

INFORMATION

May 18, 2000

SECY-00-0109

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0109 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 12, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2000

License Renewal Applications

On May 8, 2000, the staff held a public meeting with Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), to discuss the technical review of the license renewal application (LRA) for Hatch 1 and 2. This application was received on March 1, 2000. The staff is developing requests for additional information (RAIs) and initial drafts of the safety evaluation. No RAIs have been sent to SNC to date.

The staff presented several examples of information which was expected but not found in the application. Areas of interest include: missing aging management program attributes, need for supplemental information to support conclusions related to the need to manage aging effects, inconsistencies between portions of the LRA, and need for additional information to support a reasonable assurance finding. In most areas, information needs involved subjects that were addressed by Baltimore Gas and Electric or Duke Power in their applications or responses to staff questions.

The applicant was responsive to the staff's examples. They described the process used to prepare the application and their reasons for the level and format of information they provided. The staff and the applicant will continue to reflect on the lessons learned as the review activities progress, and the staff will incorporate the lessons-learned into the license renewal process. The staff recommended that SNC be prepared to respond more broadly to the staff's questions to ensure that the descriptions of the renewal scope and aging management activities can completely support the staff's evaluation finding. Both the staff and SNC are attentive to timely work and resolving questions and issues and feel that the schedule for completion of the renewal review can be met so long as effective communication continues.

Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant - Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Decision on Technical Contentions

On May 5, 2000, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a decision in favor of Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) in the hearing related to CP&L's request to expand the spent fuel storage capacity at the Harris Nuclear Plant by placing two additional spent fuel pools (SFPs) in service. The two admitted contentions were related to (1) whether General Design Criterion (GDC) 62 allows the use of administrative controls to prevent criticality (TC-2); and (2) whether the piping for the SFP 'C' and 'D' cooling system was required to satisfy the Appendix B quality assurance requirements during the time it was not in service (TC-3).

In its decision, the ASLB concluded that "(1) there is no genuine and substantial dispute of fact or law that can only be resolved with sufficient accuracy by the introduction of evidence in an evidentiary hearing; and (2) contentions TC-2 and TC-3 are disposed of as being resolved in favor of CP&L."

The ASLB determination on the admissibility of the late-filed environmental contentions in this case is still pending. In a May 5, 2000, Memorandum and Order (Requesting Additional

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Information), the ASLB requested that all parties address the relevance, if any, of the April 13, 2000, ACRS letter commenting on the staff's February 2000, "Draft Final Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool Accident Risk at Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants." Filings are due on May 15, 2000, and responses to other party filings are due on May 22, 2000. (The ASLB had previously requested that the parties comment on the relevance of the staff's Study to the Harris case - the staff's filing/response were submitted on March 29, and April 5, stating that the report was not relevant to the Harris case.)

Maine Yankee

On Thursday, May 4, 2000, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company gave formal notice to Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation (SWEC) terminating the existing contract for the decommissioning of the Maine Yankee site. Maine Yankee took this step due to financial difficulties and impending legal proceedings SWEC has encountered from contracts other than Maine Yankee. Over the weekend, Maine Yankee evaluated possible 30-day contracts with SWEC to continue decommissioning activities. However, on Monday, May 8, 2000, SWEC announced that it would seek bankruptcy court approval of its proposed sale of substantially all its assets to Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. and sent a letter to Maine Yankee announcing demobilization of its onsite workforce. Workers from SWEC and its subcontractors are removing equipment and gear this week as well as performing radiological checkouts from the site.

Maine Yankee has implemented a Contingency Action Plan to address radiological, security, and safety issues at the facility. Under the contract with SWEC, Maine Yankee is allowed to work directly with SWEC's subcontractors and has retained workers from RSI to continue to perform radiological services. Site security services were directly contracted to Maine Yankee and additional security has been implemented to protect against pilferage and vandalism. In the meantime, dismantlement activities have been suspended and work activity areas placed in safe conditions until Maine Yankee management can determine what option to pursue to complete the project. Maine Yankee has indicated that it has several options to consider, including managing the project itself (possibly using the same subcontractors), renegotiating another contract with SWEC (and/or Jacobs Engineering), or re-bidding the project.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
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Annual U.S./Australian Safeguards Discussions

On May 9, 2000, the annual U.S./Australian safeguards discussions were held at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. A representative from the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office was present. Topics discussed included implementation of the U.S./Australian administrative arrangements, status of the SILEX agreement and project, and the Australian experience and U.S. progress with the additional protocol to the U.S./International Atomic Energy Agency Agreement.

Public Meeting to Discuss the Comments on Draft NUREG-1718

On May 9, 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public meeting to discuss comments received on draft NUREG-1718, "Standard Review Plan to Review an Application for a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility." Meeting participants included representatives from Duke Cogema Stone and Webster Consortium, the Nuclear Control Institute, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Department of Energy. In addition, representatives from Environmentalists, Inc., the League of Women Voters, and Nuclear Information and Resource Service Southeast participated via telephone. Participants characterized the meeting as useful for clarifying the NRC's intent in each of the technical areas covered in NUREG-1718 and provided positive feedback on the opportunity to participate. Citizen group representatives raised a series of questions about broader aspects of the NRC review process for the MOX fuel fabrication facility. The staff plans to address these questions in a public meeting near the Savannah River Site this summer.

Termination of Contract Between Department of Energy and BNFL, Inc.

On May 8, 2000, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced plans to terminate the contract between DOE and BNFL, Inc., for design, construction, and operation of the Hanford Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization facility to be located in Washington State. The original contract was signed with BNFL, Inc., in August 1998. As part of the contract requirements, BNFL, Inc., submitted a 20-month Fixed Price Proposal that included a bid of over \$15 billion (more than twice the cost expected when the contract was let in 1998) to continue the project. The contract will be terminated based upon the exorbitant cost proposed and other performance issues. DOE plans to use Bechtel Corporation to continue design work for the remainder of calendar year 2000 while DOE competes a new standard DOE contract for the remaining design and construction work. The DOE Regulatory Unit (the DOE safety oversight organization for the BNFL, Inc., privatized contract) currently expects to continue its role under any new contract and supports continued Nuclear Regulatory Commission involvement in the ongoing project.

Meeting with the Department of Energy Regarding the West Valley Remote-Handled Waste Facility

On May 4, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management met with the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors to discuss the preliminary safety analysis report (PSAR) for the remote-handled waste facility (RHWF) at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The West Valley Demonstration Project Act and the memorandum of understanding between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the DOE requires the NRC to review and comment on such safety analysis reports. The purpose of the RHWF is to cut up various radioactive waste forms, decontaminate to a limited extent, characterize, and repackage into appropriate types of waste containers. The meeting consisted of presentations by DOE and its contractors. The meeting also allowed the NRC staff an opportunity to ask questions about the RHWF and the PSAR. The NRC staff informed DOE that a formal request for additional information will be provided by June 29, 2000, followed by a safety evaluation report in August 2000. The meeting was also attended by a reporter from McGraw-Hill who asked no questions.

Meeting with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to Discuss Site Decommissioning

On May 8, 2000, staff of Region I and the Division of Waste Management met at Region I with staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the decommissioning of Site Decommissioning Management Plan sites and sites being evaluated as a result of the terminated license review. For each site, the staff discussed: background information and current status; current technical and policy issues; schedule; and anticipated near-term activities. Follow-on discussions are planned on a site-specific basis and to discuss State programmatic concerns such as resource needs.

Staff Attends Meeting with the Citizens Advisory Panel

On May 4, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management visited the Maine Yankee Nuclear Plant in Wicasset, Maine. The purpose of the trip was to tour the site, meet with the Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP), and to discuss the potential impact of the recent legislation with both the licensee and the CAP. The Governor of the state of Maine signed into law legislation (LD 2688-SP1084) that clarified the meaning of "low-level radioactive waste" for purposes of applying Maine's statutes. Among other things, this legislation requires contaminated, above grade structures to meet the limits in Table 1 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors," to allow for unrestricted release of the material and for the site not be characterized as low-level radioactive waste. It was NRC's understanding that Maine Yankee intended to comply with this legislation and the staff discussed its potential impact on the recently submitted License Termination Plan. The staff also discussed the Stone and Webster financial difficulties, and the termination of the Maine Yankee's decommissioning contract with Stone and Webster.

Integrated Performance Assessment Group

On May 3-5, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in the 3rd Integrated Performance Assessment Group (IPAG-3) workshop in Toronto, Canada. The workshop was organized by the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), Organization for Economic Co-

operation and Development, and hosted by Ontario Power Generation. The purpose of this workshop was to develop guidance on approaches used to establish confidence in long-term safety for nuclear waste repositories. Previous IPAG workshops developed guidance for comparing, documenting and reviewing performance assessments. There were 26 participants from 12 countries and the NEA, including both site implementers and regulators. Participants filled out a detailed questionnaire prior to the meeting on the general topic of experiences with iterative performance assessments, adequacy of barriers and multi-barrier systems, and supporting arguments for demonstrating confidence. The organizers prepared a compendium of the answers to the questions for discussion at the workshop. The final document will be prepared by Fall 2000, and will contain a glossary detailing how such terms as "multiple barriers," "multiple lines of reasoning," and "defense in depth" are defined and used by the participating countries.

Issuance of a Request for Additional Information on the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program Addendum to the Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology Topical Report

On May 9, 2000, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) issued a Request for Additional Information for the Department of Navy/Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) Addendum to the Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology Topical Report. DWM and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staff reviewed the Addendum with respect to post-closure disposal criticality of naval spent nuclear fuel. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission review identified additional information needs with respect to NNPP modeling of material degradation processes, identification of credible configurations of the spent fuel and waste canister, and neutronic modeling and validation. The NNPP will also need to provide additional detail for other open issues in the high-level waste program. NNPP is proposing to use the same canister for the interim storage, transport, and geologic disposal of naval spent nuclear fuel.

Public Meetings on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulatory Process for a Possible Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain

On May 4, 2000, staff of the Division of Waste Management (DWM) held two public meetings in Nevada on the process the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will use to license and regulate the potential high-level nuclear waste disposal facility at Yucca Mountain. The first of these, an information workshop, was held at the Clark County Government Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. The target audience for this workshop was the professional staff of affected interests, such as state and local government agencies, as well as citizen groups. It was open to the public and provided a forum for attendees to share their concerns and ask questions. A second public meeting was held in Pahrump, Nevada.

At both meetings, the NRC staff presented an overview of the licensing process; the role of NRC technical staff (docketing and evaluation of a license application); access to licensing information; and the NRC inspection process. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer period. The recent appointment of an additional staff member to the NRC's On-site representative's (OR's) office in Las Vegas was announced at both meetings. It was noted that his move to the Las Vegas office will enhance NRC's ability to interact with affected units of local government and the Nevada public. The current members of the OR's office were also present, and were identified at the Las Vegas meeting. Copies of recent correspondence between local governments and the Chairman concerning the role and activities of the OR were

made available at sign-in tables for both meetings, as well as numerous NRC brochures and fact sheets. In addition, the NRC staff, with the assistance of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center), has begun developing informational flyers and display boards to highlight the roles of NRC and the Center, and to explain opportunities for public involvement in NRC's regulatory process for Yucca Mountain. These materials were made available to attendees, and, following each meeting, NRC staff met informally with members of the public.

From questions asked at these meetings, DWM staff is aware of considerable interest, concern, and confusion with regard to the details of the licensing process, and, in particular, how the public will be allowed to participate. Attendees at the information workshop expressed concern with the nature and extent of NRC's pre-licensing interactions with the Department of Energy (DOE), asserting that such interactions could lead to a predetermined decision to approve a license for Yucca Mountain. The NRC staff took these opportunities to repeatedly affirm NRC's independence from DOE, to explain that the process is open, informal and not binding on a future licensing process, and, further, that the NRC will reach conclusions about all technical issues that are justified by the evidence.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2000

Draft Report, "Causes and Significance of Design-Basis Issues at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants,"
Issued for Peer Review

A draft report, "Causes and Significance of Design-Basis Issues at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants," was issued to industry groups, public interest groups, and cognizant NRC groups for peer review on May 8, 2000. This report documents the results of a systematic and comprehensive study of design-basis issue (DBI) trends and patterns following a limited review that began in early 1997 by the former Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data. The study provides insights from reported DBIs with respect to their causes, significant patterns within both the power reactor industry and power reactor systems, frequency trends, safety consequences, and risk significance. The study also provides insights into lessons that may be useful in assessing the regulatory effectiveness of NRC's evolving inspection and plant performance assessment processes and the definition of plant design basis, as well as regulatory burden implications related to NRC licensee event reporting requirements for DBIs. The insights from this study are intended to assist NRC's and industry's ongoing efforts to make NRC's regulatory framework and oversight process more risk-informed and performance-based and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden.

The study found, from 1985 through 1997, increases in the number of reported DBIs that coincided with NRC initiatives such as inspection programs and generic communications having a strong design element. Using a conservative screening process to determine the risk significance of DBIs occurring in 1997, it was found that approximately 77 percent of the DBIs had either minimal risk or no risk significance. For DBIs that were considered potentially risk significant, the report has a number of observations, including (1) none involved a safety demand for a system, structure, or component whose function was adversely impacted by the DBI, (2) 86 percent involved potential failures or potential degradations rather than actual failures or actual degradations, (3) 64 percent were accounted for by three safety-related systems, (4) the group of plants licensed before 1975 tended to have a higher percentage of units with at least one potentially risk-significant DBI than did newer licensed plants, (5) the group of plants classified as "multi-unit" tended to have a higher percentage of plants with at least one potentially risk-significant DBI than the group of plants classified as "single unit," (6) BWRs were more likely to have a potentially risk significant DBI than were PWRs. From 1990 to 1997, there was a steady decline in the ratio of the number of accident sequence precursor (ASP) events (conditional core damage probability $\geq 10^{-6}$) with DBIs to the total number of DBIs reported in licensee event reports (LERs). In 1991, about 8.3 percent of DBIs reported in LERs were determined to be ASP events. By 1997, less than 1 percent of all DBIs reported in LERs were determined to be ASP events. Finally, from 1992 through 1997, there were 14 "important" ASP events (conditional core damage probability $\geq 10^{-4}$) from all causes. Only three of the important ASP events during this period involved DBIs and all occurred at PWRs.

The final report will be issued after receipt and resolution of peer review comments.

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Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
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Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-00-014, University of Connecticut, MISSING EXIT SIGN CONTAINING TRITIUM
2. PNO-II-00-021, U.S. Army, SMALL CALIBRATION SOURCE SET LOST DURING SHIPPING
3. PNO-II-00-021A, US. Army, SMALL CALIBRATION SOURCE SET LOST DURING SHIPPING - UPDATE
4. PNO-II-00-022, Virginia Power Co., NORTH ANNA UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP DUE TO MAIN GENERATOR BREAKER
5. PNO-III-00-017, Combustion Engineering, Inc., WESTINGHOUSE TO CLOSE ABB-CE FUEL FACILITY IN MISSOURI
6. PNO-III-00-013C, Mallinckrodt, Inc., UPDATE-EXTREMITY EXPOSURES IN EXCESS OF 2.5 GRAY (250 RADS)

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2000

Revised High-Level Guidelines for Performance-Based Activities (10 CFR Chapter I)

A document that requests public comment on the NRC's proposed high-level guidelines for developing a more performance-based regulatory framework was published in the Federal Register on May 9, 2000 (65 FR 26772). This document also proposes a process for implementing these guidelines and announces an online workshop to discuss the revisions and proposed process. The comment period expires June 23, 2000. The online workshop will be held on June 8, 2000.

United Plant Guard Workers of America; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-76-1)

A document that requests public comment on a petition for rulemaking submitted by the United Plant Guard Workers of America was published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2000 (65 FR 30018). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations concerning security at gaseous diffusion plants to address sites that have both special nuclear material security concerns and protection of classified matter concerns; to require that these facilities be able to detect, respond to, and mitigate threats of a sabotage event; and to require that the security force be armed and empowered to make arrests in limited situations. The petitioner believes that these amendments are necessary to address the protection of classified information, equipment and materials, and special nuclear material at the gaseous diffusion plants. The comment period on this petition closes July 24, 2000.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
May 05, 2000 through May 11, 2000:

Vacancy announcement 0016001, candidate evaluation, certification and selection record.
(FOIA/PA-2000-0228)

Marion Engineering Depot and/or Scioto Ordinance Plant, waste disposal (material, chemical,
or radioactive) as a result of experiments conducted at these sites. (FOIA/PA-2000-0229)

FOIA/PA-2000-0212, NRC response, Point Beach plant. (FOIA/PA-2000-0230)

Diablo Canyon, Pacific Gas & Electric, OI file re alleged harassment and intimidation of named
individual. (FOIA/PA-2000-0231)

Referral from DOJ. (FOIA/PA-2000-0232)

15 Franklin St., Seymour, CT, all records re location use by Bridgeport Brass, National Distiller
& Chemical Co., and/or Reactive Metals. (FOIA/PA-2000-0233)

Task Interface Agreements (TIAs), final TIA response for various identified sites and subjects,
1984-1997. (FOIA/PA-2000-0234)

Environmental site assessment, 404 Enterprise Dr., Lewis Center, OH. (FOIA/PA-2000-0235)

Nuclear Waste, general information. (FOIA/PA-2000-0236)

FOIA/PA-2000-0224, NRC's response. (FOIA/PA-2000-0237)

Inspection Manual, reference memo of 7/24/78, F. J. Nolan to R. Keimig re "Interpretation-
Requirements for Offsite Committee Audit Function." (FOIA/PA-2000-0238)

Radiation measurement statistics. (FOIA/PA-2000-0239)

Self, interview transcripts re OI case 2-98-023. (FOIA/PA-200-0240)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
FIJALKOWSKI, Louise	SITE SECRETARY	RIV
LEHNING, John	GENERAL ENGINEER	NRR
RAYNOR, Catherine	SECRETARY	NRR
YAZDI, Omid	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
Retirements		
BELLMAN, Elaine	SECRETARY (OA)	OCIO
PRENDERGAST, Kent	RADIATION SPECIALIST	RIV

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Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
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Media Interest

Chairman Meserve met with four reporters after his tour of the Oconee plant.

There was press interest in the D.C. Cook restart readiness team's inspection.

Region I reports continuing media interest in the augmented inspection team findings at Indian Point 2.

There was press interest in the Commission's meeting with stakeholders on the control of solid materials.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-79	NRC Amends Regulations for Reactor Safety Analysis Requirements
00-80	NRC Staff and Stakeholders to Brief Commission on May 25 on New Improvements to Public Petition Process
00-81	NRC Schedules Washington, D.C. Workshop on Fuel Facility Oversight Program
Regions:	
I-00-31	NRC to Meet With Public on Maine Yankee License Termination Plan
I-00-32	NRC to Solicit Comments on Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Document
I-00-33	NRC to Discuss Dismissal of Worker With Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center
II-00-20	NRC Staff Schedules Enforcement Conference in Puerto Rico May 18 to Discuss Apparent Violations with Caguas Company
II-0021	NRC Staff to Meet With Southern Nuclear May 17 to Discuss Company Corrective Actions Following January Event at Hatch Plant
II-00-22	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting May 24 in Jensen Beach to Discuss Changes in Oversight for the St. Lucie Plant

III-00-20	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Monticello Nuclear Power Plant
III-00-21	NRC Staff to Discuss D.C. Cook Inspection Findings
III-00-22	NRC to Hold Public Meetings May 18-19 in Michigan on Changes in Reactor Oversight and Latest Assessment of Fermi 2 Plant
IV-00-13	NRC to Meet With PG&E, Public on Safety Conscious Work Environment at Diablo Canyon
IV-00-14	NRC to Meet With Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Program for Callaway

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Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
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French Embassy Visitors

On May 8, Regis Babinet, Nuclear Counselor, and Denis Gardin, Economic and Industrial Counselor, of the French Embassy were briefed by the NRR staff on the life extension program for U.S. power reactors. Life extension has become a subject of keen interest in France.

French Delegation OT Observe Emergency Exercises

Final arrangements are being made to host a French delegation in early June to observe two emergency exercises. The six person delegation will be headed by J. Lachaume, Head of Emergency Management for the Directorate for the Safety of Nuclear Installations (DSIN) and will include five others from DSIN and the Institute for Protection and Nuclear Safety (IPSN). Arrangements are being jointly developed by IRO and NRR.

June 5 and 6 will be spent at NRC headquarters observing the Palisades exercise. This will be followed by two days at Seabrook to observe the plume and post plume phases of an exercise there.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMJSM-00-0002	4/19/00	Meritorious Award for EEO Excellence
SRM on 00-0002	5/10/00	(same)
Chmn. Meserve comments on -0002	5/2/00	(same)
Comm. Dicus comments on -0002	4/27/00	(same)
Comm. Diaz comments on -0002	5/1/00	(same)
Comm. McGaffigan comments on -0002	4/25/00	(same)
2. Commissioner Diaz vote sheet on SECY-99-279	3/27/00	Final Rule Amending the Fitness-For-Duty Rule
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0099	5/5/00	SECY-00-0099 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 28, 2000
2. SECY-00-0094	4/24/00	Status of Decommissioning Program
Memoranda		
1. M000503B	5/9/00	Briefing on Efforts Regarding Release of Solid Material (SECY-00-0070)
2. M000502	5/12/00	Briefing on Oconee License Renewal (SECY-00-0081)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated May 3, 2000, transmits the March monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties.
2. Letter to Douglas E. Roberts, Envirosafe Services of Idaho, Inc., dated May 3, 2000, concerns measures Envirosafe Services of Idaho has adopted to protect the environment and the health and safety of workers and the public from the disposal of Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) wastes.

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3. Letter to Congress, dated May 3, 2000, transmits the quarterly report on the denial of safeguards information.
4. Letter to Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio, dated May 3, 2000, concerns appointment of a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation .
5. Letter to Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly, dated May 2, 2000, concerns the steam generator tube failure that occurred at Indian Point 2 on February 15, 2000.
6. Letter to Congress, dated May 1, 2000, concerns legislation to repeal those provisions of law that require the NRC "to establish certain offices and functions."
7. Letter to Charles Kartman, DOS, dated May 1, 2000, concerns support of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) efforts to enhance nuclear safety in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
8. Letter to Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana, dated May 1, 2000, concerns appointment of a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation.
9. Letter to Professor Ajaya Kumar Gupta, North Carolina State University, dated May 1, 2000, concerns review of the description of the proposed technical divisions for SMiRT 16.
10. Letter to Congressman Sam Gejdenson, dated May 1, 2000, concerns the Millstone Nuclear Power Station emergency preparedness program.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-70]; Eric Joseph Epstein; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Revised.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2000

Senior NRC Management Meeting with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

On May 8, 2000, James Wiggins, Deputy Regional Administrator, George Pangburn, Director, DNMS, Region I and members of their staff met with Denise Chamberlain, Deputy Secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection; representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including David Allard, Director, Pennsylvania DEP and members of their staffs in the Region I office. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the status of the SDMP projects within the Commonwealth. John Greeves, Director, Division of Waste Management and Larry Camper, Chief, Decommissioning Branch and Robert Nelson attended from NMSS.

Coordination Meeting and Inspection of Former Army Facilities in Watertown, Massachusetts

On May 9, 2000, federal and state representatives met at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District office in Concord, MA, to discuss the status and regulatory processes for decommissioning two Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) parcels (now Arsenal Marketplace and General Services Administration (GSA) site). These sites were once part of the Army Material Testing Laboratory in Watertown, MA, and are now NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) sites and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Contingency Plan sites. The meeting was requested by NRC RI, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch and included representatives from the USACE, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, GSA Project Office in Boston, MA, Department of Environmental Protection and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Radiation Control Program. Discussion topics included NRC's request for additional information regarding characterization of the GSA site, funding projections from the FUDS program, groundwater monitoring scope of work, and potential licensing of the site to improve the timeliness of decommissioning activities at the GSA site.

