

INFORMATION REPORT

March 4, 2004

SECY-04-0038

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0038 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2004

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 and 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/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Markley, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 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.

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	11
RES	5	OIP	13
NSIR	7	SECY	14
OGC	*	Region I	*
ADM	8	Region II	15
CIO	9	Region III	*
CFO	*	Region IV	16
HR	10	OEDO	*
SBCR	*	OCA	17
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Electrical Grid Status Meeting

On February 25, 2004, representatives of the Division of Licensing Project Management, Division of Engineering, and the Inspection Program Branch met with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff to discuss electrical grid reliability. Meeting participants exchanged information concerning the NRC Inspection Program and FERC staff participation in reliability readiness audits of grid reliability coordinators and control areas.

Meeting with Spanish Regulators on Containment Safety Analysis and Use of Computer Codes

On February 23, 2004, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) staff met with a visiting delegation headed by Jose Ramon Alonso Escos of the Nuclear Safety Council (Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear [CSN]) to exchange information on containment safety analysis and the use of computer codes, specifically, the COPATTA code for loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) analysis. Discussions centered around using COPATTA, coupled with an ultimate heat sink code, to calculate post-LOCA ultimate heat sink response following a LOCA. The issue of temperature monitoring was also discussed.

Public Meeting on ASME Code Seismic Piping Design Rules

On February 23, 2004, the NRC staff held a public meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, to discuss NRC's proposed rule (69 FR 879) to incorporate by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a, Codes and standards, the 2001 Edition (up to and including the 2003 Addenda) of ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section III. Specifically, the public was invited to comment on those portions of the latest Code related to changes in the seismic design rules for piping systems. Approximately 40 persons attended the public meeting. The latest changes to the Code rules represented a culmination of effort since 1995 when the NRC placed a restriction in 10 CFR 50.55a on the use of the revised ASME Code rules for piping seismic design that first appeared in the 1994 Addenda. In the proposed rule, the NRC staff would accept the new ASME Code piping seismic rules with six modifications and limitations. At the February 23, 2004 public meeting, the NRC staff heard presentations by three ASME piping experts including a Japanese seismic team involved in dynamic testing of piping systems. The ASME Code representatives expressed appreciation for the NRC staff's willingness to discuss these issues in an open forum and invited the staff to work with the ASME piping experts to reach a final resolution to this long-standing issue.

License Renewal Pre-Application Meeting for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

On February 25, 2004, the staff held a public meeting with licensee representatives to discuss their plans to submit a license renewal application for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The licensee discussed how the design differences between Units 1 and 2 would be handled in the application. Nine Mile Point Unit 1 is a BWR/2 design with a Mark I containment and Unit 2 is a BWR/5 design with a Mark II containment. The licensee received an exemption from 10 CFR 54.17(c) in October 2002, for the early submittal of a license renewal application

for Unit 2, which does not reach the required 20 years operating experience until October 2006. The current operating licenses for Units 1 and 2 expire August 22, 2009 and October 31, 2026, respectively. The licensee plans to submit their license renewal application by the end of May 2004.

NRC Information Notice 2004-04: Fuel Damage During Cleaning At a Foreign Pressurized Water Reactor

On February 24, 2004, NRC issued the subject generic communications to inform addressees about a recent fuel damage event that occurred during chemical cleaning of the fuel at a foreign pressurized-water reactor (PWR). The fuel cleaning system involved in the event was not of domestic (U.S.) design or manufacture; however, the fuel and processes used at the affected PWR are similar to those that may be used in domestic light-water reactors. This event involved a release of radioactive material to the environment and was reported publicly in the news media. The occupational dose to workers was within regulatory limits, and the estimated dose to members of the public was a small fraction of regulatory limits. The event was classified as Level 3 on the International Nuclear Event Scale, based on substantial damage to irradiated fuel.

Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Radiation Protection Task Force

On February 25, 2004, members of the Division of Inspection Program Management staff held a public meeting with NEI to discuss current issues related to occupational radiation protection. Discussion topics included the limitations to the method for calculating Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE) in the recently published Regulatory Issues Summary (RIS) 2004-01, "Method for Estimating Effective Dose Equivalent from External Radiation Sources Using Two Dosimeters," and clarification of the guidance in Regulatory Guide 8.38, "Control of Access to High and Very High Radiation Areas of Nuclear Plants."

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Lead Cascade Facility License Issued to the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc.

On February 24, 2004, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards issued a Materials License SNM-7003 to the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc. (USEC Inc.) to possess and use, for up to five years, source and special nuclear material at the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade facility at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. USEC Inc. had submitted its application on February 11, 2003. The final Safety Evaluation Report, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact were issued in late January 2004. The American Centrifuge Lead Cascade facility, which is a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment test and demonstration facility, will consist of up to 240 centrifuges and will use up to 250 kilograms of UF₆.

National Symposium on Fusion Imaging and Multimodalities: Technical Features and Regulatory Considerations

On February 19, 2004, Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff attended the "National Symposium on Fusion Imaging and Multimodalities: Technical Features and Regulatory Considerations," sponsored by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. NRC staff served on the "Panel Discussion on Regulatory Perspective on Emerging Technologies." The panel discussed regulation of GliaSite, Yttrium-90 microspheres, intravascular brachytherapy, and the seedSelectron emerging technologies.

Meetings with Department of Energy on Yucca Mountain Project

On February 18-19, 2004, NRC and Department of Energy (DOE) staff and managers held their public quarterly Quality Assurance and Management meetings to discuss DOE's quality assurance program, as well as status of the overall project progress for the potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The meeting was hosted at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, with video and audio connections to the DOE Office of Repository Development in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. Additionally, representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, NRC Region IV, Bechtel SAIC Co. LLC, General Accounting Office, State of Nevada, Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, Clark County, and interested members of the public participated.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Implementing Agreement Between NRC and The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) Relating to Participation in the NRC program of Severe Accident Research

On February 20, 2004, the EDO signed the international agreement between the NRC and the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) relating to participation in the NRC program for severe accident research. The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research forwarded this implementing agreement on February 23, 2004, to Hungary for counter-signature. This Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and HAEA will continue their cooperation in the area of severe accident research. These codes are used by the NRC to evaluate potential risk and vulnerability scenarios for severe accidents and address regulatory licensing issues for operating plants. In addition to exchanging technical information and data, HAEA will provide a cash contribution each year for the duration of this Implementing Agreement. This Implementing Agreement will remain in force for a three year period.

IAEA Technical Meeting on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources

On February 16-19, 2004, RES staff participated in a technical meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, on the safety and security of radioactive sources. Representatives from sixteen nations attended this meeting, including manufacturers and suppliers (M&S) of sealed sources and regulators. The meeting addressed the concerns of M&S on the impact of the implementation of the IAEA Code of Conduct (CoC) for the safety and security of radioactive sources. To address their concerns in a unified manner, the M&S are forming an international industry association, emulating the National Energy Institute (NEI). The M&S have drafted an outline of a formal Code of Good Practice that will guide the implementation of the IAEA CoC in ensuring the safety and security of the sealed radioactive sources. The M&S also identified three key areas as concerns for export/import controls for radioactive sources. These were: harmonization of controls among nations, timeliness of import/export approvals, and requirements for transshipment.

IAEA Technical Workshop on Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) Quality for Decision-Making

On February 16-21, 2003, a technical workshop was held in IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, to discuss and document an international consensus position regarding PSA Quality for Decision Making. More than 50 individuals from the U.S., France, Spain, Germany, India, Czech Republic, Finland, United Kingdom, Hungary, Russia, Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Bulgaria, and Pakistan participated in this meeting. Participants from the United States included representatives from the NRC, South Texas Nuclear Generating Station, Westinghouse, Nuclear Energy Institute, and Sciencetech. The major output of the workshop was a consensus "PSA Quality Treatise."

Public Meeting on the Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality

On February 24, 2004, NRC held a public meeting to engage stakeholders in discussing the staff's proposed action plan and phased-approach to PRA quality. Meeting attendees expressed generally favorable views for the proposed approach. Issues related to implementation of the plan were discussed and the staff agreed to consider stakeholder suggestions in the proposed action plan to the extent practicable. An additional public meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2004, and meetings with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards are planned. The final action plan is scheduled to be completed by early July 2004.

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

UNIFIED DEFENSE 04 Exercise "After Action" Conferences

The Office of Nuclear Security & Incident Response (NSIR) participated in two After Action conferences following the NRC's participation in the U. S. Northern Commands (NORTHCOMM) Unified Defense-04 (UD-04) exercise. On February 25, 2004, NSIR staff attended an After Action conference hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). On February 26, 2004, NSIR staff participated in a Department of Defense (DoD) After Action review hosted by the NORTHCOMM Commander via video-teleconference. The conferences were attended by both military and civilian agency representatives who participated in the recent UD-04 exercise. The purpose of the conferences was to acquire input and insight from the participants on critical exercise issues requiring further examination and followup.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-007, University of Virginia - LOST BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCE.
2. PNO-III-04-002, Joseph M. Keyzers - DAMAGED GAUGE CAUSED FIRE.
3. PNO-IV-04-007, Arizona Public Service Co. - PALO VERDE UNPLANNED REACTOR SHUTDOWN TO EXCEED 72 HOURS.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Collection, Reporting, or Posting of Information; Availability of Draft Rule Language (Parts 19, 20, and 50)

On February 24, 2004, a document announcing the availability of draft wording for possible changes to the regulations concerning the collection, posting, and reporting of information was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 8350). The changes under consideration would clarify or revise the regulations with the intent of reducing unnecessary regulatory burden associated with these requirements. Comments are requested by April 9, 2004.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, -61BT, -32PT, and -24PHB, Amendment 7, Revision; Confirmation of Effective Date (AH20 - Part 72)

On February 27, 2004, a document that confirms the March 2, 2004, effective date of a direct final rule that revises the Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, -61BT, -32PT, and -24PHB (Amendment 7) cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 9199).

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Fail-Over Capability
Successfully Implemented and Tested

On February 21, 2004 a successful test of the ADAMS fail-over capability to the One White Flint (OWFN) Data Center was completed. Servers that are regularly updated with a copy ADAMS Main Library were recently placed in the OWFN Data Center. In the event of a major problem with the primary Two White Flint (TWFN) Data Center, the OWFN servers would be manually brought into service and would permit the agency to continue to operate Main Library functions.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
February 20 through February 26, 2004:

Comprehensive Information Systems Support Consolidation - II (CISSCO II), BPA awarded to Lockheed Martin	FOIA/PA-2004-0133
NRC buyers' list from GSA supply warehouse - Referral by GSA	FOIA/PA-2004-0134
ATK and 3M documents - specific records	FOIA/PA-2004-0135
OI 3-2003-022, Exhibits 1-23	FOIA/PA-2004-0136
Correspondence between named NRC employees & Florida Power & Light Co. named employees, 1988-1989	FOIA/PA-2004-0137
South Texas Project Comprehensive Cultural Assessment, correspondence dated 10-30-2002 & 8-5-2002; Jan. 2003 Comprehensive Cultural Assessment survey (EA-97-341)	FOIA/PA-2004-0138
GE Advanced Liquid Metal Reactor, S-PRISM; and Reactor Concept M1, made available at ACRS meeting, June 2001 (Referral by Department of Energy)	FOIA/PA-2004-0139
Davis-Besse, correspondence to FirstEnergy Corp. from 2-12-04 re: restart, include correspondence of named NRC and FirstEnergy employees	FOIA/PA-2004-0140
Tridium exit signs, currently registered names, addresses, contact & phone numbers	FOIA/PA-2004-0141
I.M.P.A.C.	FOIA/PA-2004-0142

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Arrivals		
Diane Flack	Consultant	NMSS
James R. Park	Project Manager	NMSS
Retirements		
Leslie E. Lancaster	Reliability and Risk Analyst	RES

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Media Interest

The following are issues or items which the Office of Public Affairs received inquiries from the media and/or noted media coverage:

- 1) OPA arranged an interview with Pat Norry and the *Federal News Service* on "Ask CHCO" (Chief Human Capital Officer). Excerpts are scheduled for broadcast on WTOP Radio on March 1, 2004.
- 2) OPA responded to numerous media calls on the following: NRC modifying its order requiring inspection of pressurized water reactor vessel heads, issuing its final environmental impact statement on the Summer Nuclear Plant in South Carolina, and issuing a license to USEC to construct and operate a uranium enrichment test and demo facility at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio.
- 3) Regional OPA regional offices fielded press inquiries on the following: FirstEnergy Corp. agreeing to two NRC conditions on Davis-Besse, Riverkeeper ending its two-year legal battle to shut down Indian Point Nuclear Plant, and the NRC's meeting next week on the safety performance of Westinghouse's commercial nuclear fuel plant in South Carolina.

Public Affairs officers are helping coordinate and support the NRC's March 3, 2004, public presentation on the 1979 Three Mile Island accident.

OPA coordinated a letter to the editor from Region IV's Pat Gwynn on recent Diablo Canyon public meetings, which ran in the *San Luis Obispo News*.

Public Affairs staff participated in the integrated United Defense 04 exercise.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-025	NRC Modifies Order Requiring Inspection Of Pressurized Water Reactor Vessel Heads (2/23)
04-026	NRC Issues License To U.S. Enrichment Corporation For Lead Cascade Uranium Enrichment Facility (2/24)
04-027	NRC Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards To Meet March 4-6 In Rockville, Maryland (2/25)
04-028	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impact From Extended Operation Of Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (2/25)

Regions:	
I-04-006	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Va. Firm For Radiography Violations (2/26)
II-04-005	NRC To Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference To Discuss Apparent Violation Of Regulatory Requirements At Oconee (2/24)
II-04-006	NRC To Meet With Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel Plant Officials March 3 To Discuss Facility Safety Performance (2/25)
III-04-009	NRC Issues Letter On Planned Davis-Besse Order (2/26)
III-04-010	NRC To Hold Public Meeting March 8 On Proposed License Renewal of D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant (2/26)

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Visit of Tomihiko Furuta , Toyo University

On February 23, 2004, Professor Tomihiko Furuta, Toyo University, met with the staff to discuss safety goals for power reactors and fuel cycle facilities. In Japan, safety goals exist for power reactors and are being considered for fuel facilities.

Japanese Team Visit to Discuss Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities

On February 24, 2004 , a team from Japan, with representatives from the Nuclear and Industry Safety Agency (NISA), Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES), and Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CREIPI) met with staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Spent Fuel Project Office to discuss the safety review and regulation of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI).

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0027	2/23/04	SECY-04-0027 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 13, 2004

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, Notice of Meeting (3/25/04).
2. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Designation of Presiding Officer.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba Management Meeting

On February 24, 2004, representatives from Duke Energy Corporation attended a management meeting in the Regional Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Catawba plant performance, status of initiatives, and other items of interest.

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

Region IV Plant Manager's Meeting

On February 26, 2004, the Regional Administrator and Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, attended the RIV Plant Manager's Regulatory Utility Group meeting in Fort Worth, TX. Attendees included plant managers from RIV's licensed nuclear power facilities.

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 47

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	03/01/04 SD-342	11:00	TSP, DOL, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board	Oversight of the TSP: Ensuring the Integrity of Federal Employee Retirement Savings	Senators Fitzgerald/Akaka Financial Mgmt, the Budget, & Intl Security Governmental Affairs
Portner	03/03/04 SD-138	10:00	William Magwood, DOE	FY05 Nuclear Energy Budget	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/03/04 2154 RHOB	1:00	OMB, GAO	Government Investments in Information Technology	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology, Info Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census Government Reform
Gerke	03/03/04 2247 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 2322 RHOB	11:00	TBA	DOE Nuclear Facility Security	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Keeling	03/04/04 SD-366	2:30	Dr. Travers; TVA COO; NEI, Lehman Brothers	Future of Nuclear Power/Browns Ferry Restart	Senators Alexander/Graham Energy Energy and Natural Resources

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE R

Madden	03/05/04 Las Vegas	9:00	DOT and others	Proposed Transportation of Nuclear Waste to Yucca Mountain	Reps. Quinn/Brown Railroads Transportation & Infrastructure
Gerke	03/10/04 2154 RHOB	2:00	OMB, GAO, NRC, DOJ, DOL, HHS	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
Gerke	03/11/04 TBA	TBA	DOE	Final Report by U.S. - Canada Power System Outage Task Force	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Long	03/17/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Energy Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/24/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Waste Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

February 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE R