

INFORMATION REPORT

December 1, 2004

SECY-04-0224

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0224 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 19, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 19, 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 November 19, 2004

Mitigating Systems Performance Index Public Meeting

On November 17, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff hosted the monthly public meeting on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI). The staff discussed comments on MSPI guidance documents (NEI 99-02: Section 2.2 "General Guidance, Appendix F," Technical Guidance and Appendix G, "MSPI Basis Documentation). This meeting was focused on the remaining open technical comments from the October 2004 meeting. The meeting also discussed MSPI staff milestones for developing appropriate inspection guidance, reviews of MSPI basis documents, and industry initiatives and status of the February 2005, MSPI workshop.

Reactor Oversight Process Public Meeting

On November 18, 2004, NRR staff hosted the monthly public meeting on the Reactor Oversight Process. The staff provided a status overview of Significance Determination Process (SDP) timeliness issues, as well as a discussion on draft aspects of the Maintenance Rule SDP. The industry representatives provided an update on their review of the safety system functional failures performance indicator (PI) and, together with the staff, provided an update on the scrams with loss of normal heat removal and reactor coolant system leakage PI improvement initiatives. In addition, the group participants discussed open and new PI frequently asked questions.

Staff Holds Public Meeting on the Draft D.C. Cook Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

On November 9, 2004, NRR staff conducted two public meetings to solicit comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) related to the license renewal application for Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (CNP), issued on September 24, 2004. The draft SEIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). Approximately 40 people attended the two meetings, including members of the public, representatives of the NRC staff, Argonne National Laboratory, Indiana Michigan Power Company, State and local governments, and the local news media. Members of the public asked questions regarding the health effects of radiation to plant workers and regulations regarding radiation dose limits.

The public comment period for the CNP SEIS ends on December 8, 2004. At the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received, revise the SEIS as appropriate, and issue the final SEIS in May 2005.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Industry on Steam Generator Issues

On November 10, 2004, NRR staff met with NEI and other industry representatives to discuss the results of an industry effort to develop guidance for licensees to use in evaluating steam

generator (SG) tube integrity. This guidance was developed to support implementation of the industry's steam generator initiative (i.e., NEI 97-06), and to specifically provide licensees with a methodology for assessing the effects of loads other than pressure loads (e.g., bending loads) on steam generator tube integrity. The industry guidance is expected to be published later this month.

NEI and the industry representatives also discussed their interest in receiving timely NRC approval of a Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) request to modify the steam generator surveillance requirements in the standard technical specifications. Approval of the TSTF will facilitate review and approval of license amendments to make their technical specifications consistent with the NEI 97-06 program.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

On-Site Integrated Safety Analysis Review for USEC Inc.'s American Centrifuge Plant

From November 8-10, 2004, NRC staff performed an on-site review of USEC Inc.'s American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA). The review took place at the proposed ACP site located at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. The NRC ISA review team consisted of three staff members who reviewed the ISA documentation in the areas of instrumentation and controls and human factors. Several issues were identified, which were verbally provided to USEC Inc. during the on-site review.

Nuclear Fuel Services 10 CFR Part 71 Application for the Champion Transport Package Design

On November 10, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., (NFS) to discuss technical issues identified by the staff during the review of the Safety Analysis Report for the Champion transportation package, which had been submitted to NRC in August 2004. The applicant presented a revised criticality evaluation. Structural, thermal, containment, and quality assurance issues were also discussed. NFS indicated that a new application would be submitted in the future; however, a specific schedule was not presented.

Meeting of the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee

On November 9-10, 2004, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) staff attended a meeting of the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee in Columbus, Ohio. The Committee, which is composed of members from 12 Midwestern states, deals with safety and operational issues related to shipment of spent fuel. The major topics discussed at the meeting included the status of the Department of Energy's shipping program for Yucca Mountain; Section 180(c) funding; routing; and the safety and security of spent fuel shipping casks. The NMSS staff provided an update on topical issues of interest to the Committee and gave a brief presentation on the recently completed full-scale drop tests in Germany. In addition, a representative of Private Fuel Storage presented an update on its proposed facility in Skull Valley, Utah.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Implementing Agreement (IA) between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization

On November 16, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations signed the IA entitled "Implementing Agreement between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) Regarding Participation in the USNRC Cooperative Project on Non-Destructive Examination for Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking in Nickel-base Materials and Dissimilar Metal Welds."

The NRC and JNES will work together to (1) compile data describing the morphology and non-destructive examination (NDE) responses associated with primary water stress corrosion cracking, and (2) assess available and developing techniques for NDE of nuclear power plant components. The insights gained through this cooperative project will enhance NRC's understanding of the aging and environmental effects on materials in nuclear power plants, reduce uncertainty associated with non-destructive examinations, and improve the quality of standards for in-service inspections for structural integrity endorsed by 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," and Regulatory Guide 1.147 (Rev. 13) "In-service Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1." This Implementing Agreement will remain in effect through December 2007.

Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) Model Onsite Quality Assurance Review

On November 8-10, 2004, staff from the Office Nuclear Regulatory Research conducted an onsite quality assurance (QA) review of the Revision 3 Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) model for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2. The staff evaluated differences between the NRC's SPAR model and the licensee's plant probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) in order to understand the basis for the differences and to identify potential revisions to the SPAR models. This onsite QA review is part of the SPAR model development program and will lead to more accurate plant-specific SPAR models. This onsite QA review is part of the SPAR model development program and will lead to more accurate plant-specific SPAR models. In conjunction with this review, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation benchmarked the Susquehanna Significance Determination Process Notebook against the licensee's PRA model.

Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP) Fall Meeting

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducted the fall CAMP meeting on November 11-12, 2004. CAMP is an international program through which the member countries get access to the TRACE, RELAP5, PARCS, and SNAP computer codes used for thermal-hydraulic reactor safety analysis. The current CAMP membership consists of 21 countries. Participation in the fall meeting included 32 people from 16 countries. RES and its contractors made presentations about current NRC code development activities. Five countries provided member country status reports. Six technical presentations were made by five member countries describing TRACE and RELAP5 assessment and plant calculations.

Gas Entrainment Test to Support GSI-193 "BWR ECCS Suction Concerns"

On November 10, 2004, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research observed a two-phase-flow transport-phenomena test in a physical 1/6-scale model of a selected emergency core cooling system (ECCS) piping system. This test was sponsored by a licensee as part of an analysis for gas-entrainment in ECCS systems. Pending the results of the 1/6-scale test, this analysis might include full-scale tests of single and multistage ECCS pumps exposed to two-phase flow (gas-liquid). The 1/6-scale test and future full-scale pump tests are relevant to establish part of the technical basis of Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 193, which analyzes the sources and transport of gas in a boiling water reactor ECCS system during an accident.

Meetings on Fuel-related Projects: Studsvik and Paks

The Studsvik Cladding Integrity Project was organized by Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to better understand the fundamental mechanisms of cladding failure during normal operation and anticipated transients. The first formal meetings of this project were held at the Studsvik laboratory on November 8-10, 2004, and were attended by a representative from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Although this project was originally designed to serve industry needs, the mechanisms being studied involve hydrogen embrittlement and delayed hydride cracking. These mechanisms play an equal role in cladding behavior under accident conditions of safety significance, so the project is also of interest to NRC.

In addition, OECD is organizing a small international project to examine the damaged fuel from the cleaning incident at the Paks-2 nuclear power plant in Hungary. A meeting of fuel experts was held at the Studsvik laboratory immediately following the other meetings, and NRC's representative attended the Paks meeting as well. Because the Paks incident resulted in conditions more severe than a traditionally analyzed loss-of-coolant accident, yet the fuel remained well below any melting temperature (i.e., it was coolable), this project appears to have the potential to provide significant insights to fuel behavior under accident conditions.

Program Review of the Halden Reactor Project

On November 5, 2004, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in an on-site facilities tour and program review of the Halden Reactor Project. The program review focused on studies of irradiation-assisted, stress-corrosion cracking experiments, and development and qualification of in-reactor instrumentation for the evaluation of reactor coolant quality. The discussions were equally divided between a presentation of recent results in both areas and the plans for the near term continuation of these efforts.

Cooperative Irradiation-Assisted Stress-Corrosion Cracking Research Group Meeting

On November 7-8, 2004, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in a meeting of the Cooperative Irradiation-Assisted Stress-Corrosion Cracking (IASCC) Research (CIR) group. The CIR group meets approximately every 6 - 10 months to review the status of sponsored research and to discuss any adjustments that need to be made in the experimental programs related to the degradation of vessel internals. Members of the group represent

regulatory bodies from the U.S., Sweden, and Spain; research laboratories located in the U.S., France, and Finland; and plant staff from Ringhals/Barsebeck located in Sweden. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 representatives of vendors, research laboratories and regulatory agencies with a common interest in IASCC.

PHEBUS FPT-3 Test

On November 18, 2004, the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN) of France successfully conducted the last PHEBUS FPT-3 test. NRC is participating in the PHEBUS-FPT project under a bi-lateral agreement with IRSN. The test provides information related to fuel degradation and fission product release, transport, and behavior in a simplified model of a reactor coolant system. A quick look report on the test results will be available in spring 2005. The FPT3 test will provide data to assess the adequacy of models in MELCOR, the NRC's severe accident code.

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Preliminary Notification

1. PNO-I-04-14, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company - FIRE INSIDE CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE AT DECOMMISSIONING REACTOR SITE.

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Contract Award

On November 9, 2004, delivery order no. DR-33-05-314 was awarded to SkyTel Corporation under a General Services Administration area wide contract. The contractor shall provide pager services and equipment. The estimated cost is \$167,322 for a four year period of performance, inclusive of three one-year options.

NRC Enforcement Policy

On November 15, 2004 (69 FR 65657), the NRC published a document in the Federal Register that amends its Enforcement Policy. The amendment provides that the appropriate Regional Administrator will issue all Notices of Enforcement Discretion for power reactors. The amendment became effective November 15, 2004. The comment closing date is December 15, 2004.

Protection of Safeguards Information (AH57 - Parts 2, 30, 40, 50, 52, 63, 70, 72, 73, 76, and 150)

On November 16, 2004 (69 FR 67070), the NRC published a document in the Federal Register that announced the availability of draft proposed rule language. The proposed rule would amend the NRC's regulations to provide for further protection of Safeguards Information from inadvertent release or unauthorized disclosure. The draft proposed rule is being made available to inform stakeholders of the current status of NRC activities.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
November 12 through November 17, 2004:

Louisiana Energy Services, application for license(s) for enrichment facility in New Mexico, all correspondence before 1-30-04 between Commission & NRC staff or LES	FOIA/PA-2005-0037
Fermi II nuclear power plant, all records, re: explosion on 4-25-00	FOIA/PA-2005-0038
Howmet Corporation, 41605 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0039
Government credit card holders	FOIA/PA-2005-0040
Contract GS25F0062L, order numbers DR020287 Mod 1, Mod 2, Mod 3, and DR3303351	FOIA/PA-2005-0041
Allegation NMSS-20003-A-0013, OI Investigation 2-2003-061, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0042
Individuals offered employment as Health Physicist, Radiation Specialist, Inspector and/or License Reviewer, after 4-2001, Region IV; copy of job announcements, salary, applications, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0043
Bargaining unit position title and grades of career ladder (series 343, grades 9-13); FLSA exemption status; and number of employees at each grade of each position	FOIA/PA-2005-0044

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Departures		
Brian Corbin	Student Law Clerk	ASLBP
Joan Higdon	Program Assistant	SBCR

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Small Business and Civil Rights
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Assessment of Small Business Procurement Goals

Preliminary data for FY 2004 shows that the NRC exceeded 5 of its 6 small business procurement goals for the year. Specifically, the agency exceeded its percentage goals for contract awards to small businesses, 8(a) firms, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, and HUBZone small businesses. In FY 2003, the NRC had only met 3 of these 6 goals. The one goal that was not met by NRC or any other Federal agency was for "service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses," which remains a key focus area in FY 2005.

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Media Interest

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

NRC's security review of public documents and the eventual restoration of the ADAMS library.

Safety issues at the Salem and Hope Creek plants in New Jersey.

Problems with Vermont Yankee's system of tone alert radios to warn nearby residents of emergencies.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Public Affairs staff assisted at a public meeting with FirstEnergy and a Nuclear Energy Institute symposium on emergency preparedness.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-143	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Nov. 22-23 on Analyzing Nuclear Power Plant Fire Hazards (11/15)
04-144	NRC Restores Additional, Hearing-Related Documents to Its Web Site (11/16)
04-145	Dr. Michael T. Ryan and Allen G. Croff Elected to New Positions on NRC Advisory Committee (11/18)
04-146	NRC Extends Comment Period for Environmental Impact Statement on Proposed Uranium Facility in New Mexico (11/19)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Visit of Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) Inspector

On November 16, 2004, Mr. Naoki Kajita, Director, Nuclear Power Inspection Division, NISA, visited the NRC and met with senior staff from NRR's Division of Inspection Program Management. The staff provided Mr. Kajita with background information and answered his questions on NRC's power reactor inspection program, and the Reactor Operating Experience Program Initiative.

Application Received for License to Export Sealed Sources Containing Byproduct Materials (Americium-241 and Cesium-137) to Libya

On November 16, 2004, NRC received an application (XB001309) from Baker Hughes, requesting a specific license to export sealed sources containing byproduct materials (Americium-241 and Cesium-137) to Libya. The application also indicates that two additional sealed sources, containing small quantities of the source material, thorium, and the byproduct material, radium which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce, are to be included in the proposed export. The sealed sources will be used in petroleum exploration oil-well service logging equipment at various locations.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-04-0178	11/19/04	Regulatory Solution for 10 CFR Part 71 Change Authority for Dual-Purpose Package Certificate Holders
Voting Record for SECY-04-0178	11/19/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0206	11/8/04	SECY-04-0206 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 29, 2004
2. SECY-04-0214	11/15/04	SECY-04-0214 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 5, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M041108AB	11/17/04	Briefing on Plant Aging and Materials Degradation (Part A and B)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly, dated November 5, 2004, responds to letter regarding the electrical cable and raceway system at Indian Point Unit 2 in Buchanan, New York.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors, 10 CFR Part 50, RIN 3150-AG42, Final Rule.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (12/01/04).
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, meeting notice (12/2-4/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Commissioner Merrifield's Visit to Calvert Cliffs

On November 19, 2004, Commissioner Merrifield visited the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, in Lusby, Maryland, accompanied by the Region I Administrator. The visit included a tour of the facility with senior Constellation Energy management, a working lunch, and a meeting with workers at the site.

Haddam Neck Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) Meeting

On November 16, 2004, the Haddam Neck CDAC held a public meeting in Middletown, CT, to discuss the status of the decommissioning project. The meeting was attended by the Chief, Decommissioning Branch, Region I, and a Region I Health Physicist, who discussed the results of recent inspection activities, plans for future onsite inspections, and the status of licensing actions currently pending before the NRC. A total of 30 people attended the meeting, including two local news reporters. The NRC responded to questions concerning spent fuel accountability, the status of fuel transfer to onsite dry cask storage, and drying of the spent fuel stored in the vertical concrete casks.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Fuel Facility Inspector Counterpart Meeting

On November 17-18, 2004, Region II hosted a Fuel Facility Inspector Counterpart Meeting. On November 18, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards gave a presentation at the meeting.

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 19, 2004

Meeting with FirstEnergy on Fleet Performance

On November 16, 2004, the Regional Administrator and members of the Region III and Region I staffs met in Painesville, Ohio, with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company to discuss the utility's plans for meeting the challenges of continuing improvements at Davis-Besse and arresting declining performance at Perry while maintaining good performance at Beaver Valley.

November 19, 2004

ENCLOSURE P