

INFORMATION REPORT

February 23, 2004

SECY-04-0027

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0027 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 13, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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02/24/04

02/24/04

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 13, 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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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Meeting with Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) on Potential Adverse Flow Effects from Power Upgrades

On February 3, 2004, the NRC staff held a public meeting with the BWROG to discuss industry actions to address potential adverse flow effects resulting from power upgrade operation including Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) steam dryer integrity and other concerns. The staff discussed concerns regarding (1) expansion of the scope of failures under power upgrade conditions; (2) apparent lack of a firmly established load definition for failures that have been attributed to extended power upgrade (EPU) conditions; (3) the need for more proactive industry actions to these failures, resolution of plant-specific susceptibility, and potential future failures of other components; and (4) lack of a specific industry organization for coordinating the industry response. The staff noted that questions exist regarding potential adverse flow effects from power upgrades.

The BWROG stated that it will provide the oversight for a broad range of industry efforts to address these issues including: survey of BWRs with EPU operating experience and review of an industry power upgrade database (February 2004); development of analytical and operational improvement recommendations to preclude component failures during EPU operation (May 2004); resolution of problems with known failures and development of an updated EPU evaluation process based on extent of condition review results (June 2004); and preparation of steam dryer inspection and evaluation guidelines (September 2004). The BWROG plans to update the staff on the status of its activities during the senior management meeting tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2004.

Review of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Evaluation Guidelines for Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Sump Performance

The Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) staff, with support from Los Alamos National Laboratory, is completing its preliminary review of the draft NEI Evaluation Guidelines for PWR Sump Performance that was submitted to the NRC staff in November 2003. The staff sent a letter to NEI on February 9, 2003, providing initial comments on the draft report. A teleconference with NEI and the PWR Sump Performance Task Force was held on February 12, 2004, to discuss the review to date.

Public Information Session on License Renewal Review Process in Decatur, Alabama

On February 5, 2004, the NRC staff conducted a public information session in Decatur, Alabama, on the license renewal process. The session was conducted following the receipt of the license renewal application for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plants, Units 1, 2, and 3. The staff placed advertisements in local newspapers and issued a press release announcing the information session. The License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program staff was supported by the regional staff and the Office of General Counsel. Approximately 20 people attended the session. Public questions related mostly to the scoping requirement of the license renewal rule and the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).

February 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

Construction Inspection Program Information Management System Meeting with NEI

On February 13, 2004, NRR staff met with NEI to discuss issues related to the construction inspection program information management system (CIPIMS). This was the first meeting of a working group tasked with defining and developing construction schedule information that will enable the NRC to schedule inspections using CIPIMS.

Meeting with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Electrical Grid Reliability

On February 5, 2004, NRR staff met with FERC staff to discuss electrical grid reliability issues. NRR staff discussed insights and lessons learned from information gathering trips to load control centers that were conducted in accordance with the NRR Task Action Plan on Grid Reliability. FERC representatives advised NRC that they were participating in a series of North America Electric Reliability Council (NERC) audits of the independent system operators responsible for grid control. Audits are expected to be completed by June 2004. FERC stated that they plan to utilize up to 30 staff persons in the near term to examine and evaluate NERC reliability standards.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Public Meeting with Honeywell Specialty Chemicals

On February 11, 2004, a public meeting was held at NRC Headquarters with the licensee, Honeywell Specialty Chemicals, Metropolis, Illinois, to discuss the root cause of a December 22, 2003, UF6 release. Honeywell representatives discussed short- and long-term corrective actions to prevent future occurrences and plans for restart operations. Honeywell agreed to keep NRC informed as identified corrective actions are implemented. Approximately 40 individuals attended the meeting including NRC staff, representatives of Honeywell, industry, and the press.

Thirty-Seventh Mid-Year Topical Meeting of the Health Physics Society

On February 9-11, 2004, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff attended the Thirty-Seventh Mid-Year Topical Meeting of the Health Physics Society (HPS) in Augusta, Georgia. The staff participated in discussions on air monitoring and internal dosimetry (the HPS meeting's theme). The staff also participated in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Health Physics.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

First Steering Group Meeting to Review the IAEA Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection

On February 4-6, 2004, RES staff participated in the first steering group meeting to review the IAEA Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection. The IAEA Action Plan is intended to provide guidance that will assist Member States to establish, maintain, and improve programs for radiation protection of workers. The steering committee plans to meet every 12 to 18 months to review progress on the Action Plan.

Agreement on Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance and Cooperative Severe Accident Research between the NRC and the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA)

On February 11, 2004, the EDO signed the international cooperative research agreement between the NRC and the ANRA of Armenia, concerning Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP). On February 12, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research forwarded this agreement to Armenia for counter-signature.

Meeting with the Expert Elicitation Group Examining Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) Frequency Estimates

On February 10-12, 2004, RES staff held a meeting with an Expert Elicitation Group examining LOCA frequency estimates related to the ongoing 10 CFR 50.46 (i.e., acceptance criteria for emergency core cooling systems) reevaluation. The staff is reviewing the analysis framework and preliminary LOCA frequency estimates developed by the Expert Elicitation Group.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-005A, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital - UPDATE TO MEDICAL EVENT REPORTED FOLLOWING IDENTIFICATION OF LEAKING IODINE-125 SOURCE(S).
2. PNO-I-04-006, PMK Group, Inc. - MISSING SOURCES FROM DAMAGED PORTABLE GAUGE.

February 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Compatibility With International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Transportation Safety Standards (TS-R-1) and Other Transportation Safety Amendments; Correction (AG71 - Part 71)

On February 10, 2004, a document correcting a final rule that amends the regulations governing the packaging and transportation of radioactive material was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 6139). The document identifies provisions of the final rule that are scheduled to expire four years after the October 1, 2004 effective date.

Chief Information Officer
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 13, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of February 5 through February 12, 2004:

Consent decree and/or final settlement agreement entered into in Federal court, NRC named as a defendant in litigation, 10 years preceding this request	FOIA/PA-2004-0117
Policy and procedures, manuals or guidance documents instructing how, when and/or under what circumstances the agency may enter into consent decrees or final settlement agreements with private litigations; guidance to make public	FOIA/PA-2004-0118
Allegation No. RII-2003-A-0168, all documents	FOIA/PA-2004-0119
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 investigation from 1988 through 1991; Unit 3 Detora Meltdown in 2000; Unit 3 breaker fire in February 2001; Southern California Edison employee reports of data falsification 1990 to present and NRC response; documents referring to inaccurate calibrations of instruments, 2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0120
"Transmittal of Information Addressing Key Technical Issue (KTI) Agreement Item Preclosure Safety (PRE) 3.20," report in letter dated July 24, 2003, and report attached to letter dated January 20, 2004	FOIA/PA-2004-0121
Licensed Operator Examinations (RO & SRO) exam material only, administered at Farley on or about May 19-23, 2003; McGuire on or about June 16-20, 2003, and Crystal River on or about August 25-29, 2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0122
FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, correspondence with NRC re: inadequate ventilation/functionality of fire dampers in relation to fire and safety pump rooms, between February 1997 and February 2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0123
Identify all records on named individual publicly available	FOIA/PA-2004-0124

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Appreciation Luncheon Attended

On February 11, 2004, the NRC CFC manager and CFC office coordinators attended the CFC appreciation luncheon for the National Capital Area. This year the Capital Area raised over \$50 million. NRC was recognized as a winner of the Summit Award, which is given to agencies who achieve more than a 3% increase from the previous year.

Arrivals		
David Chen	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	NRR
Mirela Gavrilas	Reactor Systems Engineer	RES
Kevin Hogan	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	RES
Retirements		
John A. Calvert	Sr. Instrumentation & Control Engineer	RES

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Media Interest

Extensive coverage of NRC inspections related to Davis-Besse Nuclear Power restart and potential delays in restart decision by the NRC.

Notable interest in the NRC study that finds risk from spent fuel in storage pools at nuclear power plants lower than previously thought, despite potential for malevolent acts or terrorism.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-019	NRC Invites Public To Submit Nominations For The Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards (2/9)
04-020	NRC To Hold Meeting In Eunice, N.M., On Environmental Review Process For Proposed Uranium Enrichment Plant (2/9)
04-021	NRC Considering Request By Utah To Amend Its Agreement With Agency (2/12)
04-022	NRC Offers Opportunity For Hearing On Proposed Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility At Humboldt Bay (2/12)
Regions:	
I-04-003	NRC Special Inspection Starts At Susquehanna Nuclear Plant (2/9)
I-04-004	Search Underway For Radioactive Sources Missing From N.J. Site (2/11)
III-04-008	NRC Senior Officials Will Meet With Point Beach Management To Discuss Plant Performance (2/11)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0018	2/6/04	SECY-04-0018 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 30, 2004
2. SECY-04-0012	1/29/04	Submission of the Annual Freedom of Information Act Report
3. SECY-04-0014	1/30/04	Annual Report on Court Litigation (Calendar Year 2003)
4. SECY-04-0011	1/30/04	Annual Report on Commission Adjudication

