

INFORMATION REPORT

May 23, 2001

SECY-01-0093

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0093 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 18, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

On May 5, 2001, the licensee connected the main turbine generator to the electrical distribution grid, ending the eleventh refueling outage (RFO11) at Grand Gulf Unit 1. RFO11 began on April 13, 2001, and lasted a total of 21 days, 17 hours, and 40 minutes, which set a duration record for American BWR/6 plants.

Plant modifications were initiated during RFO11 to prepare Grand Gulf for future reactor power uprates. Plant tie-ins for a planned, new auxiliary cooling tower were completed. The existing natural draft cooling tower was retrofitted to prepare it for parallel operation with the induced-draft cooling tower. New feed water flow measurement devices were installed in the feed water lines just downstream of the current flow nozzles in the Turbine Building steam tunnel. The flow measurement equipment will be operational soon after RFO11, and a request for a license amendment for a reactor power increase of 1.7 percent is expected by the end of CY2001. Grand Gulf also recently implemented the alternate source term, realizing significant benefits during the recent refueling outage (e.g., relaxation of secondary containment isolation requirements during refueling operation, elimination of the automatic isolation and operability requirements of the control room standby fresh air system during fuel movements).

Millstone 3 - Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) Hearing

On May 10, 2001, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a Memorandum and Order (M/O) granting the intervenors' motion to reopen the record on one of three contentions originally admitted in the Millstone 3 Spent Fuel Pool hearings.

The contention that is the current controversy in this proceeding, concerns whether or not the then-licensee, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO, currently Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. or DNC) was able or willing to adequately carry out administrative controls for the SFP. On October 26, 2000, the ASLB issued a M/O in favor of the licensee and staff that, with respect to the contention, ruled that "NNECO has demonstrated that it can adhere to administrative controls, with adequate safety margin and defense in depth, without posing an undue or unnecessary risk to plant workers or the public."

On December 18, 2000, the intervenors filed a motion to reopen the record on the contention, based on new information regarding the licensee's inability to locate two spent fuel pins at Unit 1. The ASLB denied the motion in a January 17, 2001, M/O (LBP-01-1, Denying Motion to Reopen Record on Contention 4), based on the inability of intervenors to demonstrate that the new information they provided would cause the ASLB to reach a result different from that reached previously.

On January 29, 2001, the intervenors filed a motion for reconsideration (mentioned above) of LBP-01-1. This motion had additional arguments, including declarations from David A. Lochbaum and Joseph H. Besade, that claimed that the standards for reopening the record have been

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satisfied and that a materially different result would be or would have been likely had the new information been considered initially.

The ASLB scheduled a telephone prehearing conference for Thursday, May 24, 2001, to consider the intervenors latest motion. The NRC staff is providing legal and technical support for the prehearing conference.

Palisades Plant

On May 15, 2001, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC, (NMC) assumed responsibility for operating the Palisades Plant in accordance with an NRC order, issued April 19, 2001, approving the transfer of operating authority from Consumers Energy Company (CEC) to NMC. The NRC staff also issued a conforming amendment to the operating license on May 15, 2001, to reflect NMC as having exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of Palisades. NMC acts as agent for CEC, who remains an owner. NMC also acts as the general licensee for the Palisades Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. Thus, NMC now operates eight units for five upper-Midwest utilities. The other plants are Kewaunee, Point Beach, Monticello, Prairie Island, and Duane Arnold. The Palisades transfer increases NMC's total generating capacity to 4,500 megawatts, making it the sixth largest nuclear operating company in the U.S.

Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant

On May 10, 2001, the Commission issued a Memorandum and Order denying a March 16, 2001, petition by the Board of Commissioners of Orange County, NC (BCOC) for Commission review of three Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) decisions in the Shearon Harris spent fuel pool proceeding. The Commission also denied BCOC's March 16, 2001, petition for an immediate stay of the final ASLB decision approving the license amendment for the spent fuel pool expansion.

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee Meeting

On Tuesday May 8, 2001, representatives of NRR/EPHP and IRO, participated in a meeting of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) held at FEMA Headquarters. For the first time the FRPCC Meeting was open to the public and a representative of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) noted that his organization will routinely attend FRPCC meetings. It was announced that the FRPCC meeting frequency was going to be increased. Future meetings will be held approximately every two months.

Public Meeting with NEI on ALARA SDP

On May 9, 2001, NRR/EPHP staff conducted a public meeting with NEI and other stakeholders, to continue efforts to craft an alternate basis for assessing licensee ALARA program performance in the Reactor Oversight Process. To maximize participation in the meeting, stakeholders and NRC inspection staff from all four regions participated via a five-way video-conference. Additional public meetings are scheduled for May 29 and June 8, 2001, to complete this effort.

Reactor Oversight Process

On May 9, 2001, the Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Plant Operations Subcommittee on the status of Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) initial implementation including the significance determination process, performance indicators, and cross-cutting issues.

On May 10, 2001, IIPB staff participated in a briefing of the ACRS by members of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on the status of the development of risk-based performance indicators.

The end-of cycle (EOC) reviews for the current assessment period for all power plants were completed on May 10, 2001. The Regions performed their reviews in accordance with the guidance provided in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program." The results of the EOC reviews will be issued via annual assessment letters for all power plants on June 4, 2001.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-11: Voluntary Submission of Performance Indicator, data, dated May 11, 2001

The NRC issued this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform power reactor licensees that the NRC has endorsed Revision 1 of NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline", for addressee use in the collection and reporting of performance indicator (PI) data to the NRC.

NRC Information Notice 2001-06: Centrifugal Charging Pump Thrust Bearing Damage not Detected Due to Inadequate Assessment of Oil Analysis Results and Selection of Pump Surveillance Points, dated May 11, 2001

The NRC issued this information notice to alert addressees that inadequate assessment of pump oil analysis results, combined with surveillance testing which does not monitor all relevant pump operating conditions, may allow severe pump degradation to go undetected.

NRC Information Notice 2001 -07: Unescorted Access Granted on the Basis of Incomplete and/or Inaccurate Information, dated May 11, 2001

The NRC issued this information notice to inform addressees of several recent cases where contractors failed to follow NRC requirements for conducting the background checks used by NRC licensees to authorize unescorted access. In some cases, licensees granted unescorted access to employees on the basis of nonconforming background checks by contractors.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Stakeholder Meetings to Discuss Case Studies on Trojan Decommissioning and Trojan Reactor Vessel Transport

On May 11, 2001, the Risk Task Group held two public meetings to discuss its case studies on the decommissioning of the Trojan Nuclear Plant and the transportation of its reactor vessel. The meetings' objectives were: (1) to discuss testing of draft screening criteria and development of safety goals through the case studies; and (2) to solicit recommendations and comments on how the NRC should proceed with the case studies, apply the draft screening criteria, develop safety goals, and incorporate risk information into its regulatory program. Each meeting was attended by approximately 20 to 30 stakeholders from citizens' groups, industry, Federal government, and NRC.

Meeting attendees provided feedback on the case studies, the development of screening criteria, the feasibility of safety goals, and the use of risk information. Some attendees suggested areas for consideration in the case studies. Attendees also recommended revisiting the wording or application of screening criteria. With regard to safety goals, the concept of "as low as reasonably achievable" as a safety goal was discussed, and one participant stressed the need to understand the concept of "limit" versus "goal." With regard to the value of risk information, one stakeholder commented that if risk information were not used in decommissioning, increased environmental damage could result in the effort to meet the radiological limits. Issues related to public communication, public confidence, and public participation were also discussed.

The staff emphasized that no decisions nor final conclusions have been made on the case studies and that the purpose of the meetings was for the staff to solicit feedback before continuing with the case studies. The Risk Task Group will hold its next stakeholder meeting on June 13, 2001, in Denver, Colorado. This meeting will focus on the case study on uranium recovery.

Meeting with Department of Energy Regarding Model No. TN-FSV Transportation Cask

On May 9, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with the Department of Energy to discuss its request to amend Certificate of Compliance No. 9253 for the Model No. TN-FSV transportation cask. The amendment request includes design modifications to the cask for the transport of irradiated fuel parts within a secondary containment vessel. The discussion centered on the structural analysis of the new containment vessel components and the shielding analysis for the package.

Approval of Transport Packages for Return of Foreign Research Reactor Fuel

On May 15, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued two recommendations to the Department of Transportation regarding the revalidation of foreign transportation package approvals. The recommendations were made for the Model No. TN6-3 and GNS-16 packages. The packages will be used to transport research reactor spent fuel from Germany to the U.S. as part of the Department of Energy program for the return of foreign research reactor fuel.

Meeting with Holtec International on HI-STORM Amendment 1 Request for Additional Information

On May 15, 2001, representatives from Holtec International and the Spent Fuel Project Office met in a publicly noticed meeting to discuss the NRC request for additional information (RAI) on the HI-STORM Amendment 1. Holtec requested clarification on a number of the questions in the RAI to better understand the information NRC needed to complete the review. Holtec indicated that it understood the questions and responses would be submitted within 60 days. The HI-STORM Amendment 1 changes include a new higher-density 32-assembly fuel basket (MPC-32), a new high-seismic anchored overpack, a new shorter overpack, as well as high-burnup fuel.

Meeting with Holtec International on Burnup Credit for HI-STAR Transport Packaging

On May 15, 2001, representatives from Holtec International and the Spent Fuel Project Office met in a publicly noticed meeting to discuss the Holtec approach to credit burnup for transportation packaging. Holtec discussed its approach and the NRC's Interim Staff Guidance 8, Revision 1, which addresses burnup credit with the staff. Holtec indicated that a topical report would be submitted in June 2001, to include burnup credit in the 32-assembly multi-purpose canister (MPC-32). An application to amend the HI-STAR transport certificate of compliance would be submitted later in 2002.

Meeting with Department of Energy on Package Performance Study

On May 16, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research management representatives met with the Department of Energy (Lake Barrett, Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management) for overview discussions of NRC activities that may be of interest to both agencies. Discussions focused on the Package Performance Study of spent fuel transportation casks under severe accident conditions.

Nye County Representatives Visit NRC Headquarters

On May 10, 2001, representatives from Nye County, Nevada, gave a presentation to Division of Waste Management staff concerning Nye County's ongoing and planned activities for Yucca Mountain. The presentation included a summary of the results of the most recent drilling and testing activities. Information on planned new wells for 2001 and 2002, and an overview of Nye County's proposal to conduct independent scientific investigations over the next 5 years (2001 through 2006) were presented. The NRC staff briefly discussed some of its ongoing Yucca Mountain work, including a report the staff plans to issue as NUREG-1710. This report details the history of water development in the Amargosa Desert Area, including the Nevada Test Site. Nye County representatives also met with senior Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards officials during their visit.

Draft Safety Evaluation Report Issued on Department of Navy Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology for Yucca Mountain

On May 11, 2001, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) issued a draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Department of Navy/Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) Addendum to the Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology Topical Report. Both DWM and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staff reviewed the Addendum with respect to post-closure

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disposal criticality of naval spent nuclear fuel. The scope of the review also included the NNPP's responses to the NRC's request for additional information. The draft SER documents a total of 109 Open Items and 32 Acceptance Conditions 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 criticality methodology is also dependent on resolution of issues currently identified as open or closed pending in the high-level waste program. The NNPP is proposing to use the same canister for the interim storage, transportation, and geologic disposal of naval spent nuclear fuel.

Environmental Protection Agency Issues Final Mixed-Waste Rulemaking

In the May 16, 2001, Federal Register, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the publication of its final rulemaking that will provide increased flexibility for facilities that manage low-level mixed waste (LLMW) and technologically enhanced naturally occurring and/or accelerator-produced radioactive material (NARM) containing hazardous waste. The final rule reduces dual regulation of LLMW, which is subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and to the Atomic Energy Act. This final rule conditionally exempts from RCRA hazardous waste management LLMW during storage and treatment. The storage and treatment exemption in the rule requires the use of tanks or containers to store or treat the waste and applies only to LLMW that meets the specified conditions and is generated under a single NRC or NRC Agreement State license. The rule also exempts LLMW and hazardous NARM waste from RCRA manifest, transportation, and disposal requirements when specified conditions are met. Under this conditional exemption, the waste remains subject to manifest, transport, and disposal requirements under the NRC (or NRC Agreement State) regulations for low-level radioactive waste or eligible NARM. The final rule is effective November 13, 2001.

Status of Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant Cascade Shutdown

As of May 11, 2001, all enrichment activity at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant was ceased (cascade feed was terminated), and all shut-down cascade cells are being protected with a dry air buffer. The U.S. Enrichment Corporation and the Department of Energy are engaged in discussions regarding the portions of the cascades and the precise number of cells to place in standby condition to allow future restart if needed. Portions of the purge cascade in building X-326 will be kept operational to support ongoing cascade chemical cleanup and deposit removal operations, and to support potential restart in the future.

Meeting with U.S. Enrichment Corporation on 10 CFR 76.68 Implementation

On May 15, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Office of the General Counsel met with staff from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss issues regarding implementation of 10 CFR 76.68, "Plant changes." During the meeting, USEC described its process for implementation of 10 CFR 76.68, and reiterated its view that those procedures were in compliance with regulatory requirements. The staff will make a determination as to whether USEC's interpretation is consistent with the regulations and then follow up, as appropriate.

Implementation of Bilateral Agreements

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On May 16, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff hosted the annual U.S./Australian safeguards discussions. Participants included representatives from the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office, the Australian Embassy, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Assurance Corporation, and other staff from the NRC. Topics discussed included calendar year 2000 nuclear material transaction reporting, status update on a replacement research reactor in Australia, and issues related to implementation of the U.S./Australian bilateral agreements.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program Meeting

The annual Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program (CSARP) Technical Review meeting was on May 7-9, 2001. This international meeting serves an important role in prioritizing severe accident issues, reaching agreement on the closure of many of these issues, and providing a forum for applying the knowledge base acquired in addressing residual safety issues. The meeting was attended by over 70 participants from eighteen CSARP partner countries and from national laboratories, universities, and the NRC.

Former Commissioner Kenneth Rogers began the meeting with an invited presentation on "Infrastructure and Research Issues Related to Good Regulation." This was followed by a presentation by Dr. S. Chakraborty of HSK (Switzerland) on "Interactions of Severe Accident Research and the Regulatory Positions." The technical sessions covered two major themes: progress in phenomenological research and experiments and progress in code development and assessment. The CSARP participants expressed their views on future directions in severe accident research as well as on the organization of future CSARP meetings. The views reaffirmed the observation that melt coolability and stabilization is an area in which future research should be directed.

The CSARP meeting this year was followed by a MELCOR Code Users Workshop from May 10-15, 2001, which was attended by more than 40 participants from fourteen countries. This workshop highlighted the use of the MELCOR severe accident code to a variety of applications and featured the recently released version 1.8.5 of MELCOR.

International Workshop on Human Reliability Analysis -- Errors of Commission

On May 7-9, 2001, RES hosted an international workshop co-sponsored by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) and by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). The workshop, entitled "Building the New HRA: Errors of Commission - From Research to Application," was well attended by representatives of 14 countries, three U.S. utilities, EPRI, DOD, DOE, and several consulting companies, as well as by staff from RES, NRR, and NMSS. The workshop began with Mr. Ashok Thadani extending a welcome on behalf of the CSNI, while Dr. William Travers welcomed the assembled participants to NRC headquarters. The workshop continued the work of the CSNI Working Group on Risk Assessment in the area of human reliability analysis (HRA) that has addressed issues associated with HRA modeling and data and errors of commission in probabilistic safety analysis. NEA will publish a report of the workshop in Fall 2001 that will include the presentations, as well as document the major themes of the workshop discussions. CSNI and WANO will sponsor a companion workshop on HRA data needs in October 2001 in Munich, Germany, hosted by the Company For Reactor Safety (GRS). This work complements staff research to improve HRA methods used in risk-informed regulatory activities.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
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Palo Verde Exercise

On May 16, 2001, Chairman Meserve and Commissioner McGaffigan, along with NRC staff, participated in a major counterterrorism exercise with the licensee, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other Federal, State and local agencies at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. This 17 hour exercise, named Operation "Coiled Strike," included simulated sabotage to equipment outside the protected area. This exercise was an appropriate followup to the two smaller counterterrorism exercises held last year with the FBI ("Cavalier Challenge in May 2000 and "Volunteer Victory" in August 2000), in that it allowed the NRC to interact with the FBI (several hundred agents) as well as other agencies and further develop protocols for interagency coordination for responding to terrorism. The exercise was evaluated by participants as a success, however, there were several lessons-learned that are being evaluated and characterized. "Coiled Strike" was an ungraded training exercise initiated by the FBI in direct contact with the Palo Verde licensee. NRC, upon invitation from FBI, participated fully in our Federal Radiological Emergency Response role, which included a site team dispatched by Region IV.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Acquisition Training

The Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted five mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program modules during the week of May 14–17, 2001:

–On May 14, 2001, conducted module entitled “Overview” with approximately 45 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.

–On May 15, 2001, conducted module entitled “Preparing Statements of Work (SOW)” with approximately 45 attendees. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete SOWs that ensure contractors and DOE laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost.

–On May 16, 2001, conducted module entitled “Contract Administration” with approximately 45 attendees. This all-day module focuses on monitoring contractor performance, spending controls, modifying contracts and agreements and remedying contractual problems. Each participant receives a course manual that serves as a reference tool for project managers in performing their day-to-day responsibilities.

–On May 17, 2001, conducted module entitled “Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate” with approximately 45 attendees. This half-day (a.m.) module focuses on the importance of establishing an independent Government cost estimate, the mechanics of the process, and components which can be used in its development.

–Also, on May 17, 2001, conducted module entitled “Organizational Conflicts of Interest.” This half-day (p.m.) module includes a discussion of what constitutes a conflict of interest (COI) and how the Agency regulations treat COI. Lectures also include the process for identifying and resolving COI situations for contract awards to both the private sector and DOE Laboratory agreements. Class participants work in groups to analyze situations to determine if COI exists and, if so, how to resolve the COI.

Changes to Adjudicatory Process (Part 2, et al.)

A document that extends the comment period for a proposed rule that would amend the NRC’s rules of practice was published in the Federal Register on May 16, 2001 (66 FR 27045). The proposed amendments are intended to make the NRC’s hearing process more effective and efficient by fashioning hearing procedures that are tailored to the differing types of licensing and regulatory activities that the NRC conducts. The comment period for this action now closes September 14, 2001.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 Revision; Confirmation of Effective Date (Part 72)

A document confirming the effective date of May 21, 2001, for a direct final rule that revised the VSC-24 cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2001(66 FR 27449).

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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New Interagency Agreement with National Archives and Records Administration

An amendment to FY 2001 Reimbursable Agreement between the NRC and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for records storage and retrieval services has been issued. This amendment will allow NRC to transfer all of NRC's records maintained in commercial storage space in Columbia, MD to NARA's federal records center in Suitland, MD. Currently the NRC was paying \$210K to the commercial facility. With the Agreement in place NRC will be paying \$70K - \$75K to NARA. This is a savings of \$130k a year to NRC.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
May 11, 2001 through May 17, 2001:

OI FY 2000 Annual Report, breakdown of discrimination allegation numbers for the State of New York by power plant. (FOIA/PA-2001-0255)

Con Edison's steam generator in-service inspection (ISI) related documents, including those prior to the 1995 inception of the ISI process. (FOIA/PA-2001-0256)

Environmental conditions records for any site in Bayside, New York, between 1945 and 1970. (FOIA/PA-2001-0257)

Indian Point 3, New York Power Authority report regarding a fitness for duty issue in the 2000 time frame. (FOIA/PA-2001-0258)

Williams Power Corp., OI investigation report no. 3-2000-025 files. (FOIA/PA-2001-0259)

Site assessment, East 4th Street & Avenue A, 150 East 2nd Street aka 24 Avenue A, New York City, NY 10009. (FOIA/PA-2001-0260)

Nuclear Materials Events Database, all data. (FOIA/PA-2001-0261)

Licensing Tracking System (LTS) database, active and retired licenses. (FOIA/PA-2001-0262)

OI investigation report 4-1999-069, all related records, files, correspondence, and reports. (FOIA/PA-2001-0263)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
ANDERSON, Angel****	STUDENT TRAINEE	RIII
BAJOREK, Stephen*****	SR TECHNICAL ADVISOR	RES
CARSLEY, Leonard*	HR OPERATIONS MANAGER	HR
COLLINS, Jay	GENERAL ENGINEER	NRR
CORNELY, Kieran	STUDENT ENGINEER	RI
CORTINOVIS, Charles**	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
GOVAN, Tekia	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
HENDERSON, Erica*****	STUDENT TRAINEE	NRR
HERRERA, Jeffrey	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
HIGGINS, Marisa	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
KENNEDY, Brandon**	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
KENNING, Brendan	STUDENT LAW CLERK	RI
KLCO, Vincent****	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
LEACH, Melvyn***	CHIEF, TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES	NRR
MARTIN, David	STUDENT CLERICAL	RIII
MILLER, Glenn****	STUDENT TRAINEE	NRR
MORENO, Jeffrey**	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
MORRELL, Amber	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RIII
NYUGEN, Nathalie	STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE	RI
O'DONNELL, Gregory*****	STUDENT TRAINEE	RES
PALGUTA, Jennifer	STUDENT PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	OSTP
PALKO, Michael	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PALKO, Roger****	STUDENT TRAINEE	NRR
PEERS, Danielle*****	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
PENNAMON, Bryan****	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII

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PETERS, Sean*	REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
RAY, Sheila	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
REITER, Monica**	STUDENT CLERICAL	RIII/OI
ROBERTS, Thomas	STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE	ADM
SAENGRAYIB, Charles	STUDENT CLERICAL	RIII
SALAAM, Fatima	STUDENT ENGINEER	RI
SMITH, April*	MATERIALS ENGINEER	NRR
SMITH, Brian	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
SNELL, Michelle	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
SNOWBERGER, Dwight	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
TAYLOR, Sherrie	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
TINDELL, Brian**	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
WILDING, Sally*****	HR INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST	HR
ZABKO, John	HEALTH PHYSICIST	OSTP
Departures		
BLANCHARD, Courtney	SENIOR RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RIII
BARROW, David	SR COMPUTER SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER	OCIO
DUNHAM, Sandra*****	PARALEGAL SPECIALIST	OGC
GERARDI, Craig*****	STUDENT TRAINEE	RES
MILLER, Patricia	PROGRAM ANALYST	IRO
ROTH, David	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RIII

* TRANSFERRING FROM REGION I
** EFFECTIVE DATE 05/14/01
*** TRANSFERRING FROM REGION III
**** EFFECTIVE 05/16/01
***** EFFECTIVE WEEK ENDING 05/11/01
***** CONVERTING FROM A CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT
*****EFFECTIVE 05/06/01

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Office of Small Business & Civil Rights
Items of Interest
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Small Business Week Conference

Mauricio Vera, Small Business Program Manager, represented NRC at the 34th Annual Joint Industry and SBA Procurement Conference held on May 7-9 commemorating National Small Business Week 2001. One of NRC's 8(a) contractors, Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc., was awarded an "Administrator's Award for Excellence" certificate for outstanding performance on NRC projects. Mr. Vera and Ms Beverly Anker, from the Division of Contracts and Property Management, staffed NRC's exhibit booth at the Business Opportunity Expo on May 9. There was considerable interaction with several small business participants. They provided procurement advice and information on specific NRC contracting opportunities.

Small Business Forum

The Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) hosted a Small Business Forum on May 15, 2001. Approximately 35 individuals were on hand including staff from the Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM), various NRC program offices, and representatives from 19 local and national small businesses.

The SBCR Director made opening remarks. Mauricio Vera, Small Business Program Manager, provided an organizational overview of NRC, emphasizing those offices with significant procurement budgets. Sharon Stewart, DCPM Branch Chief, discussed the NRC procurement process. Mark Flynn, DCPM Branch Chief, and Beverly Anker, DCPM Senior Policy Analyst discussed performance-based service contracting, one of the key current issues in acquisition. Several of the businesses gave overviews of their business capabilities for the benefit of NRC staff in attendance. Attendees were provided an opportunity to network and discuss upcoming contractual requirements.

Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
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Denial of Petition for Rulemaking Signed by the Executive Director for Operations

On May 14, 2001, the Executive Director for Operations denied a petition for rulemaking submitted by Thomas B. Cochran on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The petitioner requested that NRC amend its regulations to require that an individual or organization whose principal owner, officer, or senior manager fails to report illegal payments to regulators or has acted in any manner that flagrantly undermines the integrity of the regulatory process of the NRC or that of an Agreement State not be issued a license or allowed to retain a license.

The petition was docketed as PRM-30-63. The petition was published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2000, requesting comment for a 75-day period. Two comment letters were received. Both commenters recommended that NRC deny the petition.

The NRC denied the petition since the NRC already has the authority to take the actions recommended by the petitioner. In addition, the NRC continues to believe that enforcement actions, including revocation or denial of a license, should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and dispositioned according to the merits of the specific case using appropriate discretion and judgment.

The notice of denial can be found in ADAMS at ML011210203.

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Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

Business Week magazine is preparing a story about the shortage of nuclear engineers.

Chairman Meserve was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times about possible future plant construction.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-058	Advisory Panel Issues Report Assessing First Year of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process
01-059	NRC Schedules Meetings in Pahrump, Las Vegas to Explain Hearing Process for Considering Possible Waste Repository
Regions:	
I-01-026	NRC Dominion Nuclear to Discuss Millstone 2 Performance Issues
IV-01-019	NRC Fines Callaway \$55,000 For Retaliation Against Security Personnel

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Ukraine

On May 14, NRR Headquarter's staff conducted a workshop for a Ukrainian delegation on licensing new fuel designs. This was the first day of a two-week training trip sponsored by DOE for more than 30 specialists from Ukrainian organizations responsible for considering the design and manufacture of alternative nuclear fuel sources. The workshop was an extension of an NRC project for assisting the Ukrainian regulator in developing requirements for new fuel designs. DOE also arranged for the delegation to visit the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and Westinghouse offices in Pittsburgh, PA.

IAEA Radiation Protection Mission to Tajikistan

The IAEA recently conducted a mission to Tajikistan using extrabudgetary funding from the U.S. to provide radiation monitoring equipment and training, and make recommendations on upgrading the radiation protection infrastructure in Tajikistan. Eric Reber, Region I, participated in this mission along with another U.S. expert and an IAEA staff member. The team provided recommendations on governmental organization and legislative matters, the remediation of uranium mill tailing sites, and the location and recovery of misplaced radiation sources.

Annual U.S.-ROK Meeting on Nuclear Energy Cooperation

Staff from the Office of International Programs and the Office of Research represented NRC at the 22nd annual meeting of the U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) Joint Standing Committee on Nuclear Energy Cooperation (JSCNEC) held at the Department of State, May 16-18, 2001. Day one of the JSCNEC meeting was a plenary session covering "big picture," general interest items in both the U.S. and the ROK. Days two and three were devoted to working group sessions and the preparation of the Summary Record of the Meeting, which was signed by heads of delegation R. Stratford, Director of Nuclear Energy Affairs, Bureau of Nonproliferation, Department of State, for the U.S. and by Dr. Cho Chung Won, Director General of the Atomic Energy Bureau, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), for the ROK. (See next item also.) NRC chairs Working Group 2 (WG-2), Nuclear Safety Cooperation, for the U.S. side. Discussions during the WG-2 meetings covered the areas of safety training, emergency cooperation, safety research, technical exchange missions, and the NRC-MOST technical information exchange and general cooperation Arrangement. Both sides agreed that the next meeting will be held in Seoul in May or June 2002.

NRC Visit of Dr. Cho Chung Won

Dr. Cho Chung Won arrived in the Washington area early to hold separate bilaterals on May 14-15 with his counterparts and senior managers at NRC, DOE, and the Department of State. He and his accompanying four-man delegation (from MOST, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety), spent most of May 14 at NRC, where they met with Commissioners to discuss current nuclear power and safety issues. They also met with senior NRC staff to continue in more detail discussions which focused primarily on possible

expanded nuclear safety research cooperation and NRC's revised reactor oversight process. They began the day with a briefing on and a tour of the Operations Center.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0087	5/15/01	SECY-01-0087 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 11, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated May 11, 2001 concerns the Price-Anderson Act.
2. Letter to John McGaha, Entergy Operations, Inc., dated May 11, 2001 concerns recent decision by the Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC) regarding the amount of decommissioning funds that APSC has allowed to be collected for Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2
3. Letter to Daniel S. Goldin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, dated May 11, 2001, concerns technical advisor for the Mars Exploration Rover.
4. Letter to Jonathan M. Block dated May 10, 2001, concerns request for a 90-day extension of time for public comment on the proposed rulemaking on "Changes to Adjudicatory Process."
5. Letter to Paul Gunter dated May 10, 2001, concerns 120-day extension of time for public comment on the proposed rulemaking on "Changes to Adjudicatory Process."
6. Letter to Roy Brown, Chairman of the Board, Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, Inc., dated May 3, 2001, concerns potential extension of the NRC's regulatory authority to include Naturally Occurring and Accelerator-Produced Radioactive Material.
7. Letter to William R. Hendee, Ph.D., Medical College of Wisconsin, dated May 3, 2001, provides answers to questions previously raised about the upcoming revision to 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material."
8. Letter to Congress dated May 1, 2001 provides the monthly report on the status of NRC licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. U.S. NRC Seeks Qualified Candidates for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice

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3. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting
4. ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Limerick/Peach Bottom/Three Mile Island (Emergency Plan Changes)

On May 16, 2001 Exelon, owner of the Limerick, Peach Bottom and Three Mile Island facilities, met with NRC Region I staff at the Region I office to discuss proposed changes to standardize the Emergency Plans for Limerick, Peach Bottom and Three Mile Island. An NRR representative participated in the meeting by video conference. Proposed Emergency Plan changes include decreasing the onsite response staff and moving the Emergency Operations Facility for Three Mile Island to Coatesville, PA, which is the Emergency Operations Facility for Peach Bottom and Limerick. Exelon will submit its changes to NRC for approval in the near future. This meeting was open for public observation and was attended by representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, local governments, and the media.

Connecticut State Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee Meeting

The Connecticut Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee (NEAC) met on May 17, 2001 at the Waterford (CT) Town Hall. The meeting was open to the public and approximately 30 people attended. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ownership change of the Millstone Station and the status of the missing fuel pin investigation at Millstone Unit 1. Mr. Bill Matthews, Vice President and Senior Nuclear Executive for Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, introduced the site Vice Presidents, Ray Necci and Gene Grecheck.

Northeast Utilities, which has retained responsibility for the investigation of the two missing fuel pins, presented an update of its activities, including records searches, additional videotaping of spent fuel pool areas, and ongoing interviews of selected staff. The investigation is expected to be completed in late June 2001, with a report being provided shortly thereafter to the NRC.

An update of NRC inspection activities for Unit 1 was presented by Dr. Ronald Bellamy, Region I Chief of the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch. Dr. Bellamy also answered questions concerning general NRC inspection plans.

At the meeting, the co-chairs of the NEAC, Terry Concannon and Evan Wollacott, finalized and signed a letter to Chairman Meserve requesting that NRC expedite the generation of regulations specific to permanently-shut down reactors.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, EDO, Visits Region II

On May 15, 2001, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, EDO visited the Regional Office. The visit included discussion of the major challenges before the Agency and how the challenges in the Region mesh with these. In the afternoon of May 15, 2001, the Deputy Executive Director presented at talk on NRC regulatory issues at the BWR Owners' Group Annual Executive Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

Support for the FBI/NRC Emergency Preparedness Exercise

On May 15-17, 2001, the Region II Emergency Response Coordinator aided Region IV and the Incident Response Operations organization by participating in the FBI/NRC Emergency Preparedness Exercise at the Palo Verde reactor site in Phoenix, AZ.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer gives Cost Accounting Presentation

On May 17, 2001, a representative from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation to all regional managers and supervisors on cost accounting and the potential uses of STARFIRE modules as tools to aid managers in cost accounting.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee

The Unit 2 power reactor is in a refueling outage. During the outage, the licensee discovered the potential for leakage through the weld areas of four of the control rod drive mechanisms (CRDMs) in the reactor vessel head. Work activities include nondestructive examination of the extent of cracking and repair. The licensee completed the repairs to the four CRDMs and is in the process of completing the nondestructive examination analysis following the repairs.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Honeywell Licensee Performance Review

On May 16, 2001, the Deputy Regional Administrator and members of the regional and headquarters staffs met in Metropolis, Illinois, with Honeywell Specialty Chemicals officials to discuss the Licensee Performance Review for the company's uranium conversion plant. The review covered the period February 1999 through January 2001.

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Licensee Performance Review

On May 17, 2001, the Deputy Regional Administrator and members of the regional and headquarters staffs met in Paducah, Kentucky, with U. S. Enrichment Corporation officials to discuss the Licensee Performance Review for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The review covered the period October 1998 through December 2000.

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Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 18, 2001

Public Meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, along with several other RIV and NRC Headquarters personnel, sponsored a public meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana, on May 10, 2001. The meeting provided a forum for industry and non-industry stakeholders to obtain information regarding NRC's materials inspection program being conducted in off-shore federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Also discussed were current issues facing industrial radiography and well logging licensees as they implement the requirements of 10 CFR Parts 34, 39, and 150 in off-shore Federal waters. Approximately 100 stakeholders were in attendance at this meeting.

Commissioner Merrifield Visit to Entergy Facilities and Texaco's Petronius Oil Platform

Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited Entergy Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, on May 15, Grand Gulf Nuclear Station on May 16, River Bend Station on May 17, and Texaco's Petronius Oil Platform in the Gulf of Mexico on May 18. Activities included a tour of each facility, meetings with licensee management and facility employees, and observation of well-logging activities on the oil platform.

Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 16

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	05/23/01 SD-106	TBA	Secretary Abraham	President's Energy Report	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Madden/ Combs	05/24/01 SD-366	9:30	NRC, DOE, and others	Price-Anderson Act Reauthorization	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	Week of 6/5/01 SD-106	TBA	TBA	S. 388 and S. 597, Legislation to Address a National Energy Plan	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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