

August 20, 1999

SECY 99-217

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/s/
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 1999

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Transition Task Force Activities (TTF)

The Pilot Program Evaluation Panel (PPEP), a cross-disciplinary group, consisting of 12 representatives from NRC, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), pilot plant licensees, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the State of Illinois conducted its second meeting on August 17, 1999. The objective of the PPEP is to monitor and assess the implementation of the new regulatory oversight processes. The PPEP discussed the rules and procedures for the conduct of PPEP and provided feedback on the criteria the staff had established to measure the success of the pilot program. Transcripts of the PPEP meeting will be placed on the NRC web page. The PPEP was chaired by the Deputy Director of the Division of Inspection Program Management. NRR managers and members of the Inspection Program Branch are continuing to interface with NRC staff and stakeholders to discuss the revised oversight process, answer questions, and obtain feedback. The NRC staff participated in the inspection finding significance determination process workshop sponsored by NEI on August 12-13, 1999. The workshop was well attended by many licensees, including licensees of non-pilot plants.

St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2 - Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4

All Four Units Report Y2K Readiness Activities Completed.

By letters dated July 16, 1999, Florida Power and Light Company notified NRC that St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, and Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, are Y2K ready, consistent with the estimated completion date in the licensee's responses to Generic Letter 98-01 Supplement 1. As reported in June, the only remaining system requiring remediation at all four units was the health physics administrative computer system, which is now Y2K-ready.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Draft Regulatory Guide on Simulation Facilities

A proposed Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.149, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulation Facilities for Use in Operator Training and License Examinations," was issued recently as DG-1080. This guide is being revised to provide guidance to licensees on the certification of a simulation facility consisting solely of a plant-referenced simulator. DG-1080 proposes to endorse ANSI/ANS-3.5-1998, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination."

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. PNO-I-99-038, Carnegie Mellon University, SPILL OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF PHOSPHORUS-32 IN A LABORATORY
2. PNO-III-99-038, U.S. Army, FACILITY CONTAMINATION AT FORT DRUM, NEW YORK
3. PNO-III-99-039, Indiana Michigan Electric Co. (Cook 1 2), SEVENTEEN PERSONS ARRESTED DURING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE PLANT
4. PNO-IV-99-035A, Union Electric Co. (Callaway 1), PLANT SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO HEATER DRAIN LINE BREAK-UPDATE
5. PNO-IV-99-036, Siemens Nuclear Power Corporation, CRITICALITY SAFETY SPECIFICATION LIMIT POTENTIALLY EXCEEDED

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Rulemaking Activities for the Week Ending August 20, 1999

Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities; Risk-Informed Revisions, Option 3 (Part 50)

A document announcing a public workshop to explore changes to the regulations in 10 CFR Part 50 to incorporate risk-informed attributes was published in the Federal Register on August 13, 1999 (64 FR 44137). The workshop will be held September 15, 1999.

Certification Renewal and Amendment Process (Part 76)

A final rule that amends the regulations applicable to gaseous diffusion plants to simplify the certification and amendment process applicable to those plants was published in the Federal Register on August 17, 1999 (64 FR 44645). The final rule modifies the certificate renewal process, establishes a process for certificate amendments comparable to the process used to amend a fuel cycle license, and makes several additional procedural simplifications. The final rule becomes effective September 16, 1999.

Elimination of the Requirement for Noncombustible Fire Barrier Penetration Seal Materials and Other Minor Changes (Part 50)

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations concerning fire protection at nuclear power plants was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1999 (64 FR 44860). The proposed rule would remove the requirement that fire barrier penetration seals be noncombustible and make other minor changes. The comment period on this action closes November 1, 1999.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of August 13, 1999 through August 19, 1999:

Custodial Management Services, Sol #RS-ADM-00-005. (FOIA/PA 99-319)

OI Case File 3-98-007 with Exhibits. (FOIA/PA 99-320)

Radioactive Waste Land Burials and NRC requirements for decommissioning underground storage tanks associated with wastewater at a research reactor. (FOIA/PA 99-321)

Shiprock site, Shiprock, NM. (FOIA/PA 99-322)

Task Interface Agreement (TIA) related to Fermi 2 Plant, request and response. (FOIA/PA 99-323)

Radiation exposure records. (FOIA/PA 99-324)

Contracts, NRC's most recent listing of active contracts. (FOIA/PA 99-325)

Wisconsin, list of NRC General Licenses. (FOIA/PA 99-326)

Release of radioactive materials into the sanitary sewer system in zip codes 90001 through 90831 and 91020 through 91608. (FOIA/PA 99-327)

Self, NRC records between 1958-1959 and 1968-1975. (FOIA/PA 99-328)

Grounds Maintenance and Snow Removal, Sol #RS-ADM-00-004. (FOIA/PA 99-329)

Custodial Management Services, Sol #RS-ADM-00-005. (FOIA/PA 99-330)

Custodial Management Services, Sol #RS-ADM-00-005, relevant Section B. (FOIA/PA 99-331)

Sol #RS-ADM-00-005. (FOIA/PA 99-332)

Solicitation for RS-ADM-00-005. (FOIA/PA 99-333)

Custodial Management Services, Sol #RS-ADM-00-005. (FOIA/PA 99-334)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Arrivals		
TURNER, Anita	HEALTH PHYSICIST INTERN	NMSS
Departures		
BURTNER, Jennifer	SUMMER CLERK	NMSS
HENRY, Alvin	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
SACKETT, Gregory	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Media Interest

There was press interest in NRC's response to EPA's issuance of their proposed radiation protection standards for Yucca Mountain.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
99-178	NRC Changes Regulations for Renewing or Amending USEC Certificates
99-179	NRC's Response to EPA's Issuance of Draft Dose Standard for Yucca Mountain
99-180	NRC Proposes to Amend Regulations to Add Three Fuel Storage Cask Designs to Approved List
Regions:	
I-99-68	Changes in NRC Licensing Requirements for Operators to be Discussed at Two-Day Workshop in Philadelphia
I-99-69	NRC to Discuss Decommissioning Plan for Millstone 1 Reactor at Public Meeting in Waterford, Conn., on August 25
II-99-46	NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant
IV-99-29	Ellis Merschoff, NRC Regional Administrator, to Hold Press Conference in Richland
IV-99-30	NRC Monitors Hurricane Bret

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Visit of Staff Member of the Council for Nuclear Safety, South Africa

Ms. Hester Maria "Terma" Kussman, an employee of the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) of South Africa, will be on assignment to the NRC for two weeks beginning September 2, 1999. She will be assigned to the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB), Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). The purpose of this visit is to gain knowledge on application of risk insights and PRA results to decision-making regulatory matters. Ms. Kussman's visit is sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fellowship program.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 20, 1999

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY 99-181	07/09/99	Proposed Plans and Schedules to Modify Reporting Requirements Other than 10CFR 50.72 and 50.73 For Power Reactors and Materials Licenses
SRM on 99-181	08/13/99	(Same)
Voting Record on 99-181	08/13/99	(Same)
SECY-99-195	7/29/99	Notation Vote on an Exemption for Decommissioning Management Program Sites with Decommissioning Plans Under Nuclear Regulatory Commission Review and Eligible for Grandfathering, Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1401(b)(3)
SRM on 99-195	8/18/99	(same)
Voting Record on 99-195	8/18/99	(same)
Information Papers		
SECY 99-196	7/30/99	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 23, 1999
SECY 99-198	8/4/99	U.S. National Report for the Convention on Nuclear Safety
SECY 99-204	8/4/99	Kaowool and FP-60 Fire Barriers
SECY 99-206	8/5/99	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 30, 1999
SECY 99-199	7/3/99	Electrosleeve Amendment Issued to Union Electric Company For Callaway Plant, Unit 1

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Honorable Albert Gore, Jr, dated August 13, 1999, transmitting the Annual Report for 1998 of the US NRC
2. Letters to Congress, dated August 13, 1999, regarding the Commission's concerns of the proposed funding reductions in HR 2605 and language in its accompanying report (House Report 106-253) regarding the status of NRC activities for consideration by the House/Senate Conference Committee
3. Letters to Congress, dated August 13, 1999, transmitting the NRC's August 1999 quarterly report on the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem as submitted to the Office of Management and Budget
4. Letter to Governor Taft, dated August 11, 1999, informing the Governor that the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved the proposed Agreement under which the NRC will discontinue and the State of Ohio will assume regulatory authority over the acquisition, possession, use, transfer, and disposal of byproduct material, source material, and special nuclear material in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass
5. Letter to Ralph H Stoll, Director, US Affairs Pangea Resources, dated August 8, 1999, responding to offer to formally brief the Chairman regarding the Pangea concept
6. Letter to the Honorable Richard F Celeste, Ambassador of the United States of America, US Embassy, concerning support for reestablishing the Science Counselor position in New Delhi

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 50, and 70; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Petition for Rulemaking Denial [PRM-50-65]
2. 10 CFR Part 50; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Petition for Rulemaking Denial [PRM-50-66]
3. 10 CFR Parts 50 and 70; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Petition for Rulemaking Denial [PRM-50-67]
4. 10 CFR Part 35; Jeffery C. Angel; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking [PRM-35-15]

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Operator Licensing Conference

On August 17 and 18, Region I, in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Nuclear Training Group and the American Nuclear Society, conducted a workshop on the recent changes in 10 CFR 55, Enforcement Policy, and Operator Licensing Standards. In addition to developing a common understanding of the changes, the purpose of the workshop was to provide an environment for candid exchange of implementation issues and concerns through plenary and small group sessions. The conference was attended mostly by Region I Power Reactor Licensee representatives and their contractors and also by some Region III NRC and Licensee personnel. Representatives from the Operator Licensing Program Office were present and the Director of NRR gave a keynote speech at the working lunch on the first day of the conference.

Nine Mile Point Units 1 & 2, Indian Point 2, Indian Point 3, FitzPatrick, and Ginna

On August 19, Region I staff (DRP Branch Chiefs and the State Liaison Officer) met with officials of New York State to discuss plant performance and regulatory oversight of power reactors in New York. The meeting takes place annually.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah

On August 20, representatives from Tennessee Valley Authority attended a management meeting in the Regional office to discuss recent Sequoyah Nuclear Plant performance. The licensee discussed plant performance, performance indicators, and the status of long-term projects.

Oconee License Renewal Scoping Meeting

On August 16-18, NRC Region II representatives met with Duke Energy Corporation management and staff to discuss the scope of design basis events included in the Oconee license renewal application. The Chief, Licensee Renewal and Standardization Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, also participated in the meeting.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 20, 1999

Management Meeting with American Electric Power Company

On August 19, a management meeting was conducted in the NRC Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from American Electric Power Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the status of licensing issues and current plans and schedules of activities regarding the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 20, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 31

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	TBA SD-342	TBA	Markup	S. 59, S. 1244: Regulatory Reform bills	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Gerke	TBA	TBA	Markup	H.R. 2445, Federalism Accountability Act	Reps. Burton/Waxman Government Reform
Combs	TBA SD-406	10:00	Markup	S. 1090, Superfund Reauthorization	Senators Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Portner	09/23/99 TBA	TBA	Commission	NRC Authorization	Senators Inhofe/Graham Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property & Nuclear Safety Environment & Public Works

Note: Congress will return from August recess on September 8.