

INFORMATION REPORT

August 23, 2004

SECY-04-0152

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0152 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 13, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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T. Kim, OEDO

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08/23/04	08/23/04

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 13, 2004

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

Contact: T. Kim, OEDO by E-mail: tjk3@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

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

Fermi - Site Visit by U.S. Congressman

On August 11, 2004, Congressman Mike Rogers (8th District, Michigan) toured the Fermi 2 nuclear power plant. He is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and serves on the Energy and Air Quality, Environment and Hazardous Materials, and Health and Oversight Subcommittees. The plant tour, arranged by the licensee, provided an opportunity for the Congressman to be briefed on plant operations and safety and security practices. The Congressman also met with the resident inspector.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) - Exemption Request

On August 10, 2004, AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), submitted an application for an exemption from the timely renewal provision specified in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* (10 CFR) Part 2, Paragraph 2.109(b). This provision allows the existing license to remain effective past the expiration date until license renewal application has been finally determined, provided that a sufficient application for renewal of the operating license is filed at least 5 years prior to the expiration of the existing license. The current operating license for OCNGS expires on April 9, 2009. In its exemption application, AmerGen states that it plans to submit a license renewal application for OCNGS in July 2005.

American Nuclear Society (ANS) 2004 Utility Working Conference

During the week of August 9, 2004, the staff participated in the ANS 2004 Utility Working Conference held in Amelia Island, Florida. Several sessions were sponsored and/or attended by senior NRC management, including the Executive Director for Operations, Director of Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), the Chairman's Executive Assistant, and several the regional managers.

In one of the sessions, NRR staff discussed the new significance determination process (SDP) that has been developed for fire protection inspection findings. The recently issued risk-informed/performance-based fire protection rule received a great deal of attention, as well as the new engineering effort being applied to fire protection circuit analysis.

Nuclear Quality Oversight Conference

The Division of Inspection Program Management staff attended the Nuclear Quality Oversight Conference hosted by Public Service Electric & Gas Nuclear in Philadelphia on August 3-5, 2004, during which current issues facing the quality assurance community were discussed. The results of an August 2, 2004, meeting of the National Directors of Oversight, a newly formed committee of senior quality managers, were discussed as part of the conference. Of particular interest were discussions on an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the Nuclear Utility Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) in improving supplier performance, development of a program by the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) for evaluating licensee quality processes, and coordination of industry-wide audits/evaluations of licensee

programs by the National Industry Evaluation Program (NIEP). The organizational structure of NIEP is similar to NUPIC, with teams of technical specialists formed from the NIEP utility membership on a rotating basis.

Vermont Yankee - Engineering Team Inspection

On August 9, 2004, the inspection team began its engineering design inspection at the site. The inspection, part of the Agency's pilot program to enhance the Reactor Oversight Process, will also provide information relevant to the ongoing review of the licensee's application for an extended power uprate. The team will be on site the weeks of August 9, 16, and 30, 2004. The NRC expects to hold a public meeting following completion of the inspection to discuss the inspection results.

Farley - Issuance of Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal

On August 8, 2004, the staff issued draft NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 18, Regarding Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," for public comment. This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's preliminary analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects associated with the proposed license renewal, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. A 75-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on August 13, 2004. The staff has scheduled public meetings on September 30, 2004, in Dothan, Alabama, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft SEIS.

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

Drop-in Visits with the Department of Energy Yucca Mountain Project Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Personnel

On August 5, 2004, the NRC's Director of Communications and NRC's On-Site Licensing Representative for the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) conducted drop-in visits with the Department of Energy (DOE) YMP public affairs and intergovernmental relations personnel in Las Vegas and nuclear waste project office personnel of both Nye and Clark County, Nevada. The discussion with DOE focused on DOE's activities with affected units of local government, outreach efforts, and communications between NRC and DOE. The meetings with Nye and Clark County personnel included discussions of their issues with the YMP, their outreach efforts, and their relationship with NRC.

Observation of the DOE Regulatory Integration Team Process

On August 2-9, 2004, staff from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety observed a compliance-based surveillance of the DOE Regulatory Integration Team (RIT) process. DOE implemented the RIT process as a result of NRC staff's findings identified during an evaluation of Analysis Model Reports (AMRs) performed last winter. NRC had informed DOE that the AMRs evaluated by staff would not support a timely NRC review of a potential license application. The NRC observers agree with the DOE surveillance team's determination that the revision activities performed by the RIT are adequate. This conclusion is based on a limited sample size, and does not represent the staff's conclusions about the technical merits of the AMRs or the quality of any license application that may be based on those AMRs. The NRC observers determined that the DOE surveillance team members were qualified and independent of the areas assessed. Further, the NRC observers concluded that the DOE surveillance team was effective in the performance of its surveillance of the RIT revision activities.

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

Implementing Agreement Between the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS)

On August 6, 2004, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed two implementing agreements between NRC and KINS.

The first Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the KINS will cooperate in the area of reflood heat transfer model development research. In exchange for reflood data developed at the Penn State Rod Bundle Test Facility, KINS' contribution to the program will consist of cash contributions as well as analytical contributions performed by two technical assignees that will be detailed to the NRC for approximately one year each. This Implementing Agreement will enter into effect upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of three years.

The second Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and KINS will continue its cooperation in the area of probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) research and in the international cooperative probabilistic risk assessment (COOPRA) program. The research conducted will enhance the quality of our PRA methods and insights on risk assessment techniques through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent applications and feedback. This Agreement will enter into effect upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Meeting at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) To Discuss High Burnup Fuel

On August 10-11, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and the Spent Fuel Project Office of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards participated in a non-public meeting at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) near Chicago, Illinois to discuss work related to the behavior of high-burnup fuel and cladding during hypothetical accidents. Other meeting participants are co-sponsors of the research and include the Department of Energy (DOE), Electric Power Research Institute, Framatome ANP, Westinghouse, and Global Nuclear Fuel. The primary focus of the discussions was testing under loss-of-coolant accident conditions and testing spent nuclear fuel.

Project Meeting on Integrated Chemical Effects Tests (ICET)

On August 9, 2004, the staff held a project meeting on ICET with representatives from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and the University of New Mexico. The ICET project is an integral part of RES work in support of resolution of GSI-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR [pressurized water reactor] Sump Performance." The purpose of this meeting was to review the progress made towards the design and construction of the test facility for ICET, operational readiness, development of quality assurance and test procedures, and to finalize the draft test plan. The parties discussed how the tests are to be conducted. The ICET tests are expected to start in September 2004.

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Agreement Between the NRC and the Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (BNRA)

On August 6, 2004, the EDO signed an implementing agreement between the NRC and BNRA.

This Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the BNRA will continue its participation in the Cooperative Research Program with the NRC in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP). This Agreement will also extend BNRA's research cooperation to include participation in our Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program (CSARP). The work performed and exchanged under this Agreement enhances the quality of the reactor safety codes through the expansion of the international user community, and through their subsequent applications and feedback. This agreement will remain in effect for a period of three years.

Meeting Between NRC and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to Discuss Approach to Risk Assessment

On August 6, 2004, a meeting between NRC and NASA was held at NRC Headquarters to exchange information on risk assessment methods and applications. The meeting consisted of an informal discussion of information on each agency's approach to risk assessment in the following areas: (1) human performance; (2) operational readiness; (3) event precursors; (4) trends; (5) external events; and (6) model uncertainty. At the conclusion of the meeting, both agencies agreed to continue to share information on human reliability analysis methods, data and other risk assessment methodologies, and to explore potential opportunities for peer review.

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

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of August 6 through August 12, 2004:

Union Carbide Corp., U.S. Vanadium Corp., & Standard Chemical Corp., operating licenses re: uranium, vanadium & radium milling at mill located at Uravan, CO	FOIA/PA-2004-0324
Battelle, West Jefferson, Ohio, notice of violations for CY 2003 & outcome	FOIA/PA-2004-0325

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE G

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

Arrivals		
Michelle Flanagan	Reactor Systems Engineer (NSPDP)	RES
Andrew Imboden	Project Manager	NMSS
Megan Thorpe-Kavanaugh	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRR
Departures		
Zivi A. Band	Student IT Specialist (summer)	RES
Stephanie Black	Student Clerk (summer)	R-III
Andrew Blanco	Student Engineer (summer)	OIG
Gregory Cameron	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	R-II
David Chen	Student Engineer (summer)	NRR
LaToya D. Cooper	Student Clerk (summer)	NMSS
Victoria Ford	Student Law Clerk (summer)	R-I
Wren Fowler	Student Engineer (summer)	R-II
Susan K. Hanna	Student Clerk (summer)	NRR
Austin Hansley	Student Engineer (summer)	R-IV
Mary K. Hileman	Student Engineer (summer)	RES
Eric C. Jacobi	Student Administrative (summer)	NMSS
Laura Limata	Student Engineer (summer)	R-I
Maria Montoya	Student Engineer (summer)	R-IV
Dina Moreno	Student Engineer (summer)	R-IV
Amanda M. Nerret	Student Administrative (summer)	NSIR
Jason C. Paige	Student Engineer (summer)	NRR
Edward W. Robinson	Student Engineer (summer)	NMSS
Mike Shaw	Student Engineer (summer)	R-IV
Meghan A. Slattery	Student Clerk (summer)	NSIR
Margaret Sullivan	Student Clerk (summer)	R-III

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Monica Tevez	Student Engineer (summer)	RES
On Hou Yee	Student Engineer (summer)	NRR
Matthew Young	Student Engineer (summer)	NRR

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

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

A petition by various activist groups to improve security for spent fuel pools at boiling-water reactors.

The NRC's announcement of increased regulatory oversight for the Perry nuclear plant.

