

INFORMATION REPORT

SECY-00-0124

June 8, 2000

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0124 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 2, 2000

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*No input this week

/RA by Debra J. Corley for/

John W. Craig
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 2, 2000

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

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[ENCLOSURE A](#)

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Midwest Nuclear Security Association Meeting

On May 25-26, Jesse Arildsen of the Reactor Safeguards Section participated in the Spring 2000 meeting of the Midwest Nuclear Security Association (MNSA) in Bloomington, MN. Mr. Arildsen, along with NRC Region III staff, provided current information concerning the Revised Oversight Process and fielded questions and answers regarding the Physical Protection Significance Determination Process and Performance Indicators. Attendees included Region III Nuclear Plant Security Managers and security contractors.

IOHS Supports the Mid-Atlantic Nuclear Training Group (MANTG) Instructor Training Workshop

Three members of the Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section supported the MANTG biennial instructor training

workshop held in Lancaster, PA on May 23. Ms. Mary Ann Ashley, a training and assessment specialist, was an invited speaker whose presentation was titled "Training in the Year 2000: Ahead of the Pack or Behind the Curve?" The presentation focused on ways to update use of the systems approach to training by incorporating more experiential learning opportunities.

Mr. Fred Guenther, a senior examiner, and Dr. George Usova, a training and assessment specialist, also attended the workshop and supported Region I in two discussion groups related to the operator licensing written examinations and operating tests. The discussions focused on proposed changes in Supplement 1 to Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and lessons learned since the last workshop.

Ongoing Training on the Fire Protection Significance Determination Process

The Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB) and the Plant Systems Branch (SPLB) will teach the fire protection significance determination process at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) on June 1 and 2, 2000. This is the second time SPSB and SPLB have offered this training at BNL. The majority of attendees are from the Regions, with a few personnel attending from NRC headquarters and the Department of Energy National Laboratories.

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

By letter dated May 24, 2000, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and AmerGen Energy Company, LLC, withdrew their joint application for the direct transfer of the operating licenses of these units to AmerGen. The withdrawal letter states that the New York Public Service Commission "issued an order urging the owners of the Nine Mile Point units to determine the market value of these units through a competitive bidding process." Accordingly, the NRC will terminate the associated licensing actions upon issuance of withdrawal notices per [10 CFR §2.1301](#).

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Meetings Concerning Saxton License Termination Plan and Decommissioning Project

On May 25, 2000, staff from the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and Region I held a public meeting in Saxton, Pennsylvania, to discuss the License Termination Plan (LTP) process. General Public Utilities (GPU) Nuclear recently submitted an LTP for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) facility in Saxton, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was moderated by the Chair of the Bedford County Board of Commissioners. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff presented information on the decommissioning regulatory process, the LTP review process, and the decommissioning inspection process. GPU Nuclear presented a summary of its decommissioning activities. A "question and answer" period followed each organization's presentation. Issues raised included: the extent to which the licensee could make changes to the Saxton LTP after its approval without NRC's review; public involvement with this change process; the adequacy of Saxton's decommissioning funding; the adequacy of Saxton's proposed LTP; a request for environmental monitoring following license termination; and the timing of NRC's notice of opportunity for a hearing. The meeting was covered by local print and broadcast media.

On May 30, 2000, the NRC staff also held a meeting at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the SNEC decommissioning project, including the LTP. The SNEC staff presented information on the decommissioning and LTP issues and schedule. One of these items pertained to the remediation of the dome of the containment vessel (CV). The licensee will seek unrestricted release, and will remediate the facility to 25 mrem/year in accordance with the License Termination Rule. After termination of the license, SNEC intends to treat the above ground section of the CV as scrap metal to be sold for salvage value. The discussion at the meeting included NRC's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act to take into consideration the radiological and non-radiological environmental impacts and consequences following license termination.

Michigan Low-Level Waste Generators' Conference

On May 31, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in a conference for low-level radioactive waste (LLW) generators in the state of Michigan. The purpose of the conference was to discuss specific problems that generators are experiencing and how the problems are being addressed by different organizations. Approximately 50 individuals attended the conference, held in East Lansing, Michigan, and sponsored by the Michigan Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority. In addition to LLW generators in the State, many of whom were from universities and hospitals, participants included LLW disposal site operators, waste processors, one nuclear utility, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, which has responsibility for state radiation protection. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff reported on efforts of interest to the group in the areas of safety and more efficient management and disposal of LLW, as well as on related issues such as residual radioactivity.

With respect to disposal in conventional LLW sites, Chem-Nuclear and Envirocare discussed the future of their facilities. Chem-Nuclear's Barnwell facility is expected to accept less "out-of-compact" waste once it joins the Northeast Compact (to be called the Atlantic Compact), perhaps during this month. Envirocare continues to pursue the expansion of acceptable waste streams for processing and disposal, and is working with small generators to explain and implement its waste reporting requirements.

Public Meetings at Portsmouth and Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plants

On May 30 and 31, 2000, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and Region III held public meetings at the sites of the Portsmouth and Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plants, in Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. The purpose of the meetings was to take public comments on the upcoming plant layoffs of 625 workers, scheduled to begin July 2000. Public participation was very limited at Paducah, however, some concerns were expressed during the meeting at Portsmouth. Several press, television and radio reporters attended the public meetings.

In addition, the Safeco Insurance Company notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on May 31, 2000, of cancellation of United States Enrichment Corporation's (USEC) \$55.5 million surety bond. This bond is USEC's share of costs for disposal of low-level and mixed wastes and depleted uranium tailings generated since privatization of the gaseous diffusion plants. The bond cancellation is due to Safeco's concerns regarding USEC's financial condition, and is effective in 90 days in accordance with the bond language. If USEC does not provide an alternate financial assurance instrument, the bond's penal sum (\$55.5 million) will be transferred to a standby trust.

Inspection at BNFL Fuel Solutions

On May 11, 2000, a team composed of staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office concluded a two-week inspection of BNFL Fuel Solutions (BFS) in Scotts Valley, California. The team debriefed BFS management on May 11, and conducted a formal public exit meeting in the auditorium at Nuclear Regulatory Commission headquarters on May 31, 2000. Reactor licensees and members of the public were in attendance at this public meeting.

Proposed Rule Signed by EDO

On May 25, 2000, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that amends [10 CFR Part 72.214](#), "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," revising the Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates (PSNA) VSC-24 cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. This amendment will allow the holders of power reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the approved cask under a general license.

This constitutes notice to the Commission that, in accordance with the rulemaking authority delegated to the EDO, the EDO has signed this proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Regulatory Guide on Maintenance

NRC has issued [Regulatory Guide 1.182](#), "Assessing and Managing Risk Before Maintenance Activities at Nuclear Power Plants," which endorses Section 11 of [NUMARC 93-01](#), "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." These documents provide methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with the provisions of the Maintenance Rule, [10 CFR 50.65\(a\)\(4\)](#).

ENCLOSURE D

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-00-013A, Geotech Environmental, Inc., UPDATE PORTABLE GAUGE FOUND AT RECYCLING FACILITY.
2. PNO-II-00-024, Duke Power Co. (McGuire 1), SPECIAL INSPECTION INITIATED TO REVIEW OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE ASSOCIATED WITH MCGUIRE UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP.
3. PNO-III-00-020, AmerGen Energy Co. (Clinton 1), CLINTON PLANS OUTAGE TO REPLACE RECIRCULATION PUMP SEAL.
4. PNO-III-00-021, Firstenergy Nuclear Operating Co. (Perry 1), PERRY PLANS OUTAGE TO REPLACE FUEL BUNDLES.

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Nuclear Energy Institute; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-71)

A document that requests public comment on a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute was published in the Federal Register on May 31, 2000 (65 FR 34599). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations to allow nuclear power plant licensees to use zirconium-based cladding materials other than zircaloy or ZIRLO, if the cladding materials meet the requirements for fuel cladding performance and have been approved by the NRC staff. The comment period for this action closes August 14, 2000.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants; Confirmation of Effective Date and Availability of Guidance (Part 50)

A document that confirms the effective date of a previously published final rule and announces the availability of guidance concerning the rule was published in the Federal Register on June 1, 2000 (65 FR 34913). The final rule, published in the Federal Register on July 19, 1999 (64 FR 38551), amended power reactor safety regulations concerning maintenance at nuclear plants. The final rule required that licensees assess the effect of equipment maintenance on the plant's capability to perform safety functions before beginning any maintenance activity on structures, systems, or components within the scope of the maintenance rule. The final rule clarified that these requirements apply under all conditions of operation, including shutdown, and that the assessments are to be used so that the increase in risk that may result from the maintenance activity will be managed to ensure that plant is not inadvertently placed in a condition of significant risk. The final rule becomes effective November 28, 2000.

Emergency Core Cooling System Evaluation Models (Part 50)

A final rule that allows holders of nuclear power plant operating licenses to reduce the assumed power level used in evaluations of emergency core cooling system performance was published in the Federal Register on June 1, 2000 (65 FR 34913). The effect of the final rule allow interested licensees to pursue small, but cost-beneficial power uprates and reduce regulatory burden without compromising the safety margin of a facility. The final rule becomes effective July 31, 2000.

ENCLOSURE G

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of May 26, 2000 through June 1, 2000:

Site assessment, 22 Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA, types of materials used at site by each identified former owner: Omni-wave Electronics, RCM Electronics, and Cherokee Electronics.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0256)
Atlas Corp., Moab, UT, all records related to site cleanup.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0257)
Nuclear Pharmacy of Idaho, License No. 11-27398-01MD, license, amendments, violation notices and responses to notices.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0258)
GE's GESSAR Final Design Approval FDA-1, documentation supporting issuance of invoice no. RL 0343-00.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0259)

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Arrivals		
ABBOTT, David	SUMMER LEGAL INTERN	OGC
BROWN, David	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
BRUSEHAVER, Susan	SECRETARY	RIII
FRUMKIN, Daniel	FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER	NRR
JUPIN, Nicole	SUMMER INTERN	RI
LAMB, John	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
MITCHELL, Lisa	SUMMER INTERN	RI
PARK, Albert	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR

POWELL, Tamara	SUMMER INTERN	IRO
ROBERTS, Cynthia	SUMMER MANAGEMENT INTERN	EDO
SALAAM, Fatima	SUMMER INTERN	RI
STROMBERG, Edward	SUMMER LAW CLERK	ASLBP
WHEATLEY, Wanda	SECRETARY	OCFO
WILLIAMS, Shawn	SUMMER INTERN	RI
WILLIAMSON, Angela	GENERAL SCIENTIST INTERN	NMSS
Retirements		
BIANCHI, Josephine	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
GELLIS, Jean	SITE SECRETARY	RIV
KIMINAS, Jeannette	DIRECTIVES SPECIALIST	ADM
NEISLER, John	REACTOR ENGINEER	R111
NILSEN, Charles	SR CHEMICAL ENGINEER	RES
ROSSI, Ernest	DIRECTOR, DSARE	RES
Departures		
DELMEDICO, Joe	SR HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
HICHAR, Clifford	LOCAL NETWORK LAN MANAGER	RES
STEWART, Stephanie	SECRETARY	RI

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Media Interest

Region I reported press interest in Con Ed's apparent plans to repair, rather than replace, the steam generators at Indian Point.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-91	NRC Research Employees Recognized for Outstanding Engineering Expertise
00-92	NRC Revises its Regulations for Fire Barrier Penetration Seals
Regions:	
I-00-37	NRC to Discuss Performance at Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant
II-00-27	NRC to Hold Public Meetings in Alabama June 8 on Changes in Reactor Oversight and Latest Assessment of Farley Plant
II-00-28	NRC to Hold Public Meetings in Southeast Virginia June 8 on Changes in Reactor Oversight and Latest Assessment of Surry Plant
II-00-29	NRC Official to Hold News Conference in San Juan on June 6 to Outline Removal of Depleted Uranium Ammunition From Vieques
II-00-30	NRC Staff Postpones June 1 Meeting With Southern Nuclear Scheduled to Discuss Apparent Violation at Farley Plant
III-00-26	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting June 8 in Clinton, Illinois to Describe Latest Assessment of Clinton Nuclear Power Plant
IV-00-19	NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve to Hold Press Conference at San Onofre
IV-00-20	NRC to Meet With Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Process for Palo Verde
IV-00-21	NRC to Discuss Latest Performance Assessment for Palo Verde Nuclear Plant

ENCLOSURE O

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Document Released to Public		Date	Subject
Decision Documents			
1.	SRM on SECY-00-0085	5/31/00	Review of the Tokai-Mura Criticality Accident and Lessons Learned
	Commission Voting Record on 00-0085	5/31/00	(same)
2.	SECY-99-0284	5/15/99	Classification of Savannah River Residual Tank Waste as Incidental
	SRM on SECY-99-0284	5/30/00	(same)
3.	Commission Voting Record on 99-0284	5/30/00	(same)
4.	SECY-00-0111	5/19/00	Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material
Negative Consent Documents			
1.	SECY-00-0101	5/5/00	Proposed Agreement Between the State of Oklahoma and the Commission Pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended
	SRM on 00-0101	5/31/00	(same)
	Comm. McGaffigan's comments on 00-0101	5/10/00	(same)
Information Papers			
1.	SECY-00-0114	5/25/00	SECY-00-0114 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 19, 2000

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated May 24, 2000, provides the April monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

ENCLOSURE P

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Millstone 1 Decommissioning Advisory Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Millstone I Decommissioning Advisory Committee (MIDAC) was held on the evening of June 1, 2000, at the Waterford Town Hall, Waterford, CT. This committee is a subcommittee of the state-legislated Nuclear Energy Advisory Council, and is overseeing the decommissioning of Millstone Unit 1. Approximately 30 members of the public attended, and heard presentations by the licensee concerning the status of decommissioning activities at the site. The presentation described separation projects for Unit 1 from Units 2/3, and interim fuel storage, including potential canister design and the alternatives of wet and dry storage. Ronald Bellamy, Chief, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, Region 1, presented an overview of the NRC inspection activities, including the scope of NRC inspections, timing of issuance of inspection reports, and the differences between resident and region-based inspections. Dr. Bellamy also indicated that the NRC planned to attend meetings of the MIDAC quarterly, depending on availability of NRC staff and resources, and that specific requests for NRC presentations would be considered. He answered questions from the Committee and the public on basic NRC inspection policy and procedures.

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Self-Assessment

On May 31, representatives from Duke Energy Corporation were in the Region II office to participate in a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for Duke Energy Corporation to present their assessment of performance at the Oconee Nuclear Station.

Bass Energy, Inc. - Closed Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On June 1, regional management held a closed Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Bass Energy, Inc. in Morgantown, West Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss three apparent violations at the Deep Coal Mine No.1 in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Annual Assessment Meeting

On June, 1 regional management held an Annual Assessment meeting at the Sequoyah Training Center in Soddy-Daisy, TN. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Program Annual Assessment for the Sequoyah Site.

Vieques Island - Naval Firing Range

Region II personnel are observing the Navy's removal of the depleted uranium ammunition rounds that were inadvertently fired on Vieques Island in February 1999. The removal effort is expected to take several weeks to complete. The removal efforts are being conducted per a workplan submitted by the Navy and approved by the NRC.

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Regional Reactor Seminar

A three day seminar was held in the Lisle, Illinois, office for the region's reactor technical inspectors in DRP and DRS. The seminar, which began May 30, included presentations from NRR, RES, EDO and OE staff members.

D.C. Cook Public Meeting

A public meeting was held at NRC Headquarters on June 1, 2000, to discuss a potential restart issue regarding a containment fan wall issue on Unit 2 at the D.C. Cook (Michigan) Nuclear Power Plant. Region III's Director of the Division of Reactor Safety Jack Grobe attended the meeting.

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

Fansteel Incorporated

The Region IV Regional Administrator, other Region IV and NMSS staff met with the Vice President of Fansteel and members of his staff in a management meeting. The meeting was open to the public and held on May 31, 2000, in the Region IV office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of a recent inspection involving followup on a hydrofluoric acid gas release event and to review the licensee's operational readiness for the next stage of decommissioning operations.

Meeting with Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Program at Arkansas Nuclear One and South Texas Project

On May 31 and June 1, 2000, members of the Region IV staff held meetings with the public in Russellville, Arkansas, and Bay City, Texas, respectively, to discuss the agency's new reactor oversight program for Arkansas Nuclear One and South Texas Project. Attendees included Region IV staff, local government officials, and members of the public.

Arkansas Nuclear One Public Plant Performance Review Meeting

On June 1, 2000, members of the Region IV staff met with representatives of Arkansas Nuclear One to discuss the results of the agency's latest plant performance review for the facility.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 2, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 19

OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	06/06/00 2203 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Implementation of Financial Management Improvement Act	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform

Gerke	06/08/00 2322 RHOB	1:00	DOE, NEI	The Future of Nuclear and Coal Power	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Power Commerce
Gerke	06/14/00 SD 366	9:30	Markup	S. 2098, Electric Power Market Competition & Reliability Act	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	06/14/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Electronic Freedom of Information Act (e-FOIA)	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	06/14/00 2123 RHOB	TBA	Markup	H.R. 2944-- Electricity Deregulation	Reps. Bliley/Dingell Commerce
Combs	06/14/00 TENTATIVE	TBA	NRC, DOE, TVA, NWTRB, NAS	Nuclear Waste	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Power Commerce
Portner	06/22/00 SH-216	TBA	Markup TENTATIVE	FY01 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Senators Stevens/Byrd Appropriations
Combs	Late July TBA	TBA	NRC Staff and others	Moab	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy & Power Commerce

Note: Congress is in recess until Tuesday, June 6.