

# INFORMATION REPORT

December 13, 2001

SECY-01-0222

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-01-0222 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING DECEMBER 7, 2001

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\*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-23 Resetting Fault Exposure Hours for Safety System Unavailability Performance Indicators, dated December 3, 2001

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform power reactor licensees of the revised process to reset fault exposure hours for the mitigating system unavailability performance indicators.

St. Lucie License Renewal Application

In a letter dated November 29, 2001, Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) submitted its application requesting the extension of the operating licenses for St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years beyond their current 40-year terms pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51. FPL accelerated their submittal schedule from June 2002 to December 2001 and then ultimately delivered the application on November 30, 2001.

St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2 are Combustion Engineering nuclear steam supply systems with current operating licenses that expire on March 1, 2016, and April 6, 2023, respectively. Unit 2 received an exemption on February 27, 2001, to allow submittal of the application prior to 20 years from expiration of the operating license. Upon a favorable completion of the acceptance review, the staff will establish the license renewal review schedule.

Exelon Meeting on Pebble Bed Modular Reactor

A public meeting was held with the staff and Exelon on November 29 and 30, 2001, to continue to discuss the pre-application review of the pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR). Exelon made an informative presentation to the staff on the operational modes and states of the PBMR and Exelon and the staff discussed the testing requirements for a combined license. During the meeting, the staff presented an overview of the Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment report and addressed initial comments and questions from Exelon on the report.

General Atomics Meeting on Gas Turbine-Modular Helium Reactor

On December 3, 2001, a public meeting was held with the staff and General Atomics (GA) to discuss GA's plans for a pre-application review of the gas turbine-modular helium reactor (GT-MHR) design. GA requested to meet with the staff regularly during 2002 to discuss programmatic, licensing, and technical issues. GA plans to submit a letter in January to provide a more detailed plan and proposed schedule for the pre-application review. GA indicated that they plan to submit a draft safety analysis report for the GT-MHR in 2003.

NRR Office Instruction COM-105

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Office Instruction COM-105, "NRR Interfaces with the Office of Investigations," was issued on November 26, 2001. This is the initial issuance of

Office Instruction COM-105, which replaced NRR Office Letter 1001, "Procedures for the Disposition of Investigation Reports Received from the Office of Investigations."

NRR Office Instruction COM-106

NRR issued Office Instruction COM-106, "Control of Task Interface Agreements," on November 26, 2001. This is the initial issuance of Office Instruction COM-106, which replaced NRR Office Letter 1201, "Control of Task Interface Agreements."

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Meeting with Representatives of Nuclear Management Company

On December 4, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Management Company (NMC) to discuss the NMC Spent Fuel Organization and the spent fuel status and cask-loading plans for three NMC sites: Duane Arnold Energy Center, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, and Palisades Nuclear Plant. NMC currently is implementing the general licensing provisions of 10 CFR Part 72 at the Point Beach and Palisades plants for dry spent fuel storage. NMC also plans to load casks at Duane Arnold under the general licensing provisions. The licensee discussed its program to share resources between the sites for certain functions common to the dry storage program, such as nuclear oversight, training, and welding activities. NMC stated that it plans to use the NUHOMS storage system at all three plants. Palisades currently has 18 VSC-24 systems loaded and Point Beach has 12 VSC-24's loaded. NMC plans to load four additional VSC-24's at Point Beach before switching to the NUHOMS design. No additional VSC-24's are planned for loading at Palisades. The licensee plans to begin loading casks at Duane Arnold in 2003.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Meet with the Nuclear Energy Institute to Discuss Implementing the License Termination Rule

On December 4, 2001, a meeting was held between Division of Waste Management staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) License Termination Rule (LTR) Task Force to continue interactions associated with developing additional guidance for the decommissioning of nuclear power reactors. During the Decommissioning Forum meeting in New Orleans in the Summer of 2001, NEI indicated that clarification or additional guidance for implementing the LTR is needed, and proposed an approach to develop this guidance. Under this approach, NEI is developing "questions (Q's) and answers (A's)" on specific technical implementation issues associated with the LTR (e.g., embedded piping). The intent of the December 4, 2001, meeting was to allow NEI to clarify the Q's and A's and allow the staff to clarify its comments and provide acceptable approaches that could be incorporated into the Q's and A's. NEI targeted a final submittal of Q's and A's for the end of January 2002.

Observation of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, Audit of Metal Samples Company

On November 26-28, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Bechtel SAIC Company (BSC), LLC, quality assurance audit of Metal Samples Company in Oxford, Alabama. Metal Samples is a supplier for BSC, which is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Maintenance and Operating Contractor for the Yucca Mountain project. The BSC and DOE audit team evaluated the effectiveness of Metal Samples Quality Assurance program implementation.

International Workshop on Long-Term Corrosion Behavior in Nuclear Waste Systems

On November 26-29, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses took part in an international workshop in Cadarache, France. The focus of the workshop was on prediction of long-term corrosion behavior in the high-level waste

management arena. The purpose of the workshop was to develop an international consensus on extrapolating laboratory and field data for the corrosion behavior of waste package materials to a geologic timescale. Participants discussed the conditions for localized corrosion, the induction time for localized corrosion, and the analogue data (e.g., Iron Pillar in India) relevant to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) high-level waste program. The staff presented NRC's risk-informed, performance-based regulatory approach. The Swedish, Finnish, and French high-level waste programs have not adopted this regulatory approach. Participants discussed the difficulties associated with assessing the uncertainties for the long-term corrosion behavior of waste package materials when using a deterministic approach.

#### Participation at Materials Research Society Fall Meeting

On November 26-30, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) attended the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management XXV Symposium. The Symposium was part of the Materials Research Society's meeting in Boston. A Center staff member chaired the symposium and three staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Center were session chairs. NRC and Center staff delivered eight presentations on geochemistry, waste package and drip shield degradation, contaminant transport, and performance assessment issues.

#### Meeting of the American National Standards Institute Committee N13 on Radiation Protection

On November 30, 2001, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff represented the NRC in the annual meeting of the American National Standards Institute N13, Radiation Protection. Topics on the agenda included administrative matters, a review of the current standards activities, and new topics of concern. The participants discussed mail irradiation and the role that N13 should play in assuring safety in this rapidly growing area. The Committee agreed that a joint effort with N42 and N43, which have responsibility for the equipment issues, would be the best approach to examining the current suite of standards and identifying any areas that need attention.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Reactor Protection System Reliability Studies

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) issued NUREG/CR-5500, Vol. 10, "Reliability Study: Combustion Engineering Reactor Protection System, 1984-1998," and NUREG/CR-5500, Vol. 11, "Reliability Study: Babcock & Wilcox Reactor Protection System, 1984-1998." These reports document analyses of the safety-related performance of the reactor protection systems (RPS) at Combustion Engineering (CE) and Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) reactors from 1984 through 1998. RPS operational data were collected for these plants from the Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System and Licensee Event Reports. They include a risk-based analysis of the data to estimate the observed unavailability of the RPS, based on fault tree models of the systems. They also include an engineering analysis of trends and patterns to provide insights into RPS performance. RPS unavailability results obtained from the data were compared with existing unavailability estimates from Individual Plant Examinations (IPEs) and Probabilistic Risk Assessments (PRAs).

Results, findings, conclusions, and information contained in these reports support a variety of risk-informed regulatory activities. These regulatory activities include plant inspections, technical reviews of proposed license amendments, regulatory effectiveness analyses, development of enhanced performance indicators, and Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) model development.

Risk-based Performance Indicators, Results of Phase 1 Development.

The report documenting the results of the Phase I development of potential Risk-based Performance Indicators (RBPIs) was issued. The report identified potential indicators of unreliability and unavailability for the initiating event and mitigating systems cornerstones. Thresholds for these indicators were based on the changes in core damage frequency (CDF) using the Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) models. Recent Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) stakeholder interactions identified several aspects of the unreliability and unavailability indicators that could enhance the current set of ROP indicators. As a result, the staff is working with the industry to initiate a pilot program in early 2002 to test some of these potential enhancements. For shutdown modes of operation, RBPI development work results will be used to support development of the shutdown significance determination process (SDP).

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Workshop on Effective Emergency Response

On December 5 and 6, the Incident Response Operations (IRO) staff participated in the "Workshop on Effective Emergency Response" sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology. The workshop was held, in part, to discuss that the federal government is supporting over 150 atmospheric dispersion codes (of which NRC's Radiological Assessment System for Consequences Analysis (RASCAL) is one). The concern is that there may be unnecessary duplication of effort. The workshop also provided an opportunity for an IRO dialogue with NOAA and the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center regarding meteorological support for emergency response and modeling of releases.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-037, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company, REPORT OF MINOR FIRE IN 55-GALLON DRUM-DRYING EQUIPMENT AND DECLARATION OF NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT.
2. PNO-II-01-040, Tri-State Testing and Drilling, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
3. PNO-III-01-038, William Beaumont Hospital, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
4. PNO-IV-01-050, State of Alaska Department of Transportation, POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS.
5. PNO-IV-01-051, Romagosa Oncology, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
6. PNO-IV-01-052, Weyerhaeuser Technology Center, LEAKING SOURCE.
7. PNO-IV-01-053, University of California at San Diego, THREE IODINE-125 SEEDS REPORTED MISSING.

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Contract Award

On December 4, 2001, a cost reimbursement task order type contract was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc. of Rockville, MD for maintenance, applications, assessment, and development of NRC Thermal Hydraulic and Severe Accident Computer Simulation Codes. The contract includes a base period of one year valued at \$2,807,944, and 4 one-year options valued at \$7,188,708, for a total of \$9,996,652.

Acquisition Training and Certification Program

On December 5, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition Certification and Training Program module entitled "Overview" with nine 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 the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory interagency agreements.



Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of  
November 30, 2001 through December 6, 2001:

Contract no. DR-01-0290, "Infrastructure Services and Support." (FOIA/PA-2002-0054)

Chilling effects correspondence, by or to the NRC, covering 01/01/00 through 11/29/01.  
(FOIA/PA-2002-0055)

D.C. Cook, Indiana/Michigan Power Co., all investigation documents re alleged violation of 10  
CFR 50.7 in November 2000. (FOIA/PA-2002-0056)

Cline Technical Services, OI report no. 4-2001-032. (FOIA/PA-2002-0057)

Continental Mining and Milling Co., Chicago, IL, license SMA-862 termination verification.  
(FOIA/PA-2002-0058)

Definition(s) and/or interpretation(s) of the term "specially designed" as it relates to export  
licensing authority. (FOIA/PA-2002-0059)

Site assessment, Harshaw Chemical Co., 1000 Harvard Ave., Cleveland, OH, all radioactive  
material licenses. (FOIA/PA-2002-0060)

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

<b>Arrivals</b>		
TOMS, Gerald	CONSULTANT	ADM

Office of Small Business & Civil Rights  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

HBCU Meeting

On December 5, 2001, the Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) hosted the monthly meeting of the Science and Technology Cluster of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The main topic of discussion was the three-day HBCU conference (February 11-13, 2002) that will include the signing of the Executive Order for the HBCU Program by President Bush currently scheduled for February 12 at the White House. On February 13 a ceremony will be held to present the Millennium Awards for Teaching and Research Excellence in Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology at HBCUs. The NRC has been an active participant, along with other cluster member agencies, in this awards program.

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve was interviewed by CNN-TV about the revised federal policy regarding use of potassium iodide for nuclear emergencies. Other media, including the New York Times and Time magazine, have interviewed NRC officials about this issue.

A public meeting in Brattleboro, Vermont, drew 600 people and was widely reported.

There was media interest in FirstEnergy Corp's decision to shut down its Davis-Besse nuclear power plant in mid-February to inspect reactor vessel head nozzles for cracking.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-01-066	Third Library to Make Available Peach Bottom License Renewal Information
I-01-067	NRC to Receive Comments on Draft Decommissioning Document At Public Meeting Scheduled for December 10 in Boston
I-01-068	NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letter to Easton, Pa., Medical Firm
I-01-069	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector at Oyster Creek
II-01-048	NRC to Receive Comments on Draft Decommissioning Document December 12 in Atlanta
III 01-056	NRC Staff to Meet with U. S. Enrichment Corp. On Possible Safety Violations
IV 01-052	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine for Centennial Engineering & Research, Inc.

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-01-0204	11/16/01	Improving the NRC Public Website
2. SECY-01-0205	11/16/01	Status Report on Performance-Based Approaches to Regulation
3. SECY-01-0216	11/29/01	SECY-01-0216 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 23, 2001
4. SECY-01-0209	11/21/01	Framework Document for International Activities
5. SECY-01-0202	11/9/01	Information Technology Efforts to Support Mobile Computing
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M011205A	12/5/01	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0198-Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3); II. SECY-01-0200-Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (Haddam Neck Plant); Docket No. 50-213-OLA

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated November 30, 2001, concerns security of nuclear facilities.
2. Letter to The Honorable Howard Dean, M.D., Governor of Vermont, dated November 28, 2001, concerns oversight of security at Vermont Yankee in light of the recent terrorist actions.
3. Letter to Dianne R. Nelson, Ph.D., State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality, and Jay Silberg, Esq., Shaw Pittman, LLP, dated November 27, 2001, concerns proposed recent modification to a rulemaking plan concerning seismological requirements for independent spent fuel storage installations.
4. Letter to David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, dated November 26, 2001, concerns NRC's actions following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

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ENCLOSURE O

5. Letter to Senator Olympia J. Snowe dated November 26, 2001, concerns actions the NRC and the nuclear industry have taken in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and security at the Nation's nuclear power plants and decommissioning reactors.
6. Letter to Vinny deMacedo, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State House, dated November 26, 2001, concerns request that all security programs in nuclear power plants be federalized.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 72 [Docket No. PRM-72-5]; Nuclear Energy Institute; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2001

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Farley Nuclear Plant

On December 3, 2001, the Acting Regional Administrator visited the Farley Nuclear Plant to tour the facility and meet with licensee management and NRC resident inspectors. He also participated in the presentation of operator license certificates to graduates of the licensee's latest operator license class.

Participation in Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Steering Committee

On December 4, 2001, the Acting Regional Administrator participated in the Joint NRC/NEI PRA Industry Steering Committee Meeting in Headquarters. The meeting was open to the public and discussed the status of NRC and Industry activities in PRA.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. Management Meeting

On December 5, 2001, representatives from Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) in Tennessee, were in the Region II Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss NFS performance since January 14, 2001, and results or outcomes achieved in improving safety culture and regulatory compliance.

Navy Radiation Safety Committee Meeting

On December 6, 2001, the Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch 2 Chief and the Region II Navy Project Coordinator attended the Navy Radiation Safety Committee Meeting in Crystal City, VA.

Employee Recognition Ceremony

On December 6, 2001, Region II held a ceremony to recognize the staff for their efforts in support of the agency's activities following the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

INPO New Operations Manager Seminar

On December 7, 2001, the Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, provided a talk at the INPO New Operations Manager Seminar. The talk included a discussion on the challenges facing industry and the NRC during this next year.

Representatives of the French Government

On December 6-7, 2001, Region II hosted a representative of the French Nuclear Installations Safety Directorate and a representative from the French Commission for Artificial Radionuclides. The two dignitaries were provided information on how the Region implements the materials licensing and inspection programs.