

INFORMATION REPORT

December 21, 2001

SECY-01-0227

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0227 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING DECEMBER 14, 2001

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C*
Incident Response Operations	D*
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R*

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

South Texas Project Units 1 & 2

STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) met with the NRC staff to discuss an STPNOC proposal to develop risk-informed technical specifications for South Texas Project (STP) Units 1 and 2. STPNOC proposed that the STP Units 1 and 2 effort serves as a pilot for the industry. The NRC plans to conduct a follow-up meeting with STPNOC in January 2002 to continue discussions on the proposal.

Meeting With TVA Regarding Extended Power Uprate at Browns Ferry

On December 5, 2001, the NRC staff met with representatives of TVA at the NRC offices in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possible content of a future amendment to the licenses of Browns Ferry Units 2 and 3 for extended power uprate.

The planned amendment will be for an extended power uprate for each unit to 3952 MWt, which would be approximately 15 percent above the current licensed power level of 3458 MWt. A previous uprate provided a 5 percent increase above the original licensed power level of 3293 MWt.

During the meeting, the NRC staff discussed various aspects of the review with the licensee, including major plant modifications, proposed submittals and schedule. The submittal will be the first application based on a full implementation of the General Electric Constant Pressure Power Uprate topical report, which is currently under review by the staff. TVA indicated that the current schedule for submittal of a license amendment is in July 2002.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-25 NEI 99-02, Revision 2, Voluntary Submission of Performance Indicator Data, dated December 12, 2001

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary to inform power reactor licensees that the NRC has endorsed the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's), "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline," NEI 99-02, Revision 2, for addressee use in collecting and reporting performance indicator data to the NRC.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-24 Status of Receipt of NRC Mail Following the Closing of the Brentwood Postal Facility, dated December 6, 2001

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is issuing this regulatory issue summary to provide individuals and organizations outside of the NRC with information that will assist them in determining the method they should use to submit documents to the NRC.

Public Meetings on the Draft Supplement to the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities

The NRC staff held public meetings in Chicago, Illinois, on December 6, 2001, and the Boston Marriott Hotel on December 10, 2001, to present the draft Supplement 1 to the "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities, NUREG-0586," and to seek public comments on the document. In addition, the staff hosted an informal "open house" for one hour prior to the start of each meeting. Both meetings were attended by representatives of interested Federal, state and local government organizations, and members of the public. These were the second and third of a series of four meetings planned to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the draft Supplement. The last meeting was held on December 12, 2001, in Atlanta, GA.

The supplement was prepared because of technological advances in decommissioning operations, experience gained with shut down plants and changes made to the NRC regulations since the GEIS was first published. It is a standalone document to be used to evaluate environmental impacts during decommissioning, which could lead to termination of an NRC license. The public comment period on the draft Supplement began on November 9, 2001.

December 14, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Meeting with Representatives of Gesellschaft für Nuklear-Behälter mbH

On December 12-13, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives of Gesellschaft für Nuklear-Behälter mbH (GNB), to discuss the materials test program for the CASTOR X/32 S spent fuel dry-cask storage system. The materials test program includes testing of neutron absorber materials, evaluation of weld metal, and testing of external and internal coatings. GNB representatives made technical presentations on the service life, and on environmental, structural, and thermal considerations it will use to select the materials used in the construction of the storage cask. GNB will use the information obtained, during the staff interactions, to conduct the test program and assemble the test results as part of the formal application for NRC approval. No date was proposed for the submission.

Nuclear Energy Agency's Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling

On December 5-7, 2001, a management representative from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) participated in the second meeting of the Nuclear Energy Agency's (NEA's) Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling (WPDD). NEA formed the WPDD earlier this year, as a working group of both regulators and decommissioning "implementors," to address decommissioning issues under NEA's standing Radioactive Waste Management Committee. Thirty-six participants from 14 different NEA Member States, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Commission, and the NEA Secretariat were represented at the second WPDD meeting. Topical sessions were held on the "Safety Case" for decommissioning and on "Materials Management" during decommissioning. The DWM representative served as the Recorder for the Safety Case topical session, and delivered a presentation on "Radiological Characterization and Challenges at Decommissioning Sites" for the session on materials management. The second WPDD meeting included presentations on decommissioning efforts of other international organizations and NEA committees, environmental impact and accident assessment, licensing, risk management, waste acceptance, recycling, and radiological characterization. The WPDD will develop position papers on the two topical sessions, and representatives agreed at the meeting to develop a publicly available brochure on decommissioning, as well as country-specific decommissioning fact sheets. The next full meeting of the WPDD will be held in June 2002 at a decommissioning site in Germany, with task group meetings to be held before the June WPDD session.

Division of Waste Management Presents Analysis Tools at Society for Risk Assessment Meeting

On December 2-5, 2001, four members of the Division of Waste Management attended and presented briefings at the annual meeting of the Society for Risk Assessment in Seattle, Washington. The NRC's presentations discussed NRC's approach to establishing generic screening values for decommissioning; the risk-informed approach being used in high-level waste (HLW); uncertainty, variability, and importance analyