

January 4, 1996

SECY-96-006

For: The Commissioners

From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of
the EDO
/s/

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 29,
1995

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending Decemember 29, 1995

Oyster Creek

Oyster Creek had a reactor trip (after 367 days of continuous operation) on December 17 after a plant transient occurred within the main generator stator cooling system, causing a high temperature condition in the stator. The plant was cooled down and remained shut down until December 27 to perform maintenance activities.

Although the trip had minimal safety significance, it drew considerable media interest, partly because of a premature statement by Region I that the cause was personnel error. The licensee claimed initially, and later confirmed, that personnel error was not the root cause. The media also used the term "shut down indefinitely" when GPUN did not give them a definite date for restart.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1

Ownership Transfer

On December 20, 1995, the NRC signed an order consenting to the proposed transfer of Ohio Edison Company's 17.42-percent ownership of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 to a wholly owned subsidiary, OES Nuclear Inc. Ohio Edison intends to execute the transfer by December 31, 1995. Then, in 1996, Ohio Edison will lease back the ownership share. The plant operators, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Centerior Service Company, and the remaining owners are unaffected by the transfer.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

United States Enrichment Corporation Criticality Safety Meeting

On December 20, 1995, a meeting was held between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), and USEC contractor staffs at USEC headquarters to discuss issues concerning nuclear criticality safety as it might affect operations at the two gaseous diffusion plants following Certification by the NRC. These two plants are located near Paducah, Kentucky, and Piketon, Ohio. Discussions centered on margin-of-safety, double contingency requirements, and quality assurance (QA) as they could affect nuclear criticality safety. Considerable progress toward resolving the margin-of-safety and double contingency issues was made during the meeting. The QA issue was discussed, but the resolution was deferred pending resolution of another safety issue presented in a December 11, 1995, letter from USEC to the NRC.

Joint Agreement State-Nuclear Regulatory Commission Working Group Meeting

The Joint Agreement State-Nuclear Regulatory Commission Working Group, formed to review the regulation of devices containing radioactive material, held its second public meeting on December 19-21, 1995, in Rockville, Maryland. The Commission directed its staff to explore the problem of accidental smelting of devices containing licensed radioactive materials and approved a staff plan to form an Agreement State-NRC Working Group to review the regulation of these devices. This group consists of three Agreement State and three NRC representatives, and is co-chaired by Robert Free (Texas) and Joel Lubenau (NRC). Articles on the Working Group have appeared in the Health Physics Society Newsletter and American Metal Market, a metal industry trade journal.

In addition to the Working Group members, a liaison from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., also participated in the meeting. Twenty-nine other persons attended the meeting. NRC staff briefed the group on NRC data bases related to licensing, inspection, enforcement and tracking of events involving radioactive devices. The group also developed plans for a public workshop that will be held January 18-19, 1996, in Rockville, Maryland.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

FOIA Requests Received by the NRC for the 5-Day Period of
December 22 - December 29, 1995

Request for a copy of all active NRC licensees. (Mitchell Davis;
American Radiation Services, Inc.; FOIA-95-504)

Request for a specified listing of active contracts. (Craig Little;
Z, Inc.; FOIA-95-505)

Request for a copy of the FOIA case log for calendar year 1995.
(Individual; FOIA-95-506)

Request for records relating to fraud, false statements, falsification
of data, etc. by licensees of non-power reactors. (A. Makhijani;
Institute for Energy and Environmental Research; FOIA-95-507)

Request for records regarding enforcement action EA-95-144 related to
the Zion nuclear power plant. (Individual; FOIA-95-511)

Request for information related to NRC licensees in the state of New
Jersey. (Jeanette Eng; NJ Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal
Facility Siting Board; FOIA-95-513)

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

The agency was saddened by the death on December 24, 1995 of Calvin Moon, a Senior Reactor Engineer for the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Arrivals

GARRETT, Betty	SECRETARY (OA) (OPFT)	OP/SPAC
HSU, Cynthia	CLERICAL AIDE	ACRS
TINGEN, Stephen	QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER (PFT)	NRR

Retirements

KANE, Joseph	SR. CIVIL ENGINEER (PFT)	NMSS
LINDSAY, Roger	CHIEF, AUDIO VISUAL SECTION (PFT)	ADM
LOOSLEY, Donald	SR. PROGRAM ANAL. (PFT)	NMSS
MAURA, Federico	REACTOR INSPECTOR (PFT)	RIII
REDMOND, John	SR. LIBRARIAN (PFT)	IRM
ROBINSON, Richard, Jr.	SR. RELIABILITY & RISK ANAL. (PFT)	RES
WEISS, Bernard	SR. EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORD. (PFT)	AEOD

Departures

LINDSAY, Joan	SECRETARY (PFT)	NRR
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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

Amersham

Pursuant to 10 CFR 21.21, Amersham Corporation, Burlington, MA, notified the NRC Operations Center on December 12, 1995, that two Model 660B radiography cameras (designed for iridium-192 sources) were reported to have loosening of screws holding the locking assembly to the rear plate of the cameras. A written report was transmitted by facsimile the same day. The loosened screws were identified on two cameras produced in the same lot of 16 cameras manufactured in July 1994. For that lot of cameras, Amersham Corporation believes that the four screws holding the locking assembly to the rear plate were not torqued to the required specification. If the screws loosen sufficiently, the source could be pulled past the fully shielded position. Although the problem was noted only in one lot, Amersham Corporation is planning to send an information notice to all users of the cameras advising them to assure that the locking mechanism is secure, and re-emphasizing the necessity for performing daily, quarterly, and annual inspections of the equipment.

REGION II
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

1. Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar

Watts Bar completed the cleaning of the reactor coolant pump strainers and entered Hot Shutdown (Mode 4) on December 26. The heatup was continued, and the plant entered Hot Standby (Mode 3) on December 28. There is a significant amount of testing to be completed in Mode 3 before initial criticality, which TVA is currently scheduling for January 15, 1996.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 1995

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

On December 26, 1995, the licensee began the process for storing spent fuel in dry casks on site. Loading is currently in process and fuel is now in the first cask. The licensee will load a total of three casks in this current series.