

INFORMATION REPORT

January 27, 2004

SECY-04-0007

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0007 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 16, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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M. Markley, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 16, 2004

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

Contact: M. Markley, OEDO by E-mail: mtm@nrc.gov.

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

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Current Status of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

On January 12, 2004, the NRC's Management and Human Performance Inspection team began an additional inspection of the licensee's safety conscious work environment (SCWE) and safety culture with emphasis on the licensee's SCWE survey results from December 2003. The licensee also requested that the follow-up inspection by the NRC Readiness for Restart Assessment Inspection team be delayed. A future date for this inspection has not been established. The next 0350 Oversight Panel routine monthly public meeting near the site is scheduled for the evening of January 21, 2004.

In response to a Region III Task Interface Agreement, NRR staff reviewed Davis-Besse's high-pressure injection (HPI) pump modifications to address potential pump degradation during the recirculation mode that might be caused by debris transported to the sump from a loss-of-coolant-accident blowdown and containment spray actuation. The review included witnessing the mock-up testing of individual pump components, review of the "engineered" slurry to simulate expected sump debris, test success criteria, and associated calculations and review of the final post modification testing. The review is complete and the staff concluded that the redesigned pump strainers and bearing will operate with debris-laden water without plugging of the orifices or bearing pads. Also, fine-clearance components such as wear rings and shaft sleeves may experience wear while operating with debris-laden water during plant recirculation. However, hard facing of pump critical components minimizes wear such that operations near pump critical speed is not adversely affected. The staff concluded test hydraulic performance of the HPI pump will be maintained even with wear of the fine clearance components while operating with debris-laden water during plant recirculation.

New York Times Interview Regarding the Vermont Yankee Extended Power Uprate Application

On January 13, 2004, representatives of NRR's Divisions of Licensing Project Management and Systems Safety and Analysis, as well as the Office of Public Affairs were interviewed by New York Times' Washington, DC correspondent, about issues related to the Vermont Yankee extended power uprate application acceptance review. The interviewer asked questions on topics including the level of public interest in the Vermont Yankee application and technical issues such as the effects of the increased power on operating temperatures and pressures, the impact on low head emergency core cooling system pumps, and the steam dryer issue at Quad Cities. Questions were also raised about the history of the staff's power uprate program, including the number of requests approved in the past, and whether or not security issues were addressed during the review of power uprate amendment requests.

Industry Forum on Configuration Risk Management at Nuclear Power Plants

On January 14-15, 2004, representatives of the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis participated in an industry sponsored forum on configuration risk management. The staff provided presentations concerning regulatory perspective on effective configuration risk management and the current status of NRC activities related to configuration risk management.

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ENCLOSURE A

Industry presentations and discussions addressed a number of activities including industry self-assessment of maintenance rule implementation, the use of online real-time risk monitors in risk management probabilistic risk assessment models for evaluation of risks during shutdown and low-power operations consistency of risk management decision criteria across the industry, and risk-informed technical specification initiatives. This forum is sponsored each year by the Electric Power Research Institute.

January 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Meeting with Rio Algom Mining

On January 13, 2004, the NRC staff met with representatives of Rio Algom Mining LLC to discuss the Application for Alternate Concentration Limits for groundwater at the Lisbon, Utah, uranium mill facility. Rio Algom discussed how it would proceed with submittal of an application and also discussed a proposed plan based on the State of Utah classifying the groundwater aquifer under its class-of-use criteria. Follow-up discussions were held on January 15, 2004, to clarify issues regarding these matters and the path forward. Representatives from the State of Utah participated in the follow-up discussions.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Public Workshop on Non-Light Water Reactor (LWR) Containment Functional Performance

On January 14, 2004, a public workshop on non-light water reactor (LWR) containment functional performance was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, MD. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback from industry experts and other interested stakeholders regarding the staff's initial efforts to develop safety performance requirements and criteria for non-LWR containment designs. The staff presentations included discussions of prior Commission policies on advanced reactors, reactor safety goals, severe accidents, the use of PRA methods, and the risk-informed and performance-based regulation. The staff discussed initial efforts to identify functional performance requirements for future non-LWR containments. Representatives from Pebble-Bed Moderated Reactor (PBMR) Pty., Westinghouse, Framatome-ANP, and General Atomics made presentations on their proposed containment designs that are currently under development.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-04-002, The Methodist Hospital - MISSING STRONTIUM-90 SOURCE.
2. PNO-I-04-01, Onyx Greentree Landfill - RADIOACTIVE SOURCE FOUND AT LANDFILL IN KERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA.
3. PNO-I-04-002, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - ACCIDENT INVOLVING MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.
4. PNO-I-04-01A, Onyx Greentree Landfill - UPDATE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE RADIOACTIVE SOURCE FOUND AT LANDFILL IN KERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Changes to Adjudicatory Process (AG-49 - Part 2, et al.)

On January 14, 2004, a final rule that amends the NRC's rules of practice was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 2182). The final rule provides hearing procedures that are tailored to the differing types of licensing and regulatory activities that the NRC conducts and better focuses the limited resources of involved parties and the NRC. The final rule becomes effective February 13, 2004.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS, Amendment 3, Revision (AH25 - Part 72)

On January 16, 2004, a direct final rule that revises the NAC International, Inc. NAC-UMS (Amendment 3) cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 2497). This action modifies the present cask design to add an alternate poison material and to revise the structural analysis, thermal analysis, fuel assembly weight and dimensions, and allowable fuel cladding temperature. The direct final rule becomes effective March 31, 2004.

On January 16, 2004, the companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 2528). The comment period closes February 17, 2004.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Federal Computer Week Interviews Chief Information Officer

On January 16, 2004, the Chief Information Office and the IT Security Staff were interviewed by a correspondent of Federal Computer Week magazine on how the NRC was able to achieve an "A" on the Federal Computer Security Report Card. The article is expected to appear in the January 26, 2004 edition.

New Web Sites Activated

On January 14, 2004, OCIO staff posted two new publicly available web sites requested by OGC:

Revisions to 10 CFR Part 2 - This page explains the basis for the revision of Part 2. NRC is amending its regulations concerning its rules of practice in 10 CFR Part 2 to provide hearing procedures that are tailored to the differing types of regulatory activities the NRC conducts. <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/adjudicatory/part2revisions.html>.

Hearing Opportunities and License Applications - This Web page will provide current information on receipt of major applications, notice of intent to file major applications, and current opportunities to request hearings and petition to intervene for major licensing and regulatory actions: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing-license-applications.html>.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of January 9 through January 15, 2004:

Power Plant Engineering course, 18 training modules, lesson plans, slides, and course manuals	FOIA/PA-2004-0090
Sealed radioactive source, emergency event where broken or destroyed	FOIA/PA-2004-0091
Howard Dean, correspondence to, from 1986 to 2003 (Governor of VT)	FOIA/PA-2004-0092
Yucca Mountain repository, concerns or restrictions on overflights of repository or transportation routes, all correspondence between USAF, DOE & NRC	FOIA/PA-2004-0093
Solicitation No. NRR-02-029, all information related to bid, including a list of bidders	FOIA/PA-2004-0094
Vacancy application, reason for non-selection, candidate hired and qualifications and experience	FOIA/PA-2004-0095

Twin City Army Ammunition Plant (MN) decommissioning, all documents; clean up and decontamination of site and surrounding areas	FOIA/PA-2004-0096
Radiac Research Corporation facilities, 33 South First Street, 261 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, NJ, all records on or after 1-1-1990	FOIA/PA-2004-0097
Material License Tracking System, active and retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2004-0098
Personnel security clearance investigative files, on named individual	FOIA/PA-2004-0099

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Arrivals		
Erin D. Hunter	Secretary (OA)	NRR
Imitiaz K. Madni	Reactor Engineer	RES
Departures		
Dusting Reinert	Engineer Associate (Student)	R-IV

January 16, 2004

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Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Media Interest

Court arguments in the State of Nevada's legal challenges to the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

OPA and NRR staff interviewed with *The New York Times* for a piece on the power uprate approval process for nuclear power plants.

A representative of NSIR conducted a radio interview with ABC Radio concerning radiological dispersal devices (RDDs) or "dirty bombs."

New Mexico media coverage of NRC's decision to drop the double-containment requirement for plutonium shipments.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation's decision to build a new gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Piketon, Ohio, instead of Paducah, Kentucky.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-002	NRC Historian Writes Perspective on Three Mile Island Incident, 25 Years Later (1/12)
04-003	NRC to Hold Hearing on Early Site Permit for Grand Gulf Site; Offers Opportunity to Request Participation (1/13)
04-004	NRC Issues Report on Improving Reactor Operating Experience Programs (1/14)
04-005	NRC Announces Availability of Two New Websites on Conduct of Hearings and Pending Applications (1/14)
Regions:	
I-04-001	New Resident Inspector Assigned to Seabrook Nuclear Plant (1/13)
III-04-004	NRC Oversight Panel to Meet on January 21 with Davis-Besse Officials in Oak Harbor (1/14)
IV-04-003	NRC to Meet with Nebraska Public Power District to Discuss Recent Inspection at Cooper Nuclear Power Station (1/13)
IV-04-004	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Grand Gulf Early Site Permit (1/13)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Japanese Government's Advisory Committee

On January 14, 2004, a member for national security of the Japanese Government's Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, accompanied by the First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, met with representatives of NSIR for an unclassified discussion concerning nuclear plant security. This was a follow up to discussions held in 2002 and 2003. The Japanese are continuing to review and strengthen security at their nuclear facilities.

Taiwan Legislature

On January 15, 2004, a member of the Taiwan Legislature, accompanied by the Director of the Division of Science and Technology, Taipei, Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) met individually with the NRC Chairman and Commissioners. The purpose of his visit was to introduce himself to the Commission and to provide an overview on the current and future use of nuclear energy in Taiwan.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0223	12/24/03	Rulemaking Plan: Assured Isolation Facilities
2. SECY-04-0003	1/13/04	SECY-04-0003 Weekly Information Report - Weeks Ending December 26, 2003 and January 2, 2004
3. SECY-03-0226	12/31/03	Report on Office Self-Assessments
Memoranda		
1. M040114B	1/14/04	Staff Requirements: Affirmation Session: I. SECY-03-0225-Sequoyah Fuels Corp. (Gore, Oklahoma Site); Cherokee Nation's Petition for Review of LBP-03-24

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Jon Porter, dated January 9, 2004, concerning NRC staff audits and evaluations of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) efforts being conducted in anticipation of an application for a construction authorization for a proposed high-level waste (HLW) repository at Yucca Mountain.
2. Letter to Congresswoman Shelly Berkley, dated January 9, 2004, concerning NRC staff audits and evaluations of DOE efforts being conducted in anticipation of an application for a construction authorization for a HLW repository at Yucca Mountain.
3. Letter to Brian Sandoval, Attorney General, State of Nevada, dated January 9, 2004, concerning NRC staff audits and evaluations of DOE efforts being conducted in anticipation of an application for a construction authorization for a HLW repository at Yucca Mountain.
4. Letter to Congress and the Small Business Administration, dated January 6, 2004, provides NRC regulatory enforcement report.
5. Letter to Kathleen Seblius, Governor of Kansas, dated January 6, 2004, concerns the continued success of the Kansas Agreement State Program.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Notice of Meeting, February 5-7, 2004.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Visit of Commissioner Merrifield to INOVA Hospital

On January 12, 2004, the Region I Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and an Atlanta-based inspector, accompanied Commissioner Merrifield and his materials Technical Assistant on a visit to INOVA Hospital in Alexandria, VA. The purpose of the visit was to tour the facility, discuss applications and treatment planning of high dose rate (HDR) afterloaders in cancer therapy, and observe an HDR patient treatment.

Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) Utility Workers Union Contract Expiration Update

A strike by operators, maintenance workers, and radiation protection workers at Indian Point 3 is possible when the current contract expires on Saturday night, January 17, 2004. Security personnel are not affected by the contract. Licensee and union negotiations, which have been ongoing all week, are also scheduled for Saturday. Region I continues to monitor licensee preparations and is ready to respond, as needed, in accordance with NRC procedures. Region I has reviewed licensee contingency plans and Region I continued to prepare for possible job action, with a watch bill to provide 24-hour coverage at both Unit 3 and Unit 2, if required. Inspectors are scheduled to begin continuous site coverage early in the afternoon of January 17, with a Region I Branch Chief and security inspector also planning to go to the site to observe the licensee's implementation of its contingency plans.

Media coverage was extensive this week. The Westchester County Executive issued a press release and held a press conference stating that the Indian Point plants should be shut down if there is a strike.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Meeting

On January 13, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator, accompanied by the Director, Division of Incident Response Operations attended a meeting with NORAD at the Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, FL. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming Determined Promise/Amalgam Virgo interagency exercises. The exercises are scheduled to be held in August 2004 and the NRC will be participating in both exercises.

Duke Energy Corporation - Full-Scale Oconee Nuclear Plant Emergency Exercise

On January 12-15, 2004, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full-scale Oconee Nuclear Plant emergency exercise in South Carolina. The exercise involved officials of the State of South Carolina and the applicable local governments.

Dominion Virginia Power Company - Surry Nuclear Plant Information Meeting

On January 14, 2004, representatives from Dominion Virginia Power Company were in the Regional Office to attend an information meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Surry Nuclear Plant performance improvements including their corrective action plans related to the Emergency AC Power Unavailability Performance Indicator.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

Public Meeting held with Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

On January 14, 2004, Region IV held a Category 1 public meeting with Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's efforts to promote a Safety Conscious Work Environment at the Palo Verde site.

Regional Administrator visit to Arkansas Nuclear One

On January 15, 2004, the Region IV Administrator conducted a site visit and tour of the Arkansas Nuclear One facility. The visit included a discussion of current issues with licensee management and the NRC resident inspectors.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 16, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 41

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	Mid-Feb/04	TBA	John Bolten, State Dept	Additional Protocol for IAEA	Senators Lugar/Biden Foreign Relations
Combs	02/04/04	TBA	NRC, DOE, Bechtel, NEI, NARUC	Review of the Progress of DOE's Yucca Mountain Project	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce

January 16, 2004

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