Region II
Items of Interest
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Chairman Meserve visits to Oconee Nuclear Station

On May 11, Chairman Meserve and the Deputy Director of the Division of Reactor Projects visited the Oconee Nuclear Plant in Seneca, South Carolina. The Chairman met with the resident inspectors and toured the plant with licensee managers. The Chairman held a press conference, attended by several members of the local media, and answered questions pertaining to the Commission's discussion on licensee renewal at Oconee.

Senior Management Meeting

On May 10 -11, the Regional Administrator attended the Senior Management meeting in Region I, King of Prussia, PA.

NRR Director of Program Management, Policy Development and Analysis Staff Visits Region II

On May 8-9, the NRR Director of the Program Management, Policy Development and Analysis Staff visited the Region II office to meet with the Managers, Supervisors and Reactor Program System Users.

NRC/FBI Exercise Final Planning Meeting

On May 10, representatives from Region II visited BWX Technologies to meet with management to discuss final planning for the FBI/NRC Tabletop Exercise that is scheduled for May 24, 2000, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Region III
Items of Interest
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D.C. Cook Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection

The 10-member Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection at the D.C. Cook plant in Michigan began May 8 and is expected to last two weeks. A news release was issued this week on the May 22 public exit that will be held when team members review their findings. There has been quite a bit of media interest in the Cook plant's progress toward restart. Both units at Cook have been shut down since September 1997.

AIT at Mallinckrodt Facility in Missouri

The Augmented Inspection Team that was dispatched May 4 to the Mallinckrodt, Inc. facility in Maryland Heights, Missouri, completed their first week-and-half of inspection activities May 12. The AIT was dispatched to review the circumstances surrounding possible radiation exposures above NRC limits to several workers. The AIT will review its findings at a public exit at a later date. There has been some media interest in this review, and a news release was issued on May 5 announcing that the AIT had been dispatched.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2000

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 Predecisional Enforcement Conference

A predecisional enforcement conference was held with Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, on May 8, 2000, to discuss apparent violations associated with improper design changes to the low pressure injection/decay heat removal pumps.

Waterford 3 Revised Oversight Program Public Meeting

On May 9, 2000, the Chief, Branch E, Division of Reactor Projects conducted a public meeting to discuss the Revised Oversight Process. The meeting was at 7 p.m. (CDT), in the St. Charles Parish Court House, Hahnville, Louisiana. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the meeting. Attendees included a reporter from the St. Charles Herald-Guide and a representative for Senator Mary Landrieu.

Grand Gulf Revised Oversight Program Public Meeting

On May 11, 2000, the Chief, Branch A, Division of Reactor Projects conducted a public meeting to discuss the Revised Oversight Process. The meeting was at 7 p.m. (CDT), in the Claiborne County Civil Defense Building in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the meeting. Attendees included a reporter from the Port Gibson Reveille.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 12, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 16

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	04/12/00 POSTPONED	TBA	Dr. Paperiello, Corps of Engineers, EPA, States	FUSRAP POSTPONED	Senators Smith/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Gerke	05/16/00 SD-342	10:00	OPM	Federal Employees Long-Term Care Insurance	Senators Cochran/Akaka International Security, Proliferation & Federal Services Governmental Affairs
Gerke	05/17 & 24 SH-216	9:30	Markup	S. 2098, Electric Power Market Competition & Reliability Act	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	05/18/00 SD-342	10:00	OMB, OPM, GAO, AFGE, DOD	Maintaining & Improving Federal Employee Skills	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Oversight of Gov't Mgmnt, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Governmental Affairs
Gerke	06/06/00 2203 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Implementation of Financial Management Improvement Act	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmnt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Portner	06/08/00 216 Hart	TBA	Markup TENTATIVE	FY01 Energy & Water Development Appropriations	Senators Stevens/Byrd Appropriations

May 12, 2000

ENCLOSURE R