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Susan Collins and Congressman Thomas Davis, dated February 4, 2004, provides a statement of actions taken by NRC on the recommendations made by the GAO in its report "Nuclear Security: Federal and State Actions Needed to Improve Security of Sealed Radioactive Sources" (GAO-03-804).
2. Letter to Congress, dated January 28, 2004, provides NRC's Annual Report on the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2003.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice (3/1-2/04).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures (3/3/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Industry Outreach Related to Simulator Fidelity and Testing Problems

On February 12, 2004, representatives from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Region I met with the nuclear industry's Mid-Atlantic Nuclear Training Group (MANTG) in a joint session of the Operation Subcommittee and Simulator Working Group. Discussion included issues related to simulator fidelity, testing problems and Scenario Based Testing (SBT), use of simulator capability criteria training and procedural objectives.

Disposal of Radioactive Sources

On February 12, 2004, representatives from NRC Region I, Department of Energy (DOE), a DOE contractor, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources visited the Berthold Systems, Inc. (BSI) facility in Aliquippa, PA, to discuss packaging and shipment of radioactive sources BSI possesses for proper disposal. BSI is licensed for manufacture and distribution of fixed gauges and has suspended its activities with no plan to resume operations. The DOE contractor (a radwaste broker) accompanied the group to develop options for packaging and disposal of all radioactive material. DOE gathered information needed to develop cost estimates. DOE and NRC expect to continue discussion of disposal options during the week of February 16, 2004.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Tennessee Valley Authority - Chairman Diaz Visits the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

On February 12, 2004, Chairman Diaz visited the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. On February 13, 2004, the Chairman met with the Regional Administrator, other Senior Managers, and staff in the Region II office.

February 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 13, 2004

Region IV Administrator visits Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

On February 10, 2004, the Region IV Administrator visited the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. He met with the resident inspectors and licensee management and toured the facility.

Region IV Licensing Managers Utility Group Meeting

On February 11, 2004, the Regional Administrator addressed the Region IV power reactor licensing managers during their periodic Utility Group Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Topics of discussion included regional perspectives on recent Region IV plant events and inspection findings, the enforcement discretion process, as well as, licensee questions involving radiation protection and physical protection issues, electronic records (i.e., digital media), performance indicators, and the significance determination process.

Public Meeting regarding Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO)

On February 12, 2004, Region IV conducted a Category 1 public meeting with representatives of Entergy Operations, Inc. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ANO performance issues and initiatives involving the corrective action program and equipment reliability.

Hazardous Material Leak at the Access Gate to the Diablo Canyon Power Plant

On February 12, 2004, a truck carrying hydrazine was inspected at a plant entrance to the Diablo Canyon Power Plant owner controlled area (approximately 7 miles from the plant) and was found to have leaking containers of hydrazine. Although the leak was contained within the truck, it was considered a loss of control of hazardous material. The California Highway Patrol (stationed at the gate) called the San Luis Obispo County HAZMAT team and the California Department of Forestry to contain the spill in accordance with their procedures. The truck was moved from the area for cleanup and decontamination. The hydrazine was contained within the secondary containment of the truck. No external leakage to the truck occurred. Significant media interest occurred as a result of the incident, including TV, radio, and newspapers. The licensee issued a press release.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 13, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 45

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	02/24/04 2247 RHOB	3:00	TBA	Dental and Vision Benefits for Federal Employees, H.R. 3751	Reps. Davis/Davis Civil Service & Agency Organization Government Reform
Gerke	03/03/04 2154 RHOB	2:00	GAO, OMB, Treasury	GAO Audit of Government Financial Statements	Reps. Platts/Towns Gov't Efficiency & Financial Mgmt Government Reform
Keeling	03/04/04 TBA	TBA	Dr. Travers; TVA COO; NEI	Browns Ferry Restart	Senators Alexander/Graham Energy Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	03/10/04 TBA	TBA	OMB	Agencies' Computer Security Efforts	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology, Info Policy, Inter-governmental Relations and the Census Government Reform
Portner	03/11/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	03/17/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Energy Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

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ENCLOSURE R

Combs	03/24/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Waste Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
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Note: The returns from recess on February 23, and the House returns on February 24.