

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

September 8, 2004

INFORMATION REPORT

SECY-04-0163

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0163 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 27, 2004

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*No input this week.


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

Public Workshop on Draft Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-XXX

On August 25, 2004, the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff held a public workshop on draft Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-XXX, "Revision to Guidance Formerly Contained in NRC Generic Letter 91-18." The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate information regarding the proposed changes and clarifications to inspector technical guidance formally known as Generic Letter 91-18, "Information to Licensees Regarding Two NRC Inspection Manual Sections on Resolution of Degraded and Nonconforming Conditions and on Operability." Approximately 85 individuals representing industry, the public and the staff participated. Comments on the draft RIS are due October 2, 2004.

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

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

Meeting with Duratek and Progress Energy Regarding Future Use of the IF-300 Spent Fuel Transport Cask

On August 25, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff met with representatives from Duratek and Progress Energy to discuss spent fuel shipments in the IF-300 cask (Certificate of Compliance No. 9001). Progress Energy owns the four existing IF-300 casks and uses them to ship spent fuel by rail from its Brunswick and Robinson plants to the Harris plant. Progress Energy described its future shipping needs, and described future licensing requests that are planned regarding the IF-300 cask. Duratek, the certificate holder, has requested renewal of the Certificate of Compliance for the cask.

Testing of Transnuclear Spent Fuel Storage Module

On August 24-25, 2004, SFPO staff and a consultant observed thermal testing of a mockup of a Transnuclear (TN) storage module for spent nuclear fuel. The testing will be used to validate the TN thermal modeling approach for two different modules that are currently under licensing review. Several tests are being conducted to account for different spent fuel power levels and thermal shielding configurations. The test results will also be used for validation of other thermal modeling methodologies being considered by TN.

Termination of Material License and Release of Land for Unrestricted Use

On August 24, 2004, the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection issued a license amendment to the Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W) terminating its license (SNM-414) and releasing the B&W facility in Parks Township, Pennsylvania, for unrestricted use. B&W completed site decommissioning, and post-decommissioning groundwater monitoring of the site, in accordance with an approved Decommissioning Plan. The decommissioning of the Parks facility and the license termination were coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This licensing action is not connected to the adjoining Shallow Land Disposal Area site, which is licensed separately and is projected to complete remediation in October 2008.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Applies for a Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Facility License

On August 23, 2004, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) submitted a license application for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility known as the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP). USEC anticipates fully deploying its 3.5-million separative-work-unit-per-year ACP at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio, by 2010, about a year ahead of the schedule outlined in the June 2002 Department of Energy/USEC agreement. The estimated cost for constructing the ACP is \$1.5 billion. USEC expects that the proposed plant would employ about 500 workers, once operational.

NRC/DOE Quarterly Management Meeting

On August 19, 2004, staff and senior managers from NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) met in a public meeting at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss programmatic issues concerning DOE's potential license application for constructing a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Video and audio connections were also available with connections to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas, and the DOE Offices in Las Vegas, Nevada. Various stakeholders, including members of the public and representatives from the State of Nevada, Nye County, Clark County, Lincoln County, industry, Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force participated in the meeting.

Discussion topics at this meeting included: (1) DOE and NRC Program Updates; (2) July 9 U.S. Court of Appeals ruling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's radiation protection Standard; (3) DOE and NRC Certification of availability of documentary materials for the purpose of Licensing Support Network; (4) State of Nevada's request for financial assistance to participate in licensing proceedings; (5) State of Nevada's request to grant security clearances to its representatives to access classified documents related to Yucca Mountain Project; and (6) license application status. At the end of the meeting, participants from DOE and NRC reviewed the status of previous meeting's action items, closed most of them, and modified one open action-item. DOE and NRC participants did not identify any new action items.

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE B

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

OECD-MCCI Program

On August 24, 2004, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) conducted the second in a series of two core-concrete interaction (CCI) tests to generate the two-dimensional concrete erosion data involving reactor core material. The CCI series of tests were conducted under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Melt Coolability and Concrete Interaction (MCCI) Program, a cooperative program that was launched in January 2002 to provide confirmatory evidence and test data for various mechanisms to cool ex-vessel core debris by an overlying water pool. Data from the six water ingress tests conducted at ANL indicate that enhanced cooling was achieved, thus confirming water ingress to be a viable coolability mechanism. Results from water ingress, core-concrete interaction, and other tests will be used to develop coolability models for incorporation into MELCOR, which is NRC's severe accident computer model. This model is used to analyze potential risk and vulnerability of nuclear power plants from severe accidents. The OECD-MCCI Program is hosted and coordinated by NRC with participation by 13 OECD countries and by the U.S. Department of Energy. The outcome of the OECD-MCCI Program is expected to determine the efficacy of severe accident management strategy of flooding the reactor cavity.

RES Visit to Argonne National Laboratory

As part of an initiative to coordinate research at the national laboratories to meet the NRC's regulatory needs, RES management and staff, as well as Region III staff, visited the Argonne National Laboratory on August 19-20, 2004. The ANL staff presented the status of the NRC-funded research programs during the visit and conducted a tour of the experimental facilities, emphasizing the significance of the research programs and products in addressing reactor safety issues.

Public Meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling (ISCMEM)

On August 24, 2004, NRC sponsored the annual ISCMEM meeting to discuss research results and hear from researchers in other agencies on advances in resolving questions on uncertainty estimation as it applies to multimedia environmental modeling. Currently, there are eight participating Federal Agencies on the ISCMEM through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provides a framework for facilitating cooperation and coordination in research and development of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases, as they pertain to human and environmental health risk assessment. A significant outcome of the meeting was tentative approval of a new working group proposal from the newest agency to the ISCMEM, the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a realistic urban air transport model. Information provided in the presentations and the meeting minutes will be posted within 30 days on the ISCMEM website at <http://www.ISCMEM.Org>.

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

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

Public Meeting Regarding the Development of a Smart Application Template

On August 20, 2004, Emergency Preparedness Directorate staff held a public meeting with industry representatives to discuss the draft smart application template for requesting emergency plan changes related to on-shift staffing and augmentation times. Informative comments, provided by meeting attendees, will help to clarify and improve the template. The meeting resulted in an agreement that once the template was revised the staff will include the revised template as an attachment to the meeting summary for reference by all licensees.

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

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

Contract Awards

On August 27, 2004, a competitive Blanket Purchase Agreement No. DR-38-04-378 was awarded, under the General Service Administration's Federal Supply Schedule, to B&W Technologies, Inc. The purpose of this agreement is to obtain services to prepare and revise human resources policy/procedural guidance, develop human resources programs, conduct workforce analysis, and deliver staffing, recruiting position classification and position management services in a Federal government setting. The period of performance is one year with two one-year options at an estimated cost of \$344,087.80 (including option years).

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE F

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

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Bimonthly Records and Information Discussion Group (BRIDG) Meeting on Electronic Records Management

On August 19, 2004, OCIO staff attended the subject meeting. NARA representatives presented an update on the groups' efforts which included the timeline for presenting final recommendations from the report to members of the Interagency Committee on Government Information (ICGI), which is charged with implementing section 207 of the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347). NARA representatives also presented a "Toolkit" project from the workgroup that will be an Internet portal managed by NARA to share records management guidance for all Federal government stakeholders.

Meeting on NRC E-Government (E-Gov) Program With Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Administrator for E-Government & Information Technology

OMB's Administrator for the E-Government & Information Technology visited the NRC on August 23. The purpose of the visit was to discuss NRC's progress with its Architecture/Modernization program and other areas related to the E-Gov program. OCIO staff highlighted the NRC's accomplishments in security, electronic document management, and progress in integrating IT governance into the on-going activities of the agency. The OMB representative took particular note of the NRC's oversight efforts to ensure no duplication of resources with the government-wide E-Gov programs and the NRC's progress in establishing working agreements with government-wide programs affecting NRC's business areas. The OCIO staff also highlighted the NRC's efforts with the WEB initiatives and the challenges with the High-level Waste program.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of August 20 through August 26, 2004:

Allegation, all records of investigation and complaint	FOIA/PA-2004-0337
NMED, medical events	FOIA/PA-2004-0338
Documents removed from public domain as result of NRC's new policy on security information, specifically Reactor Oversight Process	FOIA/PA-2004-0339
Investigation for access to facility - Referral by OPM	FOIA/PA-2004-0340

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ENCLOSURE G

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

Arrivals		
Linh Tran	Project Manager	NRR
Departures		
Meredith Madwatkins	Student Administrative (summer)	R-I
Chad Tancil	Student Clerk (summer)	R-III
Chidinma O. Ukoha	General Engineer (summer)	RES
Brittney M. Washington	Student Clerk (summer)	ADM
Benjamin Wong	Student Engineer (summer)	NRR

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

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

Media Interest

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

Concerns of Greenpeace and members of Congress over the safety of a proposed shipment of plutonium to France for reprocessing.

NRC efforts to improve security of radioactive materials to prevent potential use by terrorists in a "dirty bomb."

The government's decision not to request an appeal in the Yucca Mountain court case and the Nuclear Energy Institute's request for an appeal on behalf of the industry.

Final decommissioning of an old Babcock & Wilcox site in western Pennsylvania.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-098	NRC Issues Policy Statement on Environmental Justice (8/23)
04-099	NRC Releases Cleaned-Up Pennsylvania Site for Unrestricted Use (8/24)
Regions:	
I-04-040	NRC Proposes \$7,500 Fine Against N.J. Firm for Alleged Nuclear Gauge Violations (8/24)
II-04-047	NRC to Discuss Safety Significance of Inspection Finding at Oconee Nuclear Plant (8/25)

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE M

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

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-04-0047	7/19/04	Status of Security-Related Rulemaking
SRM on COMSECY-04-0047	8/23/04	(same)
Voting Record on COMSECY-04-0047	8/17/04	(same)
2. SECY-99-279	12/6/99	Final Rule Amending the Fitness-for-Duty Rule
SRM-SECY-99-279	7/5/00	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0144	8/9/04	Maintaining a Current and Effective Set of Reactor Guidance Documents
2. SECY-04-0148	8/11/04	Semiannual Report on Status of Staff Information Technology/Information Management and Business Process Activities in Preparation for the High-Level Waste Repository Proceedings
3. SECY-04-0152	8/23/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 13, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M040817B	8/26/04	Meeting with Organization of Agreement States (OAS) and Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Judd Gregg, dated August 17, 2004, responds to letter forwarded from Charles Butterfield concerning the power uprate application filed by Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
2. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated August 17, 2004, responds to concerns that NRC may not be doing enough to ensure that steam generator tube integrity is maintained.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice (10/13-14/04).

August 27, 2004

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 27, 2004

Seabrook - Site Visit by NRC Senior Management

On August 25, 2004, the Regional Administrator toured the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and met with licensee management and the resident inspector.

Georgia IMPEP Review

On August 23-26, 2004, an Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the State of Georgia's Agreement State Program was conducted by staff from Region I, Office of State and Tribal Programs, and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, and a representative from the State of Oklahoma. This review focused on the State's performance over the last four years and the action taken in response to the recommendation made during the previous IMPEP reviews conducted in April 2000. In approximately 30 days from the end of the review, the team will issue a draft report to the State with its preliminary findings.

Maine Yankee - Site Visit by NRC Senior Management and Public Meeting

On August 26, 2004, the Regional Administrator visited the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (Maine Yankee) in Wiscasset, Maine. He was accompanied by the Director, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), and other NRC management personnel. The NRC management team toured the site and met with licensee management and the resident inspector.

Later on the same day, NMSS staff held a public meeting in Wiscasset, Maine, to address aspects of decommissioning Maine Yankee and its Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 27, 2004

Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) Facility - NRC Management Visit

On August 26-27, 2004, the Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, toured the NFS facility in Erwin, Tennessee, and met with licensee management and the resident inspector.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 69

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	09/14/04 2247 RHOB	10:00	NRC, GAO	Homeland Security: Monitoring Nuclear Power Plant Security	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations Government Reform
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.