The NRC's new policy on withholding information about security from the Reactor Oversight Process.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff participated in two radio shows regarding security at nuclear power plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-093	NRC Issues New Strategic Plan (8/12)
04-094	NRC Revises Enforcement Policy to Include Alternative Dispute Resolution (8/12)
04-095	NRC to Hold Public Meeting August 17 on Planned Application for Advanced CANDU Reactor Design (8/12)
04-096	NRC Confirms Nuclear Plants' Operational Preparedness with Respect to Electric Grid Reliability (8/13)
Regions:	
I-04-038	New NRC Senior Resident Inspector Assigned to Limerick Generating Station (8/11)
I-04-039	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (8/11)
II-04-045	NRC Staff Seeks Input on Farley Nuclear Plant Draft Environmental Report for License Renewal (8/12)
II-04-046	NRC Says Florida Nuclear Power Plants Prepared for Hurricane Charley (8/13)
III-04-044	NRC to Increase Regulatory Oversight of Perry Nuclear Plant (8/12)
IV-04-034	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Columbia Generating Station (8/9)

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

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0135	7/27/04	Demonstration Test Plan for Full-Scale Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail Transportation Cask Testing Under the Package Performance Study
2. SRM-SECY-04-0102	7/21/04	Results of the Staff's Evaluation of Potential Doses to the Public from Material at the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority Site in Leechburg, Pennsylvania
Voting Record on SECY-04-0102	7/21/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0143	8/9/04	SECY-04-0143 - Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 30, 2004
2. SECY-04-0146	8/11/04	SECY-04-0146 - Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 6, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated August 1, 2004, provides NRC's June 2004 monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Early Site Permit for North Anna ESP Site), Docket No. 52-008-ESP, ASLBP No. 04-822-02-ESP, Notice of Reconstitution.
2. Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Early Site Permit for Clinton ESP Site), Docket No. 52-007-ESP, ASLBP No. 04-821-01-ESP, Notice of Reconstitution.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (9/8/04).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Safeguards and Security, 8/24-26/04 meeting postponed.
5. NUREG-1600, "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Action," NRC Enforcement Policy, Policy Statement: Revision.

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 13, 2004

Site Tour at Safety Light Corporation Facility

On August 12, 2004, an NRC Region 1 inspector, two representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and three members from the Hazardous Site Cleanup Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III office toured the Safety Light Corporation (SLC) facility in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. The SLC site is an NRC complex decommissioning site that is also regulated by PADEP, because of radium contamination onsite. The tour provided an opportunity for the three agencies to view the general condition of the facility and discuss areas that have been characterized as contaminated.

Vermont Yankee - Potential for a Strike

The contract for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 300 at Vermont Yankee expires at midnight on August 19, 2004. The contract applies to about 30% of Entergy employees on-site and involves individuals in operations, maintenance, radiation protection, chemistry, and document services. Negotiations between Entergy and the Union are in progress and are being assisted by a federal mediator. Region I has discussed with Entergy regarding Entergy's strike contingency plans. Entergy indicated that it has a sufficient number of qualified Entergy-Vermont Yankee staff to establish three operating crews to operate the plant if a strike did occur. Additionally, Entergy does not expect a strike to impact the ongoing pilot engineering inspection. The resident inspectors are monitoring Entergy's progress in implementing its strike contingency plan. The Region is implementing its Regional Instruction on strike preparation and is preparing to provide around-the-clock inspector coverage at the site if a strike occurs.

Vermont Yankee - Special Nuclear Material (SNM) Special Inspection

The NRC Special Inspection Team to assess recent events related to SNM control at Vermont Yankee finished the on-site portion of the inspection on August 12 and presented a preliminary debriefing to the licensee. On August 12, the team received a final signed copy of the licensee's Root Cause Analysis Report and the team plans to complete an in-office review of this document over the next few weeks. A public exit meeting is planned for the second week of October.

Salem and Hope Creek - Senior NRC Management Site Visit

On August 12, 2004, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs and the Director of the Division of Reactor Safety in Region I toured the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants with the resident inspectors. They also met with licensee management.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 13, 2004

Activities in Response to Hurricane Charley

On August 13, 2004, Region II entered the monitoring mode at 8:00 a.m., in response to the notification of a Hurricane warning. Hurricane Charley, a Category 4 storm with wind gusts of up to 145 miles an hour was expected to pass through Florida's west coast. Regional staff was dispatched to the Florida sites (Crystal River, Saint Lucie, and Turkey Point) to augment the resident inspectors and as well as the State's Emergency Operations Center.

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 13, 2004

Arkansas Nuclear One - Meeting to Discuss Fire Protection Issue

On August 10, 2004, Region IV and NRR staff met with representatives from the Arkansas Nuclear One facility in a Category I public meeting to discuss corrective actions being taken for a white inspection finding and the associated notice of violation. The finding involved failure to provide adequate physical protection to keep safe shutdown circuits free of damage in case of a fire, in part, because of inappropriate reliance on the use of manual actions.

August 13, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

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

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 68					
Portner	TBA SD-124	TBA	Markup	FY2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	TBA 345 CHOB	TBA	Markup	Homeland Security Authorization	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security

Note: The Senate and the House of Representatives are in recess until September 7.