

August 15, 2001

SECY-01-0154

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0154 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 10, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
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Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
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NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-15, Performance of DC-Powered Motor-Operated Valve Actuators, dated August 1, 2001

The NRC issued this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the availability of improved industry guidance for predicting the performance of dc-powered motor-operated valve (MOV) actuators.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-16, Update of Evacuation Time Estimates, dated August 1, 2001

The NRC issued this Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) to alert addressees to the possible need to update emergency planning evacuation time estimates as the results of the year 2000 census are published.

Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles" Issued

On August 3, 2001, the NRC issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles."

The bulletin is being sent to the licensees of 69 pressurized water reactors (PWRs). The bulletin requests PWR licensees to provide information related to the structural integrity of these reactor pressure vessel head penetration nozzles to ensure the integrity of their reactor coolant system pressure boundaries, and demonstrate compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. The bulletin also requires that PWR licensees submit a written response indicating whether the requested information will be submitted within the required 30-day time period. Licensees unable to satisfy this requirement will have to submit a written description of any alternative course of action they propose to take, including the basis for its acceptability. The 30-day time period ends on September 2, 2001.

The staff will meet with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute and PWR licensees on August 15, 2001 to discuss the agency's expectations regarding licensee responses to the bulletin. The meeting will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in room T-2B3. In addition, a phone bridge line has been established for participants.

The staff continues to maintain a dedicated web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/ALLOY-600/index.html>. This page provides links to information regarding the cracking identified to date, along with documentation of staff interactions with industry (i.e., industry submittals, meeting notices, presentation materials, meeting summaries and the full text of this bulletin).

Palisades Plant

In a public meeting with the NRC staff on August 1, 2001, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) discussed its application for NRC staff approval, dated July 30, 2000, to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Case N-504-1, "Alternative Rules for Repair of Class 1, 2, and 3 Austenitic Stainless Steel Piping Section XI, Division 1." The Code case would be applied to establish the acceptability of defects in the upper pressure housings of control rod drive (CRD) stalks at the Palisades Plant by increasing the housing wall thickness by deposition of weld reinforcement material (weld overlay) on the surface of the housings.

As noted in NMC's letter, the need for repair was first identified as a result of a leak observed on June 21, 2001, in the upper housing assembly of CRD-21. Inspections after plant shutdown revealed a through-wall axial crack near the butt weld that joins the upper housing assembly pipe to an eccentric reducer (Weld No. 3). This location is several feet above the reactor vessel head. The licensee notes that CRD-21 has now been removed for destructive examination to determine root cause, and will be replaced by a spare obtained from another nuclear power plant. Testing of metallurgical samples removed from the defective CRD-21 weld identified the cracking as transgranular stress corrosion cracking (TGSCC). Subsequent nondestructive examinations of several other CRD housings at Palisades have revealed several indications in this same weld area of those housings, and additional indications in this weld area for CRD-21. Some of the additional indications have an axial orientation and some have a circumferential orientation. The additional indications are of varying depth, but none are through-wall, and none have been found in welds other than Weld No. 3. A metallurgical contractor for NMC explained that the bottom flange of the pinion housing and rack assembly inside the CRD pressure housing is located at Weld No. 3 and is believed to create an environment conducive to TGSCC. The licensee states that, if approved, the Code Case would be applied to the repair of those CRD upper housing assemblies for which it can be shown to apply, and where such repair is determined to be the appropriate course of action.

The NRC staff stated at the conclusion of the meeting that application of the Code Case for the repair of CRD upper housing assemblies is deemed to be a viable concept, but that NRC staff approval may require additional information regarding the current and ongoing inspection results, metallurgical and root cause analyses, future crack growth potential, repair and reinspection plans, and supplementation regarding the regulatory basis of the current relief request.

Point Beach Units 1 & 2

On August 8, 2001, the staff issued license amendments which replace the Point Beach Units 1 & 2 technical specifications in their entirety with new technical specifications based on the improved Standard Technical Specifications (iSTS). The licensee will implement these revised technical specifications by December 31, 2001. Issuance of this amendment completes an item in the Chairman's Tasking Memorandum.

The Point Beach units are the 61st and 62nd units that have been approved to convert to the improved STS. This number includes Watts Bar which was originally licensed with the iSTS and Browns Ferry Unit 1, but not the Zion units which were approved, but never implemented the iSTS. Applications for conversion to iSTS for an additional 6 units are currently under review.

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Licenses for 8 units are scheduled to make applications in the next year, 18 are undecided and 10 have indicated that they will not be converting.

Power Uprates

In SECY-01-0124, the NRC staff discussed ongoing efforts to streamline the review process for the measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates. Measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates are on the order of 1.5 percent and are achieved by implementing enhanced techniques for calculating reactor power. The staff has analyzed the application and review processes for these uprates and has determined that efficiency gains can be achieved by (1) improving the quality of the licensees' submittals with respect to information needs by the staff when conducting these reviews, and (2) better focusing staff reviews on areas needed to support the safety finding. The analyses were performed using the process standard developed by the NRR work planning center for reviewing the measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates. This process standard includes all the major tasks involved in reviewing such applications. The analyses concluded that elimination of requests for additional information (RAIs) would have the biggest impact with respect to reducing staff review time. Therefore, to improve the scope and quality of licensees' submittals and minimize the need for RAIs, the staff has drafted guidance for licensees' use in preparing their applications. The guidance covers the staff's information needs to conduct the reviews. With respect to better focusing the staff's review, the staff took a critical look at the current review process and has taken steps to focus the reviews on the areas that are essential to make the safety determination. A focused staff approach is captured in the guidance. The staff has scheduled a public workshop on August 23, 2001, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Two White Flint North Auditorium to discuss the guidance with our stakeholders and obtain their feedback.

South Texas Project

On August 3, 2001, the NRC approved the exemptions requested by STP Nuclear Operating Company for the special treatment requirements of 10 CFR Parts 21, 50, and 100. Exemptions were granted for components determined to be of low risk-significance using an NRC-approved categorization process. The regulations for which exemptions were granted include the definition of basic component (10 CFR 21.3); environmental qualification requirements [10 CFR 50.49(b) and 10 CFR 50.55a(h)]; ASME inservice testing, inspection, repair and replacement requirements [10 CFR 50.55a(f) and (g)]; maintenance rule scope [10 CFR 50.65(b)]; certain quality assurance requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B; Type C Containment Isolation Valve Leak testing [10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J]; and seismic qualification requirements [10 CFR Part 100, Appendix A, VI(a)(1) & (2)]. The information is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML012150331 and can also be found on NRC's website at http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/RISK50/treatment_modifications.html.

Meeting with United States Geological Survey (USGS)

On July 31, 2001, members of the EMEB staff met with Mr. Jim Devine, Senior Advisor for Scientific Applications reporting to the Director of USGS, and Ms. Jill McCarthy, Associate Coordinator of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program, at their offices in Reston, VA to lay the ground work for putting in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our agencies in anticipation of early site permit applications. The meeting was important in our efforts to begin

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re-establishing the past interagency agreement between the NRC and USGS for technical support and advice. USGS can provide support/expertise in many areas of geology and geophysics pertaining to seismic hazard characterization as well as hydrology and tsunami hazards for coastal sites. Except for demography, an inter-government agreement may provide an opportunity for assistance that will cover all the areas for which EMEB has siting responsibility. They were also receptive to the idea of supporting the staff's anticipated effort to update the Standard Review Plan in those areas where they possess considerable expertise. The meeting concluded with an agreement that USGS would prepare and transmit to the NRC for additional input and comments, a preliminary draft MOU based on records from past joint activities between the two agencies.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 10, 2001

Working Group Meeting

On August 2, 2001, a 10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group Meeting was held to further discuss the best approach to delineate the responsibilities of the NRC and other regulatory agencies regarding source materials with low concentrations of uranium and thorium and their decay products. The meeting was open to the public. Topics discussed included a summary of the National Academy of Sciences report, "Evaluation of Guidelines for Exposures to Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials" and the Environmental Protection Agency's response to Congress, and a list of terms and definitions for use by the group. The working group also discussed the results of NUREG-1717, "Systematic Radiological Assessment of Exemptions for Source and Byproduct Materials," for those materials applicable to the working group's task, and began evaluating the associated jurisdictional authorities. Interagency participants included the State of Colorado (representing the Organization of Agreement States and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Internally, representatives from the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of State and Tribal Programs participated.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Advanced Enrichment Technology Plans

On August 3, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) personnel to discuss the regulatory and technical aspects associated with USEC's possible plans to build a centrifuge lead uranium enrichment cascade for testing purposes at either the Portsmouth or Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. This would be in addition to the Separation of Isotopes by Laser Excitation (SILEX) development effort currently underway in Australia. Either enrichment technology (centrifuge or SILEX), or both, could be deployed, beginning next year. In the centrifuge lead cascade test facility, USEC would be evaluating Department of Energy centrifuge designs for enrichment efficiency, reliability, and integrated full-scale operation. This facility would be a laboratory-type, closed-loop cascade process involving enough centrifuge machines to provide statistically meaningful evaluation results and to identify any design flaws. During the meeting, USEC personnel stated that a license application for this lead centrifuge test facility would be under 10 CFR Part 70 as a laboratory-scale facility for experimental purposes.

Technical Exchange on Evaluating the Range of Thermal Operating Modes for Potential Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Repository

On August 2, 2001, staff of the Division of Waste Management and the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a technical exchange in Rockville, Maryland. DOE discussed the historical and current thermal management designs for the potential geological repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE also presented an overview of the recently released Supplemental Science and Performance Analysis report. The report presents the results of an exploratory evaluation of the range of thermal operating modes, sensitivity and uncertainty analyses, and

updated site models. The report provides insights into uncertainties that were not evaluated in DOE's prior performance assessments. This technical exchange provided a basis for the staff to begin a technical review of the report. The staff's comments on the report will be addressed in the tentative September 13-14, 2001, "Range of Thermal Operating Modes" technical exchange and management meeting.

National Research Council Board on Radioactive Waste Management Summer Meeting

On August 7, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff attended the National Research Council's Board of Radioactive Waste Management summer meeting. The focus of the meeting was involving the public in decision processes for waste and environmental management. Presentations covered both international (Sweden, Canada, and Russia) and domestic (Fernald, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and Yucca Mountain) perspectives. The Board reviewed methods used for public involvement in the decision process and areas where improvement is needed. A Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board staff member assessed the Department of Energy's public outreach program for the Yucca Mountain project. The speaker concluded that public involvement in the decision process for Yucca Mountain is limited by political decisions and by legislative constraints. The Board compared the public involvement process for Yucca Mountain and WIPP. Many members of the Board were unaware of the NRC's Yucca Mountain public involvement process. Staff provided materials used in public meetings to the Board and briefly described NRC's efforts.

National Research Council Meeting on the Department of Energy's Long-Term Institutional Management of Legacy Waste Sites

On August 6, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff made a presentation on the NRC's experience with the use of institutional controls at a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences' committee conducting a study of long-term institutional management at Department of Energy (DOE) legacy waste sites. The study, which has just begun, will analyze long-term institutional management plans and practices for a group of representative DOE legacy waste sites. It will make recommendations for improvements, including recommendations for scientific (including social sciences) and engineering research and development, to improve long-term institutional management capabilities. DOE is the study's sponsor. Two reports are planned: an interim report, expected approximately 18 months after the beginning of the project; and a final report, at the end of the project, approximately 30 months after the starting date. The committee also is evaluating remediation alternatives for the Moab mill tailings site, in accordance with a law passed by Congress last fall. The committee heard presentations, from the Environmental Protection Agency on the Superfund program; from Colorado, on cleanup activities in the State; and from several DOE staff, on its cleanup and stewardship programs. There were also presentations by several committee members on special topics related to stewardship, from the Environmental Law Institute, from Native American representatives, and from the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation.

Holtec Quality Assurance Meeting

On August 7, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives of Holtec International to discuss Holtec's implementation of a revision to its quality assurance (QA) program, that had not been submitted to the NRC for approval. Holtec indicated that the problem

occurred because it had overlooked the regulatory requirements for QA programs. Specifically, it stated that it had confused 10 CFR Part 50 and Part 72 provisions regarding approval requirements for changes to QA programs. Holtec then discussed its corrective actions. At the end of the meeting, it also discussed several problems associated with cask fabrication in the context of the QA plan changes and showed that the QA plan changes were not factors in the problems. The fabrication problems included a damaged cask lid identified by a cask user, and a broken aluminum heat-conduction element found inside the cask by a user.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 10, 2001

Seismic Hazard Differing Professional View

In May 2001, a member of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research filed a differing professional view (DPV) related to the NRC practices in the areas of probabilistic seismic hazard analysis and related risk calculations concerning the licensing of nuclear plants. The DPV suggested that agency procedures for conducting site seismotectonic investigations, assessments of seismic ground motion hazards, and estimates of seismic response spectra for new plants can be substantially simplified and thus reduce regulatory burden. There were no safety issues raised in the DPV.

A Panel reviewed the issues raised in the DPV and concluded that the arguments provided in the DPV were not compelling with regard to recommendations for reducing unnecessary burden. In fact, the Panel determined that most of what was argued as unnecessary burden was, in fact, necessary. However, during their review of the DPV, the Panel did identify 2 supplemental recommendations/issues related to the DPV. The staff will develop a plan for addressing these recommendations/issues within the next 30 days.

The Panel's report was sent to the submitter of the DPV on August 6, 2001.

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Incident Response Operations
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Week Ending August 10, 2001

Continuity of Operations Working Group

The Incident Response Operations (IRO) staff attended the unclassified Continuity of Operations Working Group (CWG) meeting on August 9, 2001. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as executive agency and chair of the group, offered the following observations about the evolving structure of contingency planning:

- ! Presidential Decision Directives 39 (Counterterrorism), 62 (Unconventional threats), 63 (Critical infrastructure), and 67 (Continuity of Operations) are currently still in effect and their functions are likely to continue, albeit through a different and leaner reporting structure.
- ! The draft Executive Order on which NRC submitted comments will establish a senior interagency review group to coordinate contingency planning but it is not expected to be signed before about October 1, 2001.
- ! The wait for direction leaves planning for the April 2002 exercise in standby mode; IRO will attend a planning session on August 30, 2001, to express NRC interest and help prepare options for the eventual decision-maker.
- ! The importance of continuity plans was underscored at Social Security in Baltimore by the tunnel fire that forced relocation of personnel to maintain essential functions.

Federal Interagency Counterterrorism Meeting

On August 7, Incident Response Operations staff attended the Policy Coordinating Committee on Counterterrorism and National Preparedness, Exercise Subcommittee meeting at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters in Washington DC. This committee serves as a forum to plan and discuss federal interagency counterterrorism exercises and related issues. Discussion topics included (1) the status of the revised committee charter, which has been tabled due to a formal letter of non-concurrence issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; (2) the need for a centralized exercise schedule; and (3) scheduling and objectives for upcoming exercises.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-01-022B, Ameristeel, Inc., UPDATE ON MELTED CESIUM SOURCE.
2. PNO-II-01-026, GME Engineering, PERSONNEL DOSIMETER EXPOSURE.
3. PNO-III-01-025A, Exelon Nuclear Generating Co. (Quad Cities 2), REACTOR SCRAM AFTER MAIN TRANSFORMER DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING (UPDATE)

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4. PNO-III-00-019C, Palisades, SMALL LEAK IN CONTROL ROD DRIVE HOUSING (THIRD UPDATE).
5. PNO-III-01-027, Prairie Island 1, ELECTRICAL PANEL FIRE DURING PLANT STARTUP.
6. PNO-IV-01-035, Terracon, STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 10, 2001

Acquisition Training

On August 9, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Overview" with 59 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.

Award of CISSCO-II Order for Document Processing Center Support

On August 3, 2001, an order was awarded to Information Manufacturing Corporation, a small business, under NRC BPA No. NRC-33-01-189 for provision of Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) document processing support. The total value of the order over the two-year period of performance is \$5,436,736, with an optional task for processing of historical documents into ADAMS valued at \$570,281 available for exercise during the second year of the order.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 10, 2001

New Release of ADAMS to the Public

On Wednesday, August 8, 2001, the NRC released a new version of ADAMS on the public server. The Office of the Chief Information Officer has been receiving regular feedback from members of the public since ADAMS was released in 1999. Many of the upgrades and enhancements are the result of comments from the public, operational experience, and requests for new features from public users. This release has an on-line order module that allows the public to mark documents from a search, specify the desired output (for example, paper or CD-ROM), and send the request via email to the PDR's copy service. The new release also includes a new viewer that increases the print speed and permits users to print page ranges in a scanned document; additional formats for generating customized reports, and a single icon at the bottom of the tool bar for printing PDF files. The new release was communicated to the public and NRC staff by notices on the Web Public Electronic Reading Room page, an e-mail to members of the ADAMS User Group, a press release, and a Network Announcement.

Award of Delivery Order Under The Cissco-II Blanket Purchase Agreement For The Document Processing Services

The Division of Contracts and Property Management has awarded the delivery order for document processing services to Information Manufacturing Corporation (IMC) located in Rocket Center, West Virginia. IMC Services is a small business experienced in document conversion and management. Services provided will include scanning, creation of text through the optical character recognition (OCR) process of scanned documents, document profiling, declaration of documents as official agency records, electronic distribution and electronic filing of documents, and e-mail notification to staff when processing of their documents is complete. We anticipate a smooth transition to the new contractor without any disruption in service.

External Web Resdesign

On Wednesday, August 8, 2001, OCIO briefed RES and NRR staff on the External Web Redesign. This was the second of 5 scheduled briefings to communicate with office management and staff about the project. The briefings cover the reasons and goals for the redesign, a "tour" of the prototype illustrating the top 10 improvements, the reasons for instituting new Web management controls, and the schedule for completing Phase I. Comments and suggestions are recorded and referred to the Web staff for review. NMSS senior management were briefed on July 31. Future briefings include ADM, small offices, and SECY/Commission Staff.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of August 3, 2001 through August 9, 2001:

I.M.P.A.C. listing with e-mail addresses (FOIA/PA-2001-0330)

Watts Bar, OI Report 2-2000-034 and allegations file (FOIA/PA-2001-0331)

Freedom of Information Act requests and acknowledgements filed by self (FOIA/PA-2001-0332)

Spent fuel being transported through Kent, Ohio (FOIA/PA-2001-0333)

Document entitled "AEC Analysis of Appropriate Limits for Exemptions" cited in the *Federal Register* on June 6, 1961 (FOIA/PA-2001-0334)

Office of Investigation Report 4-1999-054 including all exhibits, transcripts and related documents; and related enforcement documents (FOIA/PA-2001-0335)

1992 Energy Policy Act's federal fleet alternative fuel vehicle purchasing requirements for the last five years (FOIA/PA-2001-0336)

San Onofre, OI Report of Investigation 4-2000-054 (FOIA/PA-2001-0337)

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Office of Human Resources
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Arrivals		
BAUER, Zeena	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	RIV
BRELAND, Nicole	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
BROCK, Sara	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
CRAWFORD, Lynette	SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT	OCFO
FARRAR, Michael	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE	ASLBP
MURRAY, Christopher	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
PUCCIO, Paula	TECHNICAL WRITER EDITOR	OCIO
TROWELL, Tina	SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT	OCFO
WHITNEY, JAMES	INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST	NMSS
WILLIAMSON, Edward	SPECIAL COUNSEL for NRC ACQUISITIONS	OGC
Departures		
DOHENY, Holly	STUDENT CLERK	RI
FEINSTEIN, Robert	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
GOVAN, Tekia	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
HANSON, Michael	STUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	OCFO
LANDAU, Nicholas	SUMMER LAW CLERK	OGC
O'DONNELL, Gregory	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
TOMERO, Leonor	SUMMER LEGAL INTERN	OGC

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Media Interest

There was press interest in the GAO report on Indian Point 2 emergency preparedness.

There was media interest in a proposal from an investor group interested in funding the restart of TVA's Browns Ferry 1 plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-097	NRC Names Stephen L. Rosen to Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
01-098	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Rule Allowing Parts of Reactor Sites to Be Released for Unrestricted Use
01-099	NRC Comments on GAO Report on Indian Point 2 Emergency Preparedness
01-100	NRC Introduces New Version of Adams Based on Public Comment, Operational Experience
Regions:	
I-01-050	NRC Discrimination Task Group to Hold Meeting in Waterford, CT
IV-01-043	Richard W. Deese Named NRC Resident Inspector at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
IV-01-044	NRC Appoints Jeffrey Cruz Resident Inspector at Wolf Creek

Office of the Secretary
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-01-0021	7/12/01	Draft Press Release and Federal Register Notice to Solicit Qualified Candidates for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
SRM on 01-0021	8/6/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0021	8/6/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0083	5/9/01	Proposed Rule to Standardize the Process for Allowing a Licensee to Release Part of its Reactor Facility or Site for Unrestricted Use Before NRC has Approved its License Termination Plan
SRM on 01-0083	8/3/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0083	8/3/01	
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0146	8/2/01	SECY-01-0146 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 27, 2001
2. SECY-01-0135	7/24/01	Annual Update and Analysis of Demographic Data on Resident Inspectors
3. SECY-01-0137	7/25/01	Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Representative George W. Gekas, dated July 30, 2001, concerns a proposal by Exelon Nuclear Corporation to petition the NRC for permission to move its emergency operations facility for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1.
2. Letter to Harold F. Mowery, Jr., Senate of Pennsylvania, dated July 30, 2001, concerns a proposal by Exelon Nuclear Corporation to petition the NRC for permission to move its emergency operations facility for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1.

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.
2. ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Revisions.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Revisions.

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Region I
Items of Interest
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Indian Point 2

In response to a request from New York Congressional representatives, the General Accounting Office (GAO) examined emergency preparedness (EP) issues associated with Indian Point 2. The GAO issued its report on August 9, 2001. The report described: 1) EP weaknesses at the plant, 2) lessons learned by the four counties surrounding Indian Point 2, after the steam generator tube failure event of February 15, 2000, and 3) suggestions offered by the counties to further improve emergency preparedness. Region I responded to questions and comments from stakeholders, including state and local elected officials, the media, and the public.

In a separate, but related event on August 9, the NRC issued a supplemental emergency preparedness follow-up inspection report (report number 05000247/2001-007) clearing the three White findings in the emergency preparedness area that were associated with the steam generator tube failure event. The White findings were issued for: (1) untimely augmentation by the emergency response organization, (2) untimely accountability of onsite radiation emergency workers, and (3) inconsistent dissemination of information to the media and a local official during the course of the event. These findings were determined to be violations of NRC requirements for failing to meet NRC emergency planning standards.

The supplemental inspection was conducted to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of the findings were understood, to independently assess the extent of condition, and to provide assurance that the corrective actions to risk significant performance issues were sufficient to address the causes and to prevent recurrence.

Northeast Heat Wave Related Effects

From August 7-9, 2001, grid conditions in the northeast became progressively worse because of the extremely hot and humid weather. In order to meet power demands, a 5% voltage reduction was made on some northeast power grids on August 9; a similar situation was expected on August 10 before weather conditions were expected to moderate. Independent system operators (ISOs) requested power plant operators to defer trip-risk activities, and several Region I licensees did so, although none of the deferred activities resulted in notice of enforcement discretion (NOED) requests. Room/area temperature limits at some Region I plants were exceeded, resulting in increased monitoring and implementation of contingency measures to supplement area cooling, in order to maintain equipment operable. Two plants, Millstone 2 and Oyster Creek, made slight reductions in power due to the temperatures of their ultimate heat sinks. One plant, Pilgrim, was required by procedure to start both emergency diesel generators on August 9 as a precautionary measure due to the degraded voltage effects on its portion of the grid. The diesel generators were returned to normal standby condition by the end of the day as voltage conditions improved.

Region II
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American Nuclear Society Utility Working Conference

On August 6-8, 2001, the Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Reactor Safety attended the American Nuclear Society Utility Working Conference at the Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida.

Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, EDO Visits Brunswick Site and Southeast Nuclear Plant Manager's Meeting

On August 9, 2001, the Deputy Regional Administrator accompanied the Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Programs, to the Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport, NC. He toured the facility and met with licensee management and NRC resident inspectors.

On August 10, 2001, the Deputy Regional Administrator accompanied the Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Programs, to the Southeast Nuclear Plant Manager's meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Global Nuclear Fuel - Licensee Performance Review

On August 7, 2001, the Chief, Fuel Facilities Branch accompanied by the Chief, Safety and Safeguards Support Branch, and the Chief, Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, ONMSS, presenting the results of the NRC's Licensee Performance Review to Global Nuclear Fuel - Americas to the licensee during a meeting open to the public in Wilmington, NC. He also discussed the proposed changes to the fuel facility oversight program in a public meeting.

Region III
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Staff Members Hold Exit on First Phase of Palisades CRD Housing Special Inspection

Staff members on August 9, 2001, met with Nuclear Management Co. officials to exit from the first phase of a month-long special team inspection regarding the condition of Palisades' control rod drive housings. The five member team met with licensee officials at the Palisades, Michigan, plant site. The team within the next few weeks is expected to issue a report on its inspection efforts and findings thus far. The licensee's evaluation of the situation and corrective actions are continuing. The licensee has inspected 21 control rod drive housings by one or more inspection techniques, 18 of which showed crack indications.

Inspection Efforts at a Missouri Army Site Undergoing Decommissioning

A regional inspector on August 10, 2001, traveled to the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Blue Springs, Missouri, which is being decommissioned. The inspector performed direct measurements and verifications in two areas of the mixed waste site. The August 10 visit is expected to be the last of 10 site visits by regional inspectors. An inspection report is expected to be issued within the next few weeks on the status of the NRC regulated portions of this site.