

INFORMATION REPORT

September 17, 2004

SECY-04-0166

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0166 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 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 September 10, 2004

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 - Issuance of Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal

On August 30, 2004, the NRC staff issued draft NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 19, Regarding Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 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 September 10, 2004. The staff has scheduled a public meeting on October 21, 2004, in Russellville, Arkansas, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft SEIS.

Browns Ferry - Public Meeting to Discuss Unit 1 Recovery Plan

On September 9, 2004, NRC senior management and staff from both headquarters and Region II met with representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority to discuss the status of Browns Ferry Unit 1 recovery efforts and potential issues concerning the restart process. Browns Ferry Unit 1 had been shutdown since 1985. It is undergoing major construction work to prepare for a projected restart in 2007.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the Early Site Permit (ESP) Program

On September 9, 2004, the staff met with NEI in a public meeting to discuss several aspects of the ESP program, including emergency planning, applicability of 10 CFR Part 21, "Reporting of Defects and Noncompliance," and inclusion of plant parameters. The staff stated that it plans to develop additional guidance on the "major features" option for emergency planning information to be provided at the ESP stage. The guidance will address whether and how determinations made at the ESP stage regarding major features are treated at the combined license stage in accordance with 10 CFR 52.39. The staff plans to inform NEI and the applicants of the guidance by a letter and may also revise applicable guidance documents in the future.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Meeting with Xcel Energy on Pathfinder Decommissioning

On August 31, 2004, NRC staff met with Xcel Energy at its Pathfinder facility in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to discuss its license amendment request to authorize decommissioning activities. This meeting, preceded by a tour of the facility, provided NRC staff with an opportunity to exchange information and address questions related to its ongoing review of the Pathfinder decommissioning plan. The meeting was open to the public.

The meeting focused on (1) informing the public that NRC has received a license amendment request to authorize decommissioning activities and a decommissioning plan from Xcel Energy; (2) describing NRC's decommissioning process and inspection program; (3) describing Xcel Energy's decommissioning plans and schedule; and (4) addressing questions and soliciting public comments on Xcel Energy's decommissioning plans. There were no public comments on the proposed decommissioning activities.

Meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Discuss the Use of Acute Exposure Guidelines Levels (AEGLs)

On September 8, 2004, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) met with EPA staff, at EPA's offices. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the use of AEGLs by licensees/applicants in demonstrating compliance with the requirements for performing the Integrated Safety Analysis required by 10 CFR Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material." The meeting was prompted by a member of the AEGL development committee who submitted, to NRC, several issues regarding how an applicant proposed to use AEGLs in its application to FCSS. During the meeting, FCSS staff discussed the performance requirements contained in 10 CFR 70.61, and the guidance contained in NUREG-1520, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility," Chapter 3, Appendix A, "Example Procedure for Accident Sequence Evaluation," vis-a-vis using AEGLs.

As a result of the discussions, EPA staff indicated that the use of AEGLs, by NRC licensees/applicants, for setting chemical consequence thresholds in their Integrated Safety Assessment development for both workers and members of the public, is reasonable and consistent with AEGL recommendations.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Collaborative Research Program Review Meeting on Cable Diagnostics

On August 30-31, 2004, as part of the ongoing collaborative research program with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Boeing, and Rockwell Scientific, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff observed diagnostic tests on low-voltage instrumentation and control cables. The purpose of the tests was to evaluate the effectiveness of the broadband impedance spectroscopy (BBIS) method to detect and locate thermal hot-spots in installed cable systems in operating nuclear power plants. While the BBIS technique was developed by FAA/Boeing for aircraft wiring, the RES staff is evaluating the technology for its applicability to cables in nuclear plant environment. The preliminary evaluation indicates that the BBIS technique looks promising for assessing the integrity of installed cable systems. The BBIS technique is non-destructive, utilizes low-voltage signals, and has the capability to scan the entire length of the cable system. The staff plans to continue to collaborate with FAA/Boeing and to appropriately disseminate the research results to internal and external stakeholders. The outcome of the research results will be useful to the NRC staff in evaluating licensees' aging management programs for cables.

September 10, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-04-008B, Florida Power Corporation - Region II Response to Hurricane Francis.
2. PNO-II-04-008C, Florida Power and Light and Progress Energy -Tropical Storm Frances.
3. PNO-IV-04-021A, High Mountain Inspection Service, Inc. - Updated Information on a Potential Radiation Overexposure of a Radiographer.

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ENCLOSURE D

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
September 3 through September 9, 2004:

Congressman Thomas "Tom" Allen Coburn, OK, all correspondence between NRC, 1995-2001	FOIA/PA-2004-0354
Allegation re: Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, January 1985 to December 1986, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0355
Three Mile Island, 7-14-04, DOE letter to NRC with attachments re: Unit 2 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation	FOIA/PA-2004-0356
Nuclear Non-Proliferation, China (Referral by Ronald Reagan Library)	FOIA/PA-2004-0357
Davis Besse, FENOC's response to NRC Bulletin 2001-01, OIG interviews, transcripts; OI interviews, transcripts; all documents re: reactor pressure head degradation	FOIA/PA-2004-0358
Allegation re: Aberdeen Proving Ground, July 1985 through August 1987	FOIA/PA-2004-0359

September 10, 2004

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Arrivals		
Todd Hilsmeier	Reliability and Risk Engineer	RES
Stacy M. Smith	Student Engineer Co-op	R-I
Departures		
Amanda Hollander	Summer Administrative Student	OIG

September 10, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Media Interest

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

HBO's documentary on the vulnerability of Indian Point to a terrorist attack.

Security at nuclear plants (9/11 anniversary).

The status of Florida nuclear plants following Hurricane Frances.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-107	NRC Releases York, Pa., Site for Unrestricted Use (9/7)
04-108	NRC Issues Third National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety (9/8)
04-109	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Decommissioning Plan for University of Michigan Research Reactor (9/8)
04-110	NRC Unveils New Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response Web Page (9/9)
Regions:	
I-04-042	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Nine Mile Point Nuclear Plant License Renewal (9/9)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0128	7/19/04	Amendment to Section 274b Agreement with the State of Utah and Approval of Alternative Groundwater Standards
SRM on 04-0128	8/4/04	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0128	8/4/04	(same)
2. SECY-04-0111	7/1/04	Recommended Staff Actions Regarding Agency Guidance in the Areas of Safety Conscious Work Environment and Safety Culture
SRM on 04-0111	8/30/04	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0111	8/30/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0154	8/24/04	Issuance of NRC Generic Letter 2004-XX, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors"
2. SECY-04-0163	9/8/04	SECY-04-0163 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 27, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Tom Ridge, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, dated September 8, 2004, provides an update of actions the NRC has taken to continue enhancing security of nuclear facilities and radioactive materials.
2. Letter to Sandra Galef, New York State Assembly, dated September 2, 2004, responds to letter regarding the recent change in the NRC's policy on the availability of certain security information as initially reported by the media.

September 10, 2004

ENCLOSURE O

3. Letter to James H. Douglas, Governor of Vermont, dated September 1, 2004, responds to specific request pertaining to the NRC's engineering inspection currently being performed at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.
4. Letters to Senator Jeffords, Senator Leahy, and Representative Sanders, dated September 1, 2004, responds to specific request pertaining to the NRC's engineering inspection currently being performed at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.
5. Letter to Congressman Edward Markey, dated August 31, 2004, responds to questions concerning the three missing irradiated spent fuel rod segments at the Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Station Unit 3.
6. Letter to Congress, dated August 31, 2004, provides the July 2004 report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.
7. Letter to Congresswoman Nita Lowey, dated August 30, 2004, regarding Westchester County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz and his request for NRC to meet with the County Board's Environmental Committee.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (9/24/04).
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 153rd meeting on September 22-23, 2004.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

Hurricane Frances

On September 3-7, 2004, Region II activated its Incident Response Center in Atlanta to monitor and assist the nuclear power plants in Florida (Crystal River, St. Lucie, and Turkey Point) in response to Hurricane Frances. Also, additional Region II staff members were dispatched to the State's Emergency Response Center in Tallahassee and to the three nuclear plants to augment the resident inspectors.

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Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 10, 2004

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station - NRC Senior Management Site Visit

On September 8, 2004, the Regional Administrator accompanied the Executive Director for Operations on a tour of the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. They also met with the resident inspectors and licensee management representatives.

September 10, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 10, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 71

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	09/13/04 Pittsburgh, PA	10:00	OPM and others	Federal Employee Health System as a Model for Improved Care	Reps. Murphy/Davis Civil Service and Agency Organization Government Reform
Keeling	09/14/04 2247 RHOB	10:00	NRC, GAO, NEI, USC, and Riverkeeper	Homeland Security: Monitoring Nuclear Power Plant Security	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations Government Reform
Keeling	09/14/04 2318 RHOB	2:00	TBA	9/11 Commission and the Course Ahead	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security
Shane	09/14/04 SD-G-50	3:00	Markup	FY2005 Transportation and Treasury Appropriations	Senators Stevens/Byrd Appropriations
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