

INFORMATION REPORT

August 29, 2003

SECY-03-0152

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0152 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 22, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA by Melinda Malloy Acting For/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
L. Roché, OEDO

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**/RA by Melinda Malloy Acting For/
William M. Dean
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WMDean **MMalloy for**

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22, 2003

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: L. Roche, OEDO by E-mail: LAR2@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Millstone Power Station, Unit No. 2

On December 12, 2002, the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone (CCAM) and the Standing for Truth About Radiation (STAR) Foundation filed a petition to intervene and request for a hearing on a license amendment request that the licensee submitted to the NRC on September 26, 2002. The license amendment would revise the Technical Specifications to modify requirements regarding containment closure and spent fuel pool (SFP) area ventilation during movement of irradiated fuel assemblies in containment and in the SFP area. The proposed changes take credit for re-analysis of the limiting design basis Fuel Handling Accidents using a selective implementation of the Alternative Source Term methodology in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of the Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.67, and Regulatory Guide 1.183.

On February 14, 2003, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a ruling finding that CCAM has standing to participate in the proceeding and that the STAR Foundation lacks standing. CCAM's contention stated that: "The amendment involves the potential of significant increase in the amounts of radiological effluents that may be released offsite and thus the amendment involves an adverse impact on the public health and safety." On August 18, 2003, the ASLB ruled that CCAM's contention is not sufficiently supported to be admissible under relevant rules and law. Therefore, the ASLB dismissed the contention and terminated the proceeding. The NRC staff has not yet completed the review of the amendment request.

Power Uprates

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, on RS-001, "Review Standard for Extended Power Uprates," on August 19, 2003. The staff (1) explained the general reasons for undertaking the initiative to develop review standards and how it expects this initiative to help NRC retain institutional knowledge, (2) described, in general terms, the format and content of the review standard for extended power uprates, and (3) provided detailed presentations on many of the technical areas covered by the review standard. The staff also summarized the public comments it received on the review standard and how they were addressed. In addition, the staff discussed comments made by the ACRS during previous ACRS reviews of extended power uprates and how those comments were addressed in the review standard. The subcommittee agreed to forward the review standard for full committee review in September. At the end of the meeting, committee members indicated they are impressed with the staff's work. They also indicated that the review standard will help licensees in preparing power uprate applications, NRR staff in performing the reviews of these applications, and the ACRS in conducting its independent review. The subcommittee made comments related to the criteria for independent calculations, materials review, and transient testing, which the staff agreed to consider in finalizing the review standard.

Browns Ferry Unit 1 Restart Project Inspection Program

Division of Inspection Program Management issued Inspection Manual Chapter 2509, "Browns Ferry Unit 1 (BF1) Restart Project Inspection Program," to address regulatory concerns, inspection requirements, and open item closure at BF1 during the restart. The traditional form of enforcement will be adopted during the restart effort, because the Reactor Oversight Process is not appropriate at this time for BF1 due to the nature of the modification work underway.

Meeting with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) on Training and Qualification

On August 8, 2003, the staff conducted an annual public meeting with INPO. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss INPO and NRC initiatives and issues related to the training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel. Other topics discussed included issues related to the generic fundamentals examination, operator license eligibility, licensed operator requalification programs, and changes to the accreditation process.

Operator Licensing Regional Counterparts and Industry Focus Group Meetings

On August 6, 2003, the staff conducted a semiannual counterparts meeting in the Region II office. The meeting was followed, on August 7, 2003, by a semiannual public meeting with the industry focus group on operator licensing. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the experience to date with Draft Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and to solicit feedback on the proposed changes. Other topics discussed included issues related to the generic fundamentals examination, operator license eligibility, licensed operator requalification programs, and implementation of the simulator rule change.

NRC Information Notice 2003-11, Leakage Found on Bottom-Mounted Instrumentation Nozzles, dated August 13, 2003

The NRC is issuing this information notice to alert addressees to indications of leakage in the form of boron deposits discovered on bottom-mounted instrumentation nozzles at South Texas Project Unit 1. It is expected that the recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Inspector Continuing Training

Division of Inspection Program Management staff has initiated a new program for providing continuing training for inspectors. A web-based "read-and-sign" program was implemented on August 11, 2003. The first of two topics covered is a Davis-Besse lessons-learned item on the effects of boric acid corrosion and primary water stress corrosion cracking of nickel-based alloy nozzles. The second topic covers changes to Inspection Procedure (IP) 71152, "Problem Identification and Resolution," that will require inspectors to implement different sampling requirements.

Generic Letter (GL) 91-18 Operability Workshop

NRR staff sponsored a workshop last week to discuss and receive preliminary input on the guidance for operability and degraded and nonconformance issues (GL 91-18). The workshop was held in the NRC's Auditorium, and included over 100 participants from industry and 20 members of the staff (from NRR, Office of Enforcement, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and each region). Over the next few months, the Division of Inspection Program Management, NRR, will be revising existing guidance to give inspectors direction when reviewing licensee activities directed at either resolving degraded and nonconforming conditions or determining operability in conformance with their technical specifications, and other licensing basis requirements.

The purpose of the workshop was to seek early participation from a range of contributors on issues, concerns, and suggestions based on operational and other experience before the draft revised guidance is prepared and issued for comment. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions were held so that participants could discuss topics such as operable but degraded, support system operability, operational leakage, and component reliability. The workshop was beneficial to the staff and to the stakeholders with which the staff had an open dialog concerning issues and concerns with the existing GL 91-18 guidance.

Meeting with Industry on Proposed Bulletin

On August 19, 2003, NRR staff held a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Materials Reliability Program (MRP), and the industry to discuss the proposed bulletin on leakage from reactor pressure vessel lower head penetrations and reactor coolant pressure boundary integrity. The meeting provided an opportunity for the staff to describe its expectations with respect to industry responses to the bulletin. An MRP representative indicated that the industry is considering preparation of guidance on the process to be used for resolving the source of any boric acid deposits or corrosion found during inspections. The staff responded to questions from certain stakeholders on the use of a bulletin to address this issue. Based on comments made by industry representatives, the industry has actions underway to perform inspections recommended by the staff and to provide the information sought by the bulletin.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

American Nuclear Society (ANS) Conference and Meeting to Assess Proactive Materials Degradation

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Division of Engineering Technology (DET) staff members attended the 11th International Conference on Environmental Degradation of Materials in Nuclear Power Systems - Water Reactors, on August 10-14, 2003. Technical sessions included invited and submitted papers, presenting recent results from studies of such topics as reactor pressure vessel (RPV) steel embrittlement, irradiation effects on materials, degradation caused by exposure to the pressurized water reactor (PWR) coolant environment, and irradiation assisted stress corrosion cracking (IASCC). Crack growth measurement and mitigation approaches were reviewed. Operational experience with reactor systems, and the environmental degradation of weld metals also were addressed.

Taking advantage of the presence of international experts on materials degradation at this conference, DET staff held an information meeting to discuss methods and ideas for developing proactive materials degradation assessment programs. This included an invited presentation to the experts on how the Phenomena Identification and Ranking Tabulation (PIRT) process is conducted, methodology, requirements, boundaries, and information required from experts. Some of the international scientists at the meeting may be asked to join an expert panel to assist the NRC in developing a PIRT for proactive materials degradation assessment. Based on the interest shown by the participants, the staff is proceeding with the formulation of an expert panel and developing a comprehensive materials degradation assessment program in FY 2004.

Off-Site Meeting to Develop Strategy to Resolve Package Performance Study (PPS) Comments

On August 19-20, 2003, staff and management from RES and the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met to address the public comments on the PPS draft test protocols (NUREG-1768). During the public comment period, NRC staff received about 255 comment letters. Additionally, staff received numerous comments during the four public workshops and they are being addressed as well. Considerable progress was made at the meeting toward the goal of publishing a document describing resolution of the comments by the end of the calendar year. Staff members from DET and SFPO are currently finalizing the PPS test plan.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Briefing

On August 20, 2003, the staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena subcommittee on the final draft of Regulatory Guide 1.82, Revision 3, "Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following A Loss-Of-Coolant Accident." Regulatory Guide 1.82 provides guidance for evaluating the impact of debris on emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) performance during long-term recirculation following a loss-of-coolant accident. RES staff and its contractor presented the research results to date and discussed how the research results were incorporated into the regulatory guide. A followup

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meeting has been scheduled for September 11 to brief the full ACRS and seek its concurrence on issuance of final Regulatory Guide 1.82.

Industry Workshop on Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Pilot Program

On August 20, 2003, staff from RES observed an industry workshop at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) offices to exercise RES-proposed modifications to the MSPI methodology. The workshop was attended by participants from NRR, industry representatives (NEI), and two-thirds of pilot plant licensees.

The purpose of the MSPI is to monitor the performance of six systems based on their ability to perform risk-significant functions. The index, which approximates the change in core damage frequency, is comprised of two elements - system unavailability and system reliability. Plant-specific PRA models will be used to calculate the contribution of component failures and maintenance unavailability to the index.

The industry participants had no issues or concerns with the majority of the RES-proposed modifications to the risk-informed methodology of the MSPI. These modifications were found to be easily implemented with no unintended consequences. However, overly conservative outcomes resulted from the proposed inclusion of common cause contribution to the Fussell-Vesely importance measure for several plants participating in the workshop. The staff will assess the possible causes and consequences of this outcome, and draft new guidelines to resolve the issue if determined to be necessary.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-03-025, Broadway Elementary School - BROKEN TRITIUM EXIT SIGN IN CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, SCHOOL BUILDING.
2. PNO-IV-03-038, Source Production and Equipment Company - POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONAL EXTREMITY DOSE IN EXCESS OF LIMIT.
3. PNO-III-03-035, Rush North Shore Medical Center - MEDICAL EVENT (WRONG TREATMENT TIME)
4. PNO-I-03-026, P&G-Clairol, Inc. - REPORTED LOSS OF TWO NICKEL-63 SOURCES.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, and -61BT, Revision (AH26 - Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, and -61BT cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49683). This action adds another dry shielded canister to the authorized contents of the cask system. The direct final rule becomes effective November 3, 2003.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49726). The comment period closes September 18, 2003.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of August 15 through August 21, 2003:

Three Mile Island plant, records related to all birth defects within a 10-mile radius in the first five years after the accident	FOIA/PA-2003-0389
Site analysis, Spencer Chemical Co. (Jayhawk Works plant), or Gulf Oil Co., Chevron Oil Co./Kerr-McGee Oil Co. for 1950's and 1960's as related to uranium processing for DOE	FOIA/PA-2003-0390
Quehanna facility, Curtiss-Wright Corp. 1955 - 1960, by-product license 37-2416-2, facility license R-36, all other licenses and indemnification agreements and radioactivity records	FOIA/PA-2003-0391
OI case 4-2002-045	FOIA/PA-2003-0392
Cardinal Health facility, 301 Laser Lane, Lafayette, LA 70507, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0393
OIG Investigation report regarding named individual's testimony	FOIA/PA-2003-0394
Dry cask storage/transportation containers, all records related to Holtec International, U.S. Tool and Die, and Omni violations of manufacturing and design codes	FOIA/PA-2003-0395
Reagan presidential records related to counter terrorism (Referral by the Department of Justice)	FOIA/PA-2003-0396

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Arrivals		
BUPP, Margaret	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
DAVIS, Marlone	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
DAVIS, Troy	STUDENT CLERK	RI
EMS, Robert	INFORMATION TECH. SPEC. (Team Leader)	RII
FERICH, Jeffrey*	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OI
HIGGINS, Marissa	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
HUTTON, Carmean	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCIO
JORDAN, Michael	CONSULTANT	RIII
KANNLER, Kathleen	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
LINTZ, Mark	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LUKES, Robert	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
SMOLIK, George	SR. PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
TORRES, Paulette**	REACTOR ENGINEER	RES
WOODS, Michael	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
ZACCARI, Laura	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
Departures		
BLACK, Allison	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
CHEN, David	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
FLANAGAN, Michelle	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
HARRELL, Autumn	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
HENDERSON, Erica	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
JOYCE, Regina	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	NMSS
KRAYER, Peter	BUDGET ANALYST	RES
KERSKE, David	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
MCLEOD, Kisha	STUDENT CLERK	NSIR

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PLATCHEK, Brenda	SECRETARY (OA)	RI
WONG, Benjamin	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR

* Will be reporting to Region I for orientation.

**Transferring from Region I.

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Media Interest

The aftermath of the August 14 blackout in the Northeast, as nuclear plants resumed operations and officials and experts assessed the fragility of the country's electrical grid.

Public opposition to a proposed irradiation facility in Bucks County, PA, as the NRC holds a public meeting to hear community concerns. OPA staff from Headquarters and Region I supported.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-104	NRC Finds Renewal of Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant Operating License Environmentally Acceptable (8/18)
03-105	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Fansteel Decommissioning Plan; Announces Opportunity for Hearing (8/18)
03-106	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Hold September Meeting in Rockville, Maryland (8/21)
03-107	NRC Staff Issues Bulletin to Nuclear Power Plants on Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations (8/21)
Regions:	
I-03-049	NRC Special Inspection Team to Review Shutdown of Salem 1 Plant (8/18)
I-03-050	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Salem Nuclear Plant (8/20)
II-03-041	DiPaolo Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Brunswick Nuclear Plant (8/19)
III-03-057	NRC Staff Proposes \$6,000 Fine Against Michigan Company (8/18)
III-03-058	Meeting on Status of Ongoing NRC Inspection at Point Beach (8/22)
IV-03-036	NRC Proposes \$6,000 Fine for Longview Inspection, Inc., of Houston, TX (8/19)
IV-03-037	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Arkansas Nuclear One (8/19)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0118	7/11/03	Final Rule: Geological and Seismological Characteristics for the Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations - 10 CFR Part 72
Voting Record for SECY-03-0118	8/15/03	(same)
2. SECY-03-0139	8/15/03	Proposed License to Export Byproduct and Source Material to Iraq for Use in Oil Well Logging (Application No. XB001300)
SRM on SECY-03-0139	8/20/03	(same)
Voting Record for SECY-03-0139	8/20/03	(same)
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-03-0138	8/14/03	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 8, 2003
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0142	8/20/03	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 15, 2003
2. SECY-03-0137	8/11/03	Litigation Report - 03 - 02
Memoranda		
1. M030815	8/15/03	SRM - Affirmation Session: (1) SECY-03-0118 - Final Rule: Geological and Seismological Characteristics for the Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations - 10 CFR Part 72; (2) SECY-03-0129 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation), Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI, LBP-03-08 (May 22, 2003)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Professor Harold Feiverson, dated August 19, 2003, responds to offer to publish an NRC review of the article by Alvarez, et al., entitled "Reducing the Hazards from Stored Spent Power-Reactor Fuel in the United States" in the journal Science and Global Security.
2. Letter to Representative David Price, dated August 19, 2003, regards the vulnerability of nuclear power plants and spent fuel pools against a possible terrorist attack.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. State of Utah: NRC Staff Assessment of Utah's Proposed Alternative Standard to Use Utah's Existing Groundwater Regulation in Lieu of the NRC's.
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Westinghouse Electric Company - Columbia Fuel Plant

On August 18, 2003, representatives from Westinghouse Electric Company, fuel facility in Columbia, South Carolina, were in the regional office to attend a closed meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss corrective actions as a result of their review of a failure to follow procedures at the facility reported under NRC Bulletin 91-01, "Reporting Loss of Criticality Safety Controls."

Mixed Oxide (MOX) Licensing Status Briefing

On August 19, 2003, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards were in the regional office to meet with the Fuel Facilities Branch staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of actions in support of the review of an application for a facility to process MOX fuel.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Hatch Nuclear Plant

On August 19-22, 2003, the Region II State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Federal Management Administration's Regional Assistance Committee to evaluate the full scale emergency preparedness exercise at the Hatch nuclear power plant. The exercise involved participants from the State of Georgia and applicable local governments.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 22, 2003

Meeting on Quad Cities Source Term Reduction Program

On August 22, 2003, the staff met in the regional office with representatives of Exelon Generation Company to discuss the utility's source term reduction program for the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 22, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 27</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	09/03/03 2123 RHOB	TBA	DOE, FERC, NERC, NY officials	Power Blackouts	Reps. Tauzin/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Gerke	09/04/03 2123 RHOB	TBA	TBA	Power Blackouts	Reps. Tauzin/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Keeling	09/10/03 LHOB	10:00	TBA	Findings of 9/11 Intelligence Report	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security
Combs	09/11/03 TBA	A.M.	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Bechtel, NEI	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce

Note: Congress is in recess; the Senate returns on September 2 and the House returns on September 3.