

January 18, 1996

SECY-96-012

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/s/
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - FOR THE WEEKS ENDING JANUARY 5 AND
JANUARY 12, 1996

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Operator Licensing Branch Counterparts Meeting

On January 3 and 4, 1996, the Operator Licensing Branch (HOLB), conducted a meeting with its regional counterparts. The purpose of the counterparts meeting was to review the pilot examination process which involves greater licensee participation in the examination process, discuss the lessons learned to date, and plan for the remaining pilot examinations. To date, 11 of the 22 scheduled pilot examinations have been administered. The pilot examination process will be completed in early April 1996. A Commission briefing is planned for late April to outline the results of the pilot program and to detail future staff plans for the operator licensing program.

Fire Endurance Tests of Darmatt Fire Barrier System

On December 20, 1995, Daniele Oudinot, Plant Systems Branch, witnessed a 3-hour fire endurance test of Darmatt KM-1 performed at Faverdale Technology Center, Darlington, England, by Carolina Power and Light (CPL) and IES Utilities, Inc. (IES). Darmatt KM-1, a fire barrier system designed and manufactured by Darchem Engineering, Inc., will be used by CPL and IES to replace certain Thermo-Lag barriers at Brunswick and Duane Arnold. The test plan, installation procedure, and quality control were provided by Transco Products, Inc., Chicago, the sole subvender of Darmatt KM-1 in the United States.

The test specimens sponsored by CPL and IES met, with margin, the thermal and hose stream acceptance criteria specified in Generic Letter 86-10, Supplement 1, "Fire Endurance Test Acceptance Criteria for Fire Barrier Systems Used to Separate Redundant Safe Shutdown Trains Within the Same Fire Area."

Harris Unit 1

On December 27, 1995, the unit was shut down to repair a feedwater heater. The licensee inspected the heater's interior with a video camera and noted that a stainless steel baffle plate (about 6 feet long by 3 feet wide and 1/2 inch thick and curved to fit the interior of the heater) was not where it was shown on drawings. Failed weld indications were also observed. The licensee suspected that the baffle plate welds failed due to thermal expansion between the stainless steel plate and the shell of the heater and then was agitated sufficiently to allow it to travel nearly the full length of the heater to a point blocking suction to the heater's drain pump.

The licensee replaced the baffle plate and qualified the new welds. The unit resumed power operation on December 31, 1995, and is currently at full power.

Browns Ferry

TVA has submitted a license amendment application to increase the allowable main steam isolation valve leakage. This submittal is a pilot application utilizing the new source term for operating reactors, and is based on the analysis framework document developed by NEI.

Watts Bar Unit 1

The plant entered Mode 4 on December 29, 1995. TVA is conducting surveillance testing in preparation for entering Mode 2. TVA's current schedule projects criticality sometime during the week of January 15, 1996.

Fort Calhoun Station Unit 1

On December 8, 1995, as supplemented on December 15, 1995, the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) requested a schedular exemption from certain 10 CFR 50 Appendix E requirements. The request was needed to complete the offsite portion of biennial emergency preparedness exercise. The licensee performed the onsite portions of the scheduled biennial exercise on November 14, 1995. Because of the Federal budget impasse, the offsite portion of the exercise could not be supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or by the Nebraska or Iowa State Emergency Management Agencies.

The staff has reviewed the exemption request and concluded that special circumstances did exist. On December 28, 1995, the staff issued a schedular exemption to provide temporary relief from applicable requirements. The exemption allows the licensee until the end of the first quarter of 1996 to complete the offsite portion of the emergency exercise. Staff efforts regarding the schedular exemption were coordinated with NRC Region IV, FEMA Headquarters, and FEMA Region VII.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Revised Abnormal Occurrence Criteria

A Federal Register Notice proposing revised abnormal occurrence (AO) criteria was sent to the Office of the Federal Register on January 4, 1996, for publication. The proposed revision represents a change in the policy for AO reporting originally published in the Federal Register on February 24, 1977 (42 FR 10950), and revised in 1984. Mainly it includes changes to the misadministration AO criteria and provides consistency with the revised 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed AO criteria, the change in AO report publication frequency from quarterly to annually (recently enacted into law), and implementation of AO streamlining suggestions recently approved by the Commission will substantially reduce the NRC staff effort expended preparing AO reports. The public comment period for the proposed AO criteria ends 90 days from the date of publication.

Preliminary Notifications

- a. PNO-II-96-001, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, THERAPEUTIC MISADMINISTRATION.
- b. PNO-II-96-002, Florida Power Corporation (Crystal River 3), FORCED SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 72 HOURS.
- c. PNO-III-96-001, Memorial Medical Center, THERAPEUTIC MISADMINISTRATION-- UNDERDOSAGE (STATE OF ILLINOIS LICENSEE).
- d. PNO-IV-96-001A, Non-Licensee, SOURCE ROD FROM MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE DISCOVERED IN A LOAD OF SCRAP STEEL (UPDATE).

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Requests Received during the Period of December 29, 1995 - January 12, 1996

Request for the NMSS database of medical licensees on diskette. (Randy Goetz; Toyon Research Corporation; FOIA-96-001)

Request for the NMSS database of licensees on diskette. (Wallace Loder; Tracer Technologies International, Inc.; FOIA-96-002)

Request for a copy of the license #37-28453-01 for the Nuclear Imaging Systems dated February 24, 1995, and supporting letters dated 5/9/95, 6/6/95, 7/14/95, 8/30/95, and 10/27/95. (Charles Rose; American Association of Nuclear Cardiology, Inc.; FOIA-96-005)

Request for copies of any notice of apparent violations and any confirmatory action letters involving Bergen Diagnostics in Paramus, NJ related to a December 1992 incident, and copies of any reportable events regarding violations or other documentation that may have involved the misadministration of radio pharmaceuticals. (Debra Ostrander of Hurley & Vasios; FOIA-96-006)

Request for a copy of all notices of violation with supporting documentation as they relate to the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. (Steven Weiss of the Weiss law office; FOIA-96-007)

Request for records related to deaths by radiation sickness at the University of Chicago, IL, in the late 1950s thru early 1960s. (Individual; FOIA-96-008)

Request for a listing of the I.M.P.A.C. credit card holders with addresses. (C.J. Harris; BACO, Inc.; FOIA-96-009)

Request for four categories of records related to the Yankee Atomic Electric Company and the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant. (Philip Troy of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius)

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
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Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board Meeting Held

On January 11, 1996, the SES Review Board met to review Office Director and Regional Administrator recommendations for Presidential Rank Awards. The Board's recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Director for Operations.

Arrivals

BILLINGS, Danny	REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT)	RI
REPLOGLE, George	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RIV

Retirements

BARBER, Hiawatha	SR. CIVIL RIGHTS SPEC. (PFT)	SBCR
BELL, Will	SR. COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST (PFT)	IRM
PAUL, Corinne	SECRETARY (OA) (PFT)	NRR
DIEHL, David	CHIEF, INFORMATION TECH SVCS. (PFT)	IRM
ENDERS, Joan	SECRETARY (PFT)	IRM
FRAZIER, Thelma	SPECIAL ASSISTANT (PFT)	OC
GREGG, Harold	SR. REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT)	RI
HARRIS, Richard	NDE TECHNICIAN (PFT)	RI
KIESSEL, Richard	SR. REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT)	NRR
MORAN, David	PROJECT MANAGER (PFT)	NRR
O'CONNOR, Paul	SR. PROJECT MANAGER (PFT)	NRR
PERANICH, Mark	SR. PROJECT MANAGER (PFT)	RII
PREVATTE, Richard	SR. RESIDENT INSPECTOR (PFT)	RII
SRENIAWSKI, Donald	SR. RADIATION SPECIALIST (PFT)	RIII
SWIFT, Jerry	SR. HEALTH PHYSICIST (PFT)	NMSS
WILLIAMS, Francis	PROJECT MANAGER (PFT)	NRR

Departures

CAREY, Frances	OFFICE RESIDENT ASSISTANT (PFT)	RII
FRANKLIN, Tameika	TECHNICAL INTERN	ACRS
GUO, Bonnie	TECHNICAL INTERN	ACRS

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Press Releases

Regions:

II-96-02	NRC Chairman's Visit to Brunswick Plant Postponed
II-96-03	NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant
96-03	Comanche Peak Rated "Superior" in Three Areas and "Good" in One in Assessment Report

Region I
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Applied Health Physics Bankruptcy

On December 26, 1995, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania ordered that the bankruptcy case for Applied Health Physics (a radioactive waste broker in Bethel Park, PA) was reconverted from Chapter 7 to Chapter 11, effective immediately. Applied Health Physics had agreed to stop accepting any more radioactive waste from its customers. Applied Health Physics will provide the NRC with a plan for the safe disposal of the radioactive waste remaining on the site.

Region II
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar

Watts Bar conducted various pre-critical tests. A small leak was found in a socket weld on a three-quarter inch bypass line associated with normal charging: the leak was outside of the primary pressure boundary. If TVA is successful in making a repair with the plant hot, they expect initial criticality will be during the week of January 15.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River 3

Crystal River 3 was taken to mode 5 on January 9, 1996, to repair a condenser tube leak, which was allowing seawater intrusion into the secondary plant. The leaking tube was identified when instrumentation indicated increases in feedwater system chlorides, sodium and conductivity. The unit is currently shutdown. All associated repairs and restart items are expected to be completed on January 17, 1996, in preparation for startup.

Applied Radiant Energy Corporation

The licensee is located near Lynchburg, Virginia, and is licensed to use Cesium-137 in WESF (Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility) capsules for irradiation of wood products. The capsules are located in a source assembly, which remains in a pool of water at all times.

On January 10, 1996, the licensee found that the transport system used to move the source assembly across the bottom of the irradiator pool had jammed. This mechanism is not a safety system and is for production purposes only. The licensee unloaded the assembly, stored the sources in the pool and removed the assembly to determine the problem. The licensee measured no radiation levels in excess of background and personnel did not receive any measurable radiation exposure during this activity. The licensee is repairing the system and will test it before reloading the capsules.

Region III
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Braidwood and Byron Nuclear Power Stations

At noon on January 11, 1996, at both Braidwood and Byron stations, union members walked to the station entrance and formed a group near the plant road for five minutes. Approximately 50 to 90 station members participated at each station. A union rally was also held in the morning at the licensee's corporate office in downtown Chicago. The rally was in response to the licensee's unilateral implementation of their final contract offer on January 1, 1996, following the union contract expiration on April 1, 1995.

Prairie Island Nuclear Station

On January 10, 1996, U.S. Senator Rod Grams of Minnesota toured Prairie Island Nuclear Station. The visit was at the invitation of the licensee.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Weeks Ending January 5 and 12, 1996

Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) Chief Operating Officer Designated

Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) announced on Wednesday, January 3, 1996, that Jerry Yelverton, the Arkansas Nuclear One Vice President of Operations, will become Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of EOI. The previous Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Harry Keiser, left EOI on December 18, 1995, to become Vice President of PWR Operations at Commonwealth Edison. Lon Waldinger, the General Manager of Plant Operations at Arkansas Nuclear One, will be the acting senior site manager until a replacement for Jerry Yelverton is announced.

Deputy Regional Administrator Visit to Waterford 3

On January 11, 1996, the Deputy Regional Administrator met with members of the Waterford 3 management staff, including the Vice President Operations, to discuss the role of the NRC and ways to improve regulatory interface. The meeting was intended to be an open exchange of concepts and concerns.

Diablo Canyon Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On January 12, 1996, a predecisional enforcement conference was held, at the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Diablo Canyon) regarding an auxiliary transformer catastrophic failure and resultant loss of offsite power event while shutdown. The Region IV Regional Administrator and staff met with senior managers of PG&E (including Jim Shiffer, Executive Vice President, CEO) regarding this matter.

Personnel Changes at Southern California Edison

On January 12, 1996, Harold Ray, Executive Vice President, and Dwight Nunn, the new Vice President, Nuclear Engineering and Technical Support, of Southern California Edison met with members of the NRC Region IV management staff to introduce Mr. Nunn and discuss matters of mutual interest.