

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT

April 17, 2003

SECY-03-0056

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0056 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 11, 2003

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C*
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F*
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R*

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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04/17/03	04/17/03

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 2003

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: CJG1@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	STP	*
NMSS	4	OPA	17
RES	8	IP	18
NSIR	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	*	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	22
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

AP1000

On April 3, 2003, representatives from the NRC and Westinghouse Electric Company held a public meeting at the Westinghouse Energy Center in Monroeville, Pennsylvania to discuss structural and seismic requests for additional information for the AP1000. Also, from April 2-6, 2003, representatives from NRC and Westinghouse held a closed meeting for the purpose of conducting a structural and seismic audit. As a result of the meeting, the NRC staff and its contractors obtained an understanding of the process used by Westinghouse to perform structural design calculations for the shield building, auxiliary building, and containment. One issue was identified with the level of completion of the containment design that will require management consultation.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station - Management Change

Entergy has announced that Mr. Chuck Dugger is leaving his position as Vice President, Operations at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station to work as Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Vice President, Operations in Washington, D.C. In his new position, Mr. Dugger will work as a loaned executive in the Nuclear Generation Operations branch of NEI for the next 18 to 24 months. Mr. Dugger's reassignment is effective as of April 1, 2003. Entergy has not announced plans to fill Mr. Dugger's position at Pilgrim.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Meeting with National Academy of Sciences' Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Committee

On April 8, 2003, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with the National Academy of Sciences' Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Committee to discuss NRC's process for review and approval of amendments to the TRUPACT-II transportation package. In particular, the committee was interested in the gas-generated contents for TRUPACT-II, the bases for their approval, and methods used to assure compliance.

Issuance of Amendment to TRUPACT-II Transportation Package

On April 9, 2003, SFPO issued an amendment, to the TRUPACT-II transportation package, that approved shipments of waste with greater than trace quantities of beryllium. The TRUPACT-II package is used to transport waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Completion of Staff Review of Licensee Responses to Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Interim Safeguards and Security Compensatory Measures

On April 9, 2003, NRC staff completed its review of the responses to the orders issued to Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation licensees regarding Interim Safeguards and Security Compensatory Measures. These orders were issued on October 16, 2002. The staff found that all licensees were responsive to the requirements of the Order.

NRC to Issue a Federal Register Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing Concerning the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc.'s, License Application

On April 3, 2003, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards forwarded to the Division of Administrative Services a notice of opportunity to request a hearing for publication in the Federal Register. The notice deals with the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc.'s application dated February 11, 2003, for a license for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (Lead Cascade). The Lead Cascade, which is to be located at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, will possess up to 250 kilograms of uranium hexafluoride, and will consist of up to 240 operating, full-scale centrifuge machines. Since the Lead Cascade is considered to be a test facility and not a commercial production facility, the proceeding for the application will fall within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings," of 10 CFR Part 2.

Staff Participation in Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols Workgroup Meeting

On March 31 - April 4, 2003, the Division of Waste Management staff participated in a Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) workgroup meeting that was held at the National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Montgomery, Alabama. Representatives of EPA, NRC, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and

Technology, and the Food and Drug Administration attended this meeting. The purpose of MARLAP is to provide a framework and guidance on radioanalytical laboratory data, using a performance-based approach, to meet a project's or a program's data requirements needs. The workgroup reviewed the final versions of the MARLAP Chapters, based on public comments and EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) feedback. The MARLAP workgroup will finalize its responses to public comments and will address the SAB recommendations in the next few months. The workgroup plans to complete and publish a MARLAP manual document by the end of 2003.

Observation of the Department of Energy's Quality Assurance Audit of Bechtel SAIC Company's Data Integrity

On March 17-27, 2003, staff from the Division of Waste Management observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's), Office of Quality Assurance, performance-based audit of Bechtel SAIC Company in Las Vegas, Nevada. The audit team focused on data integrity relating to technical products supporting the Yucca Mountain Project license application. The audit team also evaluated the critical process steps, required to control technical product input, that assures the quality of data. The audit team determined that the audit was limited in scope, because of the small number of technical products available for evaluation, and was limited in its determination of the overall adequacy, appropriateness, and suitability of the supporting data. As a result of this audit, DOE may conduct another audit, regarding data integrity, when a broader sample of technical products is completed. NRC observers agreed with the findings of the audit team and, based on those audit findings, potential issues were identified.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

The Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response/Division of Incident Response Operations (NSIR/DIRO) staff attended the annual National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference the week of March 31, 2003. NSIR/DIRO made a presentation on current activities within NSIR which included Operation Center activities, activities underway due to the increased terrorist threat level, and interactions with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 5. NSIR/DIRO staff also participated on a panel with representatives from the Department of Energy and DHS on agency interactions with DHS.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-03-017, Deaconess Hospital - MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING IODINE-131.
2. PNO-II-03-005, R&L Carriers, Inc. - TRANSPORTATION INCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.
3. PNO-IV-03-021, Pacific Gas and Electric - DIABLO CANYON UNIT 2 PLANT SHUTDOWN TO EXCEED 72 HOURS.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) Requests received during the period of April 4 through April 10, 2003:

Contract NRC3398180, Ruland Associates	FOIA/PA-2003-0239
NTEU-represented bargaining unit employees, specific information	FOIA/PA-2003-0240
FY2004 IT budget submission in response to OMB Circular A-11, Exhibit 53, 300B (Capital Asset Plan & Justification) & most recent long-range IT plans	FOIA/PA-2003-0241
Contract NRC3301189, Document Processing Support Services, copy of awarded contract, winning proposal & original request for proposal	FOIA/PA-2003-0242
Contract NRC3398180, Computer Facility Support, copy of awarded contract, winning proposal & original request for proposal	FOIA/PA-2003-0243
IG investigation on named individual	FOIA/PA-2003-0244

April 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Arrivals		
MORRIS, James	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
Retirements		
None		
Departures		
None		

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Media Interest

The Wall Street Journal profiled the new chairman, Nils Diaz, with an emphasis on the completion of additional milestones in enhancing security requirements for nuclear power plants. Follow-up coverage on the security measures appeared in several publications.

Significant media coverage continues of end-of-cycle meetings at nuclear plants nationwide, especially in local print and television outlets.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' call for wide potassium iodide distribution received considerable play, and prompted reaction from state emergency agencies and coverage of NRC's policy.

The troubled Davis-Besse nuclear facility in Ohio remains in the local news, as the NRC dispatches a team of experts to evaluate the processes used by its owners to assess the plant's safety culture. An Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff member was interviewed on Davis-Besse by Chemical & Engineering News.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-044	Chairman Diaz Continues Focus On Nuclear Security
03-045	NRC Develops Model Application For Reactor Startup Modifications Based On Use Of Risk Insights
03-046	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet April 22-23 in Rockville, Maryland
Regions:	
I-03-028	Note to Editors: NRC Meeting on Indian Point Performance Postponed Due to Inclement Weather
I-03-029	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Calvert Cliffs
I-03-030	NRC to Discuss Annual Performance Assessment of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant
I-3-031	NRC Withdraws Civil Penalty Against Pa.-Based Medical Firm; Terminates Company's License
II-03-027	NRC to Meet with Progress Energy Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant

April 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE M

II-03-028	NRC Staff Proposes \$3,000 Civil Penalty Against West Virginia Company for Violations of NRC Radiation Safety Requirements
II-03-029	NRC Staff to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference April 16 with Steel of West Virginia in Huntington
III-03-028	NRC Decides a Prior "Red" is Not an "Old Design" Issue and Issues a Preliminary "Red" Finding for Feedwater System Problems
III-03-029	NRC Dispatches a Team of Experts to Evaluate FirstEnergy's Tools for Assessing Safety Culture at Davis-Besse
III-03-030	NRC to Meet with Officials from American Electric Power Company to Discuss Safety Performance at D.C. Cook
III-03-031	NRC to Meet with Officials from Nuclear Management Company to Discuss Safety Performance at Palisades
III-03-032	NRC to Meet with Officials from Exelon Generation Company to Discuss Safety Performance at Braidwood
III-03-033	NRC Staff to Hold Three Meetings April 15 on Davis-Besse
IV-03-017	NRC to Meet with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to Discuss Performance of Diablo Canyon
IV-03-018	NRC to Meet with Entergy Operations, Inc. to Discuss Performance of Grand Gulf
IV-03-019	NRC to Meet with Energy Northwest to Discuss Performance of Columbia Generating Station

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Meeting with Representatives from the Ukraine

On April 9, staff from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and the Office of International Programs (OIP) met with representatives of the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine (SNRCU, NRC's regulatory counterpart in Ukraine). Topics discussed focused on Web technology, including Web content management and revision control, regulatory business processes, computer infrastructure, database management and interfaces, Web search engines, Web-based database query formats, and ADAMS Web interface issues. These discussions were requested by the SNRCU staff as part of their efforts to develop an effective SNRCU website.

April 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0041	3/21/03	Litigation Report - 2003 - 01
2. SECY-03-0044	3/21/03	Update of the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan
3. SECY-03-0051	4/4/03	SECY-03-0051 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 28, 2003
4. SECY-03-0053	4/10/03	SECY-03-0053 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 4, 2003
Memoranda		
1. M030327B	4/11/03	Briefing on Status of RES Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Wenonah Hauter, Public Citizen, dated April 3, 2003, concerns NRC's review of the "white papers" submitted by Louisiana Energy Services (LES).
2. Letter to Congress (Sen. Reid & Sen. Ensign), dated April 4 2003, concerns comments on NUREG-1768, NRC Package Performance Study Test Protocols.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ASLBP Establishment of Board - Advanced Medical Imaging and Nuclear Services - Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty - Notice.
2. Notice of Reconstitution of ASLBP - Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company.
3. Revised 141st Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste - Notice of Meeting.
4. Availability of Official Records - Final Rule.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Indian Point

Due to inclement weather, the Annual Assessment Meeting with Entergy, scheduled for April 7, was postponed. The meeting has been rescheduled for April 28, 2003.

The Region I Regional Administrator, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Project Director, and other NRC management and staff visited the Indian Point site visit on April 7. Plant walkdowns were conducted on both Unit 2 (operating) and Unit 3 (shut down for a refueling outage). NRC personnel observed aspects of the reactor vessel head inspection that was ongoing inside Unit 3 containment. The management site visit included discussions with site engineering, maintenance, operations, and security personnel.

Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference

On April 10, 2003, Region I held a predecisional enforcement conference with Testwell Laboratories, a New York licensee, to discuss apparent violations identified while the licensee was under NRC jurisdiction. The apparent violations included deliberately conducting radiography without the presence of a certified radiographer and failure to file for reciprocity. A predecisional enforcement conference was also conducted with the individual who committed the apparently deliberate violations. Enforcement action is under consideration.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. - Fuel Facility Plant Tour and Licensee Performance Review

On April 8, 2003, the Regional Administrator, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Region II Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, toured the licensee's facility, and met with the NRC resident inspector. On April 9, 2003, they conducted a Licensee Performance Review meeting with representatives of Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, Tennessee, near the fuel facility plant. Several members of the public and media were in attendance at the meeting.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 7 - 11, 2003, the Regional Office conducted the NRC, ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the St. Lucie, Hatch, and Sequoyah nuclear plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Panoramic Irradiator Industry Workshop on Safeguards Information

On April 9, 2003, approximately 30 licensee, State, and NRC (Region II and Headquarters) personnel participated in a Panoramic Irradiator Industry Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss how the irradiator licensees will handle safeguards type information.

Transportation Accident in Tennessee

On April 10, 2003, a trailer containing five uranium hexafluoride containers in overpacks turned over after the tractor jackknifed causing minor damage to one overpack. The accident was on Interstate Highway 40, West of Knoxville, TN. Individuals in the Region II and Region III Offices monitored the State and local response to the accident. The NRC Senior Resident and Resident Inspectors from the Watts Bar nuclear plant, as well as State and Department of Energy survey teams, responded to the accident scene. The responders found no radioactive contamination leakage from the containers; and the containers were safely removed from the accident site and transported to a secure area.

Ojos Hospital

On April 9, 2003, the licensee's health physics consultant made a report to the NRC Operations Center of medical events involving approximately 36 patients. The patients had been given a medical radiation dose in excess of the prescribed dose with a Strontium 90 applicator. The licensee's consultant attributed the event to an inadequate implementation of the correct calibration of the Strontium 90 radiation strength. The licensee has discontinued the use of the device until further notice and is following up on the events. Region II issued a Preliminary Notification of the events, will conduct a special, follow-up inspection, and will request an NRC medical consultant to assist in the review of the events.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 11, 2003

Cooper Nuclear Station End-of-Cycle Assessment Meeting

On April 8, 2003, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, and the Region IV Regional Administrator, met with senior managers from Nebraska Public Power District to discuss the results of the NRC's annual assessment of performance of Cooper Nuclear Station. Cooper Nuclear Station is in the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Action Matrix. Other Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) annual assessment meetings were conducted this week at Comanche Peak, Arkansas Nuclear One, and River Bend.

Nevada Integrated Material Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Exit Meeting

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety and the Director, Office of State Programs attended an IMPEP exit meeting conducted by the NRC IMPEP Team with Nevada State representatives in Reno, Nevada, on April 10, 2003.