



RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST

NRC 2018 000375

1

RESPONSE TYPE

INTERIM

FINAL

REQUESTER:

Julian Tarver

DATE:

06/07/2018

DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED RECORDS:

Press releases dated: 11/21/2017, 11/16/2017, 09/27/2017, 09/06/2017, 08/08/2017, 07/11/2017, 04/18/2017 and 05/11/2017

PART I. -- INFORMATION RELEASED

- The NRC has made some, or all, of the requested records publicly available through one or more of the following means: (1) <https://www.nrc.gov>; (2) public ADAMS, <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>; (3) microfiche available in the NRC Public Document Room; or FOIA Online, <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>.
- Agency records subject to the request are enclosed.
- Records subject to the request that contain information originated by or of interest to another Federal agency have been referred to that agency (See Part I.D -- Comments) for a disclosure determination and direct response to you.
- We are continuing to process your request.
- See Part I.D -- Comments.

PART I.A -- FEES

AMOUNT
\$0.00

- You will be billed by NRC for the amount indicated.
- You will receive a refund for the amount indicated.
- Fees waived.

- Since the minimum fee threshold was not met, you will not be charged fees.
- Due to our delayed response, you will not be charged fees.

PART I.B -- INFORMATION NOT LOCATED OR WITHHELD FROM DISCLOSURE

- We did not locate any agency records responsive to your request. *Note:* Agencies may treat three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records as not subject to the FOIA ("exclusions"). See 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This is a standard notification given to all requesters; it should not be taken to mean that any excluded records do, or do not, exist.
- We have withheld certain information pursuant to the FOIA exemptions described, and for the reasons stated, in Part II.
- Because this is an interim response to your request, you may not appeal at this time. We will notify you of your right to appeal any of the responses we have issued in response to your request when we issue our final determination.
- You may appeal this final determination within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. If you submit an appeal by-mail, address it to the FOIA Officer, at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-2 F43, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. You may submit an appeal by e-mail to FOIA_resource@nrc.gov. You may fax an appeal to (301) 415-5130. Or you may submit an appeal through FOIA Online, <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Please be sure to include on your submission that it is a "FOIA Appeal."

PART I.C -- REFERENCES AND POINTS OF CONTACT

You have the right to seek assistance from the NRC's FOIA Public Liaison by submitting your inquiry at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/contact-foia.html>, or by calling the FOIA Public Liaison at (301) 415-1276.

If we have denied your request, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the NRC's Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). To seek dispute resolution services from OGIS, you may e-mail OGIS at ogis@nara.gov, send a fax to (202) 741-5789, or send a letter to: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. For additional information about OGIS, please visit the OGIS website at <https://www.archives.gov/ogis>.



**RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF
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PART I.D -- COMMENTS

Please note:

The requested records are already publicly available.

Since you stated that you do not have access to a computer, we are providing courtesy copies.

Signature - Freedom of Information Act Officer or Designee

Stephanie A. Blaney



Digitally signed by Stephanie A. Blaney
Date: 2018.06.07 11:19:02 -04'00'



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region I

King of Prussia, PA. 19406-2713
www.nrc.gov



No: I-17-032

November 21, 2017

Contact: Diane Screnci, 610-337-5330

Neil Sheehan, 610-337-5331

NRC Issues Confirmatory Order Over Security-Related Violations at Millstone Nuclear Power Plant

The NRC has issued a confirmatory order to Dominion Energy Nuclear Connecticut Inc. following an Alternative Dispute Resolution mediation session regarding security-related violations at the Millstone nuclear power plant.

Dominion Energy has agreed to carry out a series of corrective actions, which are spelled out in the order and which the NRC will confirm in upcoming inspections.

The actions are intended to address two violations and related performance aspects identified during an NRC investigation at the Waterford, Conn., plant, where NRC determined that a now-former contracted security officer working as an armorer deliberately failed to properly perform required maintenance of weapons at the plant and conduct monthly inventories of weapons not in use, including the deliberate falsification of records related to both issues.

The mediation session was conducted on Sept. 20, 2017. Under the ADR process, mediation is facilitated by a neutral third party who has no decision-making authority but assists the NRC and a licensee in reaching an agreement when differences exist regarding an enforcement action.

A number of actions agreed to by Dominion include an evaluation of security contractor oversight and related training; independent reviews of the safety culture and organizational effectiveness within the site's security organization; and communication about the issue to industry peers.

A copy of the confirmatory order will be made available in the NRC's electronic documents system, ADAMS.



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

301.415.8200



www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-045

November 16, 2017

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Publishes Agency Financial Report for FY 2017

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released its Fiscal Year 2017 Agency Financial Report, providing audited financial statements of the agency's management of resources from Oct. 1, 2016, through Sept. 30, 2017.

The NRC has reduced the cost of operations over the past few years by reducing staff and increasing efficiency through its Project Aim initiative, savings reflected in the report and passed on to licensees through reduced fees. The FY 2017 report details substantial improvements in data collection and classification in the NRC's information systems, which helped improve communications with licensees and other stakeholders. The NRC also successfully implemented the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, a new electronic vendor billing system, the Invoice Processing Platform through the Department of Treasury, and moved its core financial system onto the cloud.

The Agency Financial Report replaces the NRC's Performance and Accountability Report. The NRC will publish a separate Agency Performance Report each year with the NRC Congressional Budget Justification. The financial report is available on the [NRC website](#).



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

301.415.8200

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No: 17-042

September 27, 2017

CONTACT: Holly Harrington, 301-415-8200

NRC Seeks Comments on Draft FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comments on its draft Strategic Plan, covering Fiscal Years 2018-2022.

The draft establishes a framework for the next four years for the NRC to achieve its mission to license and regulate the nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety, and to promote the common defense and security (and to protect the environment). It also provides an overview of the NRC's responsibilities, key challenges and management priorities, and it outlines the objectives and key activities to achieve the agency's goals.

The draft plan is largely consistent with the previous plan (FY 2014-2018) with continued focus and commitment to the NRC's mission and strategic goals of safety and security. The most notable change is a new vision statement, which highlights the agency's commitment to the Principles of Good Regulation. It also includes minor updates and editorial enhancements.

All interested individuals may submit comments on the draft Strategic Plan within 30 days of publication of the Federal Register notice. The draft Strategic Plan will be available on the NRC's website.

Public comments may be submitted in two ways: Online through the federal government's rulemaking website, using Docket ID NRC-2017-0153; and by mail to Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-08-E18, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comments will be summarized and provided to the Commission for consideration in its finalization of the plan.

The NRC issued its first Strategic Plan in September 1997 and, as required, it has been updated every four years since then. The 2018-2022 edition is due to Congress and the President by Feb. 5, 2018.



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

301.415.8200



www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-039

September 6, 2017

CONTACT: Ivonne Couret, 301-415-8200

New Edition of NRC Information Digest Now Available Online

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published its 2017-2018 edition of the Information Digest, which describes the agency's responsibilities and activities and provides general information on nuclear-related topics. This edition, NUREG-1350, Volume 29, is intended to serve as a quick reference to major facts about the agency and the industry it regulates, in an easy-to-use format that includes visual aids.

The Information Digest is published annually and is available electronically on the NRC website. The electronic version of the Digest has embedded hyperlinks for easy access to more information on major topics. The NRC graphics, figures, maps, and data sets are also available online.

In addition, a print or CD copy will be available in November 2017, upon written request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Administration, Publications Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Requests can also be sent by email to distribution.resource@nrc.gov, or by fax to 301-415-2289.



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

301.415.8200



www.nrc.gov • opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-035

August 8, 2017

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Specifies Further Actions Related to Yucca Mountain Licensing Process

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved further actions related to its review of the Department of Energy's application for authorization to construct a high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. These next steps involve information-gathering activities related to the suspended adjudication on the application. These activities will enable efficient, informed decisions in support of executing any further appropriations of funds for the High-Level Waste Program.

Specifically, the Commission directed agency staff to hold a virtual meeting of the Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel to provide information to, and gather input from, advisory panel members and the public regarding reconstitution of the Licensing Support Network or a suitable replacement system. The LSN was an online database of nearly 4 million documents supporting the adjudicatory hearing on the Yucca Mountain application. The hearing was suspended in 2011, and the LSN was decommissioned. The documents now reside in a publically available [LSN Library](#) in the NRC's ADAMS document system. The agency staff will also gather preliminary information regarding potential hearing venues.

The Commission limited expenditures for the information-gathering activities to \$110,000 from the Nuclear Waste Fund. As of June 30, the agency had approximately \$634,000 in remaining unobligated Nuclear Waste Fund appropriations.

Since 2013, the Commission has directed the agency staff to complete its Safety Evaluation Report, prepare a supplement to the Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statement, and preserve the documents from the LSN within ADAMS.

The Commission's Staff Requirements Memorandum, Commission voting records and the staff's proposal (COMSECY-17-0019) are [available on the NRC website](#).



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Affairs

301.415.8200



www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-034

July 11, 2017

CONTACT: Ivonne Couret, 301-415-8200

NRC Awards FY17 Grants

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has awarded 46 individual grants totaling \$15 million to 35 academic institutions in fiscal year 2017. The grants are used for scholarships, fellowships and faculty development. They were awarded to institutions in 22 states and Puerto Rico, including minority-serving institutions, which are a federally recognized category of educational establishments.

Congress authorized the NRC to provide federal funding opportunities to qualified academic institutions to encourage careers and research in nuclear, mechanical and electrical engineering, health physics and related fields to meet expected future workforce needs.

The NRC announces grant opportunities on www.grants.gov, which helps the public find and apply for federal funding opportunities. A panel of expert reviewers from academia and the NRC evaluates all of the grant proposals. The panel composition is diverse, with most reviewers having both experience reviewing proposals for government agencies and advanced credentials in nuclear engineering, health physics, radiochemistry or related disciplines. Each panelist has to certify that they do not have any conflict of interest for the proposals they evaluate.

The [complete list of grants](#) awarded and general information about the grant program are posted on the NRC's [website](#).



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region III

Lisle, IL, 60532-4352

www.nrc.gov • opa3.resource@nrc.gov

No: III-17-006

April 18, 2017

CONTACT: Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

NRC to Conduct Open House to Discuss 2016 Performance of Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will be available to discuss the 2016 safety performance of the Braidwood nuclear power plant operated by Exelon Generation Co., LLC, during an open house planned for Friday, April 28, in Braidwood, Ill. The two-unit plant is located in Braidwood, 20 miles southwest of Joliet, Ill.

The open house will be held from 6-7 p.m., at the Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., in Braidwood. On hand to discuss the plant's performance and the NRC's oversight of the facility will be agency employees responsible for inspections of the plant, including the resident inspectors based at the site on a full-time basis.

Overall, the Braidwood plant operated safely during 2016, with no inspection findings or performance indicators outside the normal band. As a result, it is currently under the NRC's baseline level of oversight, which entails thousands of hours of inspection each year.

"These meetings are an opportunity for the public to engage in one-on-one discussions with agency inspectors who assess the plant's safety performance," said NRC Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson. "Based on our 2016 assessments, the appropriate level of oversight for this year will be the normal level of scrutiny, barring any changes in performance."

Under the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process, the agency gauges plant performance through the use of color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators, which are statistical measurements of plant performance that can trigger additional oversight if exceeded. Any inspection findings or performance indicators that are greater than green (very low safety significance) trigger increased NRC oversight.

Day-to-day inspections are performed by two resident inspectors assigned to the plant. Reviews are also carried out at the sites by specialist inspectors assigned to the agency's Region III office in Lisle, Ill.

The annual assessment letter for Braidwood, as well as the notice for the meeting, are available on the NRC website. Current plant performance information for Unit 1 and Unit 2 is also available.



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region IV
Arlington, TX, 76011-4511
www.nrc.gov ■ opa4.resource@nrc.gov

No: IV-17-006

April 18, 2017

CONTACT: Victor Dricks, 817- 200-1128

NRC Schedules Regulatory Conference to Discuss Apparent Violation at Columbia Generating Station

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with officials from Energy Northwest, Inc., on May 2 to discuss a preliminary inspection finding regarding the shipment of low-level waste from the Columbia Generating Station to a disposal facility. The plant is located near Richland, Wash.

The 1 p.m. meeting at the NRC Region IV office at 1600 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, Texas, will be open to the public. NRC officials will answer questions from the public following the business portion of the meeting. A telephone bridge will be available for the meeting by calling 888-809-8968 and entering passcode 8330824.

A three-member NRC team conducted a special inspection at the Columbia Generating Station to review the circumstances surrounding a Nov. 9, 2016, incident in which workers at the plant shipped a package of low-level nuclear waste to the U.S. Ecology disposal facility about 10 miles from the plant.

The NRC determined that workers used the wrong shipping container given the radioactivity level of the waste.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear plants with a color-coded process that classifies inspection findings as green, white, yellow or red in order of increasing safety significance. The NRC has preliminarily determined that the inspection finding has low to moderate (white) safety significance, which may require additional inspections, regulatory actions and oversight.

No decision on the safety significance of the finding or any additional NRC actions will be made at the conference. That decision will be announced at a later time.



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters
Washington, DC, 20555-0001
www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-019

April 18, 2017

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Regulatory Basis for Small Modular Reactors Emergency Preparedness Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a draft regulatory basis for new emergency preparedness requirements for small modular reactors and other new technologies, such as non-light water reactor facilities.

In addition to accepting written comments, NRC staff will conduct a public meeting May 10 to discuss the draft regulatory basis. The meeting will be held from 9-11:30 a.m., in the Two White Flint North auditorium at the NRC's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Visitors will need to enter through One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike. Additional information on the meeting, including a telephone bridge line, will be made available in a public meeting notice.

A regulatory basis is an early stage in the rulemaking process in which the NRC staff explains the rationale for developing new regulatory requirements and seeks input from the public. After the regulatory basis is finalized, the staff will develop a proposed rule, which will also be issued for public comment before the staff produces a final rule. The draft regulatory basis, in part, explains why the NRC believes the existing regulations should be updated, revised, and/or enhanced; presents alternatives to rulemaking; and discusses costs and other impacts of the potential changes.

The nuclear power industry is developing small modular reactors and other advanced reactor technologies that differ in size, scope and hazard from the large light-water reactors operating in the U.S. today. Their smaller size or innovative safety features are likely to lead to lower risk or less challenging accident conditions than today's reactors. This rulemaking would establish emergency preparedness requirements appropriate to these technologies. Existing requirements for current reactors will not be part of the scope of this rulemaking.

The draft regulatory basis is available in the NRC's ADAMS online database at [ML16309A332](#). Comments will be accepted through June 27. A *Federal Register* notice, published April 13, explains several ways to submit comments, including over the federal government's rulemaking website, www.regulations.gov, using Docket ID NRC-2015-0225.



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Region III

Lisle, IL 60532-4352

www.nrc.gov ■ opa3.resource@nrc.gov

No: III-17-007

April 18, 2017

CONTACT: Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

NRC Schedules Enforcement Conference to Discuss Apparent Violation at ADCO Services, Inc.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a predecisional enforcement conference with ADCO Services, Inc., to discuss an apparent violation identified by NRC inspectors related to the company's failure to ensure that a radiation safety officer performed the required duties and functions for radiation protection, as required of all NRC radioactive materials license holders.

The meeting on April 20 is open to public observation and will begin at 1 p.m., at the NRC's Region III office at 2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210, Lisle, Ill. NRC officials will be available to answer questions from the public following the business portion of the conference.

The NRC identified the apparent violation while conducting a routine inspection last November, at the licensee's facility in Tinley Park, Ill. Inspection activities included a review of the licensee's radiation protection program.

The purpose of the predecisional enforcement conference is to discuss the apparent violation, obtain additional information from the company and understand what corrective actions have been taken or planned. The NRC will specifically discuss how the corrective actions will be more effective than actions taken in response to a similar violation in 2013 and understand the company's future plans since the NRC license has recently been revoked for failure to pay annual fees.

No decision on the final safety significance or additional NRC actions will be made at the conference. The NRC's final determination will be made publically available.



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov

No: 17-022

May 11, 2017

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Issues Annual Report on Abnormal Occurrences for FY 2016

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released its annual report to Congress on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2016, citing one event at a fuel cycle facility, one event involving radiation exposure to an embryo or fetus, another involving radiation exposure to a radiographer, and eight medical events involving radioactive materials. The report details investigation of each incident by the NRC, state agencies and licensees, as well as measures taken to ensure such incidents do not recur.

An accident or event is considered an abnormal occurrence if it involves a major reduction in the degree of protection of public health and safety. Abnormal occurrences can include, but are not necessarily limited to, moderate exposure to or release of radioactive material licensed by the NRC or a state agency; major degradation of safety-related equipment; or major deficiencies in design, construction, use of, or management controls for facilities or radioactive material.

Three reported abnormal occurrences happened at NRC licensee facilities. These included the discovery of an excessive amount of low-enriched uranium in a scrubber at the Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility in Columbia, S.C. The other two were medical events involving misadministration of radioactive material during cancer treatment.

Eight reported abnormal occurrences happened in Agreement States. (The NRC has agreements with 37 states under which the states regulate industrial and medical uses of radioactive materials.) One event involved an overexposure to an industrial worker performing radiography, one event resulted in an exposure to an embryo or fetus, and the other six were medical events. Abnormal occurrences represent a very small fraction of the average number of nuclear medicine and radiation therapy procedures conducted annually.

Three of the 11 events occurred in previous fiscal years and are included because the NRC completed its evaluation of these events in FY 2016.

The report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2016 is published as NUREG-0090, Volume 39. It was transmitted to Congress on May 9 and is available on the [NRC website](#).