments on the rule. For example, many comments argued that the rule should not require multiples copies of CD-ROMs, or complete versions of revised FSARs that are submitted electronically. The staff will treat those comments as comments on the companion proposed rule that was published at the same time the direct final rule was published. The direct final rule and the guidance document were to become effective December 5, 2002. Notice of withdrawal of the direct final rule will be published in the Federal Register before December 5, and the rule and guidance will not take effect until the comments have been addressed and the rule text revised, as necessary. Under the GPEA, the final rule and guidance must be issued before October 21, 2003.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of November 8 through November 14, 2002:

Dosimetry badge number and dates at Dupont, Aiken, SC, on deceased individual (FOIA/PA-2003-0056)

FOIA requests received by NRC from 1976, re: Oglala Lakota Nation, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Pine Ridge Reservation, Badlands National Park or the Stronghold (Badlands National Park Unit 2) (FOIA/PA-2003-0057)

Transcript of interview with named individual in OI Report 3-2001-051 (FOIA/PA-2003-0058)

Florida Power Corp., Crystal River nuclear power station, all communications between NRC, Federal and State agencies, re: incidental capture of sea turtles and manatees for 2000, 2001, and to date in 2002 (FOIA/PA-2003-0059)

NRC rules and regulations (FOIA/PA-2003-0060)

NRC contract 3398180, Ruland Associates, specific sections: SF33, B, C, and Statement of Work (if separate from Section C) (FOIA/PA-2003-0061)

Formal response to Unitech Services Group notification letter of 6/24/02 (FOIA/PA-2003-0062)

Communications between NRC and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Environmental Radiation concerning Magnesium Elektron's facility in Kingwood Township, Hunterdon Co., NJ, 1-1-95 to date (FOIA/PA-2003-0063)

FOIA/PA-2002-0418, copy of response (FOIA/PA-2003-0064)

Schedule for resolving and completing generic issue 82 - Beyond Design Basis Accidents in Spent Fuel Pools, dated 12-7-83 (FOIA/PA-2003-0065)

Allegation RIV-95-A-0004, all correspondence between named individual and NRC (FOIA/PA-2003-0066)

Plymouth Power Plant, Plymouth, MA, all documents relating to safety (FOIA/PA-2003-0067)

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Cost Accounting System Certification and Accreditation

The NRC's cost accounting system became operational in FY 2002 to generate management reports and support the preparation of financial statements. The system was certified and accredited by the CFO and CIO. This certification is based on an evaluation of security documents that concludes that satisfactory security controls are in place to adequately protect the system and that it can be operated within an acceptable level of risk.

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Arrivals		
CULPEPPER, Michael	SR. HR MANAGEMENT ANALYST	HR
HIGDON, Joan	PROGRAM ASSISTANT	SBCR
PRINCE, Robert	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RI
SERPAN, JR., Charles	CONSULTANT	OIP
SOSA, Belkys	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
WONG, Albert	CHEMICAL ENGINEER	NMSS
Retirements		
PASKAL, Paul	PERSONNEL SECURITY ASSISTANT	ADM
SPENCE, Robert	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
Departures		
ARNOLD, Patricia	SECRETARY (OA)	RIII

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Media Interest

A public meeting with FirstEnergy Co. in Oak Harbor, Ohio, on efforts to address problems at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant, drew media attention.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-131	NRC Approves Power Uprate for H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant
02-132	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet November 19-21 in Rockville, Maryland
Regions:	
III-02-062	NRC Lessons Learned Task Force to Discuss Findings At Public Meeting November 20 in Oak Harbor, Ohio

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0197	11/7/02	SECY-02-0197 Weekly Information Report-Week Ending November 1, 2002

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.

2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Future Plant Designs - Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Management Meeting with Maryland

On November 13, 2002, NRC staff from Region I and Office of State Tribal Programs met with Maryland's State Liaison Officer and Radiation Program management to discuss the status of the State's Agreement State program. The meeting focused on the State's actions in response to recommendations from previous Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) reviews and the status of the inspection and licensing program. Of particular note was discussion of the challenges being faced by the State associated with the recent loss of staff to retirements and the actions being taken to address this issue. The Region will continue to monitor this situation through routine contacts with Radiation Program management. The next IMPEP review of the Maryland program is scheduled for July 2003.

EXELON Drop-in

On November 13, 2002, Charles Pardee, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services and Russell West, Vice President, Peach Bottom, met with Hub Miller and senior regional managers. At the meeting, the status of Peach Bottom, Limerick, Oyster Creek and TMI were discussed.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Meeting

On November 14, 2002, the Regional Administrator participated in the Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group meeting in Headquarters. The Group continued to review the Agency's Strategic Plan and discuss potential areas for revision.

Duke, Cogema, Stone (DCS) and Webster Meeting - MOX Facility Construction

On November 12, 2002, the Regional Administrator and staff met, in a public meeting, with management of DCS to discuss schedules for the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility planned for the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The applicant provided a general description of the facility and an outline of the construction schedule.

Differing Professional View-Oconee

On November 5, 2002, Region II completed a decision and response to a Differing Professional View (DPV). The DPV was submitted to the Regional Administrator on August 7, 2002, in response to the final disposition of eight issues in two NRC Inspection Reports (Reports), issued to the licensee on, 2001 and May 31, 2002. The DPV questioned whether the Reports were correct in not documenting each of the eight issues as violations. The DPV also questioned whether was adequate follow up actions with regard to licensee corrective actions, if the issues are violations.

Region II convened an *ad hoc* review panel (Panel) to review the issues in the DPV in accordance with Management Directive 10.159. The Panel included membership from the NRC, Office of Enforcement and issued a report to the Regional Administrator on October 30, 2002. The Regional Administrator accepted the Panel's conclusions and recommendations with clarification and assigned actions in response in a November 5, 2002, memorandum.

Region II Administrative Workshop

On November 13, 2002, as part of actions to foster internal communications, the Regional Office held a workshop with members of the administrative staff from each Regional Division organization. The workshop included professional enrichment sessions by the Administrative Team Leader, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and by representatives of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

Regional Administrator Visit to South Texas Project

On November 8, 2002, the Regional Administrator visited the South Texas Project and toured the plant with the resident inspectors. The tour included the Unit 2 containment for a detailed observation of the steam generator replacement activities and repairs to the seal welds on the control rod drive mechanisms. Following the tour, the Regional Administrator received a security briefing from the licensee and met with the Vice President, Generation.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 15, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 74					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	11/19/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Computer Security in the Federal Government: How do the Agencies Rate?	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmnt & Intergovernmental 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