

INFORMATION

May 2, 2001

SECY-01-0079

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0079 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 27, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
P. Hiland, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Oconee

Oconee, Unit 3, has completed repairs to the cracks in the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles and welds and has returned to power. Visual inspections for boron deposits around the CRDMs will be done on Unit 2 during the outage that will begin during the last several days of April.

The April 17, 2001, letter to NEI, which discusses the information that the EPRI Materials Reliability Program should include a safety assessment of CRDM cracking, is now publically available in ADAMS under the accession number ML011150055. The Alloy 600 Web Site is now available on the Internet. The Web Site already includes information about the Summer weld crack, and information about the Oconee cracks will be put on the Web Site during the week of April 23-27, 2001. The Information Notice about CRDM cracking should also be published during the week of April 23-27, 2001. The communications team, including members from RES, OPA, all four Regions, and several groups in NRR, is developing additional descriptive material for the Web Site and questions and answers for use in handling public inquiries. Guidance has also been given to the Regions for use in addressing questions from licensees about what action they need to take based on the April 17, 2001, letter (no action is being required by NRC at this time).

STP Nuclear Operating Company

The NRC's Risk Informed Licensing Panel (RILP) met with STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) on April 24, 2001, to discuss the risk-informed exemption requests from the special treatment requirements of 10 CFR Parts 21, 50, and 100. The purpose of the meeting was to resolve the remaining issues to support the staff finalizing the safety evaluation in support of the staff's findings regarding the requested exemptions. STPNOC indicated its most significant concern was with the level of detail in the proposed new section of the STP Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). STPNOC was provided a revision to this FSAR section that documents the staff's position on the changes necessary to support preparation of the safety evaluation.

RILP expressed its position that it will be incumbent upon the licensee to apply its engineering judgment to assure that the elements of the alternative treatment processes described in the FSAR for application to low risk significant structures, systems, or components (SSCs) are effectively implemented. STPNOC and RILP discussed the procurement of replacement SSCs that are categorized as low safety significant or nonrisk significant. The RILP indicated that all of the STPNOC proposed methods could be used to procure replacements, but emphasized that the licensee's engineering judgment be used to select the appropriate method(s). STPNOC indicated that it would look at refining the discussion of the engineering analysis method in the FSAR.

The RILP stressed the importance of both the staff and the licensee of meeting the aggressive schedule for near term milestones to support the Commission meeting on June 5, 2001. STPNOC indicated that it will continue to devote the resources necessary for this effort to succeed, but that it would support a delay if necessary to properly address the remaining issues to both STPNOC's

and the NRC's satisfaction. The RILP indicated that the NRC will support the completion of the near term milestones.

Senior Reactor Analyst Counterpart Meeting

A Senior Reactor Analyst (SRA) workshop and counterpart meeting was held at Headquarters on April 17 - 19, 2001. Regional SRAs, Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB) members, and the Events Assessment Branch participated in the meeting. The Significance Determination Process (SDP) is a process used for developing the tools and guidance needed to determine the significance of inspection findings. The SDP was discussed for risk assessment of fire, shutdown, and containment inspection findings. SRAs prioritized the development of the SDP tools needed for risk assessment. The at-power Phase 2 Notebook status, issues, and plans to compare the Phase 2 Notebook results to licensees' updated probabilistic safety assessment model results were also discussed. Twelve site visits are being planned over the year to perform these comparisons. SDP Phase 3 analysis experiences were also shared. It appeared that in some areas which are difficult to quantify, such as inspection findings of multiple equipment qualification degradation, SDP guidance was needed to arrive at a final significance determination. A presentation was given on the recent event involving the Oconee control rod drive housing cracking. In addition, SRA training was discussed. SRAs expressed interest in obtaining training on the EOOS/CAFTA tools, which are widely used in the industry for configuration risk assessments. With regard to regional support, the help provided to the regions by the Operational Support Team was valuable. One SRA recently completed a rotation in SPSB. The SRA meeting provided a framework to share experiences and express ideas on the SDP. The SRA counterpart meeting will be held periodically.

Meeting with BWROG to Discuss RIP50, Option 2, Pilot Activities

On April 18, 2001, NRC staff met with representatives of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG), Excelon, and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss the status and plans for the BWROG Risk-Informing Part 50 (RIP50), Option 2, pilot activities. Pilot activities have been initiated at the Quad Cities site. This is the only BWR pilot. The main purpose of these activities is to pilot the proposed NEI Option 2 implementing guidance (NEI 00-04) and use the lessons learned from the effort to improve the guidance and the governing Option 2 regulatory framework. The pilot will also be used by the staff and industry to assess the practicality and cost-benefit of the Option 2 approach. To date, Excelon is about a fourth of the way through a pilot program schedule which extends to December 2001. Efforts made thus far include risk-informed categorization of selected systems, an initial evaluation of special treatment requirements, and documentation of these efforts. The next significant BWROG task is to exercise the integrated decision-making panel (IDP) process. The staff plans to observe this activity. The staff will issue a detailed meeting summary.

Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute to Discuss RIP50, Option 2, Guidance Documents

On April 25, 2001, the NRC staff met with representatives of NEI and the industry to discuss the staff's comments on NEI's proposed RIP50, Option 2, implementing guidance documents (NEI 00-02, "Probabilistic Risk Assessment Peer Review Process Guideline," and NEI 00-04, "Option 2 Implementation Guideline"). There was constructive discussion of the staff's comments and NEI's proposed responses. The discussions centered on staff and industry expectations for the

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rulemaking with a focus on reaching a common understanding of those expectations regarding both the conceptual approach to Option 2 and specific outstanding issues. Overall, the staff and NEI agreed that there was a common understanding of expectations and that there are not any outstanding issues that would preclude the staff and industry from reaching agreement on the guidance documents. Both the staff and NEI agreed to develop additional information for a few outstanding issues. For example, NEI requested that the staff provide additional information on what it is trying to achieve regarding long term containment integrity and its technical bases for raising this issue in the context of Option 2. The staff requested that NEI identify any differences between the approach that the South Texas Project is taking to risk-inform the scope of structures, systems, and components subject to special treatment requirements and what industry at large believes is necessary to implement Option 2. The staff and NEI agreed to resolve the few remaining issues on a timeframe that would support submittal of NEI's formal responses to the staff's comments and its next revision of NEI 00-04 by the end of May 2001. This would allow the staff and NEI to reach agreement on the guidance by the end of June and proceed with additional beyond Quad Cities pilot activities as soon as July 2001. The staff will issue a detailed meeting summary.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Meeting with Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Corporation

On April 18, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and the Office of the General Counsel held a noticed public meeting with representatives of Private Fuel Storage (PFS), Limited Liability Corporation, at the offices of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. The purpose of the meeting was for the staff to seek clarification on the recent license application amendment submitted by PFS.

Submittal of Integrated Safety Analysis Plans by 10 CFR Part 70 Licensees

The regulations in 10 CFR Part 70, Subpart H, require licensees to conduct an Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) for their facilities and submit to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a summary of the ISA by October 18, 2004. The regulations in Subpart H also require licensees to submit to the NRC by April 18, 2001, an ISA Plan describing the ISA approach that will be used, the processes that will be analyzed, and the schedule for completing the analysis of each process. By April 18, 2001, all operating fuel fabricator licensees required to comply with Subpart H submitted their ISA Plans to the NRC. The staff will review the ISA Plans in accordance with the requirements of Subpart H and the documented guidelines which were provided to each of the six licensees in January 2001. BWX Technologies was first in submitting its ISA Summary on March 26, 2001, which the staff found acceptable for review. Based on BWX Technologies' request, the staff intends to complete its initial review of the BWX Technologies ISA Plan (i.e., develop a draft evaluation report and, if needed, issue a request for additional information) by the end of May 2001. If found acceptable for review, the staff intends to complete its initial reviews of the remaining five ISA Plans by July 2001.

Meeting with Westinghouse Electric Company

On April 26, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, the Risk Task Group, the Office of the General Counsel, and Region II met with staff from Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) to discuss the Integrated Safety Analysis of an amendment request to add a new erbium fuel pellet production line to the fuel fabrication facility located in Columbia, South Carolina. WEC indicated that it needed the amendment by July 1, 2001, to be able to produce the erbium pellets in time to refuel several nuclear power reactors beginning in the fall of 2001. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff generally identified the areas where additional information was needed for WEC to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 70, Subpart H. WEC indicated that it would withdraw its amendment request submitted in January 2001 and resubmit a new request on April 30, 2001. The new request will differ from the January 2001 request in that it will only include information pertaining to the new erbium fuel pellet process. To expedite the review process, staff will conduct a portion (1-2 weeks) of its review onsite at the facility starting on May 7, 2001.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-01-017A, Geo Systems Engineering, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
2. PNO-IV-01-018, Geo Technical Exploration, Inc., STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE.
3. PNO-I-01-10, Delaware Emergency Management Agency, TROXLER
MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE RECOVERED IN DELAWARE

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Chief Information Officer
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
April 20, 2001 through April 26, 2001:

Radiation Exposure Information & Reporting System (REIRS) database. (FOIA/PA-2001-0231)

OI report 4-2000-029 and exhibits, re "NRC Concerns About Chilling Effect at the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor." (FOIA/PA-2001-0232)

OI report 2-2000-027. (FOIA/PA-2001-0233)

I.M.P.A.C. cardholder purchases, annual and quarterly reports 1999 to present.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0234)

Towers Perrin Forster & Crosby (Towers Perrin) all records connected in anyway named
individual. (FOIA/PA-2001-0235)

Breitling U.S.A. Inc., Wilton, CT, license no. 06-23863-01, amendment 2 & related documents to
amendment 3, and license no. 06-23863-02E amendment 1 related record. (FOIA/PA-2001-0236)

Site assessment, 19 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains, Westchester County, NY 10605.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0237)

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Office of Human Resources
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Arrivals		
MCGUIRE, Suzanne	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST	OIP
HERNANDEZ, RAUL	GENERAL ENGINEER (INTERN)	NRR
Departures		
LEMONCELLI, Mauri	LEGAL INTERN	OGC

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Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

Chairman Meserve held his annual press conference on Thursday, the 26th, at NRC headquarters. The event was attended by a dozen representatives of the media, ranging from Matthew Wald of The New York Times to Peter Behr of The Washington Post. A number of generally favorable pieces on the agency and the future of nuclear energy resulted from the conference, including those in the Associated Press, the Dow Jones News and on CNN.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-045	NRC to Meet With Public on May 11 to Discuss Use of Risk Information in Regulating Nuclear Waste and Materials
01-046	NRC Will Hold Public Meeting in Charlotte on Environmental Review for Proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility
01-047	Commissioner Dicus Honored by Texas Woman's University
01-048	NRC Changes Regulations on Electronic Documents for Possible High-Level Waste Repository Hearing
01-049	NRC to Meet With Public on May 8 in Rockville, Maryland to Discuss Fuel Facility Oversight
Regions:	
I-01-022	NRC, Con Ed to Discuss Response to Team Inspection at Indian Point 2
III-01-16	NRC to Meet With Nuclear Management Co. May 3 to Discuss Inspection Finding at Kewaunee Nuclear Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
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Kazakhstan

On April 20, 2001, OIP staff attended a meeting sponsored by the National Security Council (NSC) to discuss ongoing nuclear safety and non-proliferation-related issues in Kazakhstan. The principal purpose of this meeting was to prepare for discussions scheduled to take place in Washington on April 25 between U.S. government officials and Kazakhstani Vice Prime Minister Vladimir Shkolnik. An overview of the current status of efforts to identify a storage site for the spent fuel from the BN-350 fast breeder reactor near Aktau, Kazakhstan was also provided.

Bulgaria

On April 24, 2001, OIP staff participated in a DOE-led meeting with Bulgarian officials from the State Agency for Energy and Energy Resources. Mr. Ivan Shiliashki, President of the State Agency expressed interest in U.S. technical, regulatory and financial assistance to the Bulgarian energy sector. Bulgaria's long term energy strategy was discussed along with projections for exporting energy to neighboring countries, and plans for European Union accession.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0049	3/23/01	Proposed Rule on Decommissioning Trust Provisions
SRM on 01-0049	4/20/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0049	4/20/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0050	3/23/01	Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-35-16) - American College of Nuclear Physicians/Society of Nuclear Medicine
SRM on 01-0050	4/20/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0050	4/20/01	(same)
3. SECY-01-0039	3/9/01	Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart J, in Regard to the Licensing Support Network
SRM on 01-0039	4/24/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0039	4/24/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0065	4/20/01	SECY-01-0065 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 13, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to James Riccio, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy & Environmental Program, dated April 23, 2001, responds to request for a meeting regarding the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2).
2. Letter to The Honorable Jane Swift, Governor of Massachusetts, dated April 23, 2001, concerns the NRC State Liaison Officer program.

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3. Letter to Donald A. Podoloff, American College of Nuclear Physicians, dated April 16, 2001, concerns denial of petition for rulemaking (PRM-35-16) - American College of Nuclear Physicians/Society of Nuclear Medicine.
4. Letter to James P. Riccio, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy & Environment Program, dated April 11, 2001, concerns regarding the completeness and accuracy of Commission information paper SECY-00-0238, "Emergency Planning for Indian Point 2 and Other Co-located Licensees."
5. Letter to Paul L. Leventhal, Nuclear Control Institute, dated April 9, 2001, concerns the application for the export of highly enriched uranium to Canada for production of medical isotopes in the National Research Universal reactor.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2000, Dissemination of Information.
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Meeting with Dominion Nuclear Connecticut

On April 23, 2001, Region I and NRR met with representatives of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (DNC), new owner of Millstone. The purpose of the meeting was for DNC to discuss the current status of the investigation to locate two missing spent fuel rods. Attendees for the licensee included senior executives and staff of DNC Northeast Utilities and their contractors. Representatives of NMSS as well as the States of South Carolina, Washington and Connecticut participated via teleconference.

Inspection and Survey Conducted at the Cabot Revere Facility

On April 23, 2001, NRC Region I staff conducted an inspection to perform confirmatory surveys at the Cabot Corporation, Revere, PA facility. The confirmatory survey activities were undertaken as part of the NRC's evaluation of the licensee's request to remove the site from the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list. The inspector was joined by NRC staff from NMSS and David Allard, Director, and his staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection. The inspection consisted of interviews with licensee personnel and confirmatory surveys of the four affected areas, as well as surveys in un-affected areas throughout the facility.

Meeting with ABB

On April 25, 2001, NRC Region I staff met with staff from ABB, Windsor, CT. The ABB facility was originally used for manufacture of a wide variety of nuclear fuel. More recently it has been used as a base of operations for nuclear power plant services. Representatives of the State of Connecticut and of the Health Department of Windsor, CT attended the meeting. ABB and its consultants presented an outline of the process they plan to follow to facilitate the release for unrestricted use of three of their building complexes. Discussions were held regarding setting up a steering group to establish derived concentration guideline levels to guide decontamination activities and an enhanced public outreach program. ABB also provided a tour of the three building complexes.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Carolina Power and Light Company - Full Scale Exercise

On April 23-26, 2001, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Shearon Harris exercise, involving officials of the State of North Carolina and the applicable local governments.

Carolina Power and Light Company - H. B. Robinson

In response to the April 17, 2001, NRR letter to NEI, requesting information on a generic Justification for Continued Operations for potential control rod drive reactor head penetration cracking, Robinson Unit 2 made a decision during their outage to remove all head insulation in order to conduct visual inspections of the penetrations for indications of leakage. No boric acid residue was observed.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Farley Unit 2

In response to the April 17, 2001, NRR letter to NEI, requesting information on a generic Justification for Continued Operations for potential control rod drive reactor head penetration cracking, Farley Unit 2 hired a contractor, Brooks, during their outage to conduct remote visual inspection of the reactor head. The contractor utilized miniature video cameras to observe for signs of boric acid residue, without insulation removal. No problems were identified.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 27, 2001

Commissioner Merrifield Tours Ohio Nuclear Power Plants

On April 26, 2001, Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield and the Region III Regional Administrator toured the Perry Nuclear Power Plant and on April 27, 2001, they visited the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. Both plants are located in Ohio.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 13

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OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	05/01/01 SD-124	10:00	DOE	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Energy	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	05/01/01 2154 RHOB	10:00	GSA, DOD, Bank of America, FEMA	Federal Employee Travel Expenses	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Fin Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform
Combs	05/02/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	Secretary Abraham	DOE's FY02 Budget	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	05/03/01 SD-366	10:00	NRC, Exelon, Richard Rhodes, and Engineering Student	The Future of Nuclear Power & How it Fits into a National Energy Strategy	Energy and Water Development Senate Appropriations Energy and Natural Resources
Madden	05/03/01 SD-124	2:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	05/08/01 TBA	9:30	NRC, NEI, Exelon, Financial Analyst	Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Lieberman Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

Keeling	05/08/01 SH-216	1:30	NRC, DOD, DIA	Federal Government's Capabilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks	Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Senate Appropriations Emerging Threats & Capabilities Senate Armed Services Senate Intelligence Committee
Combs	05/09/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	05/10/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Energy	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	TBA	TBA	TBA	Nuclear Power Programs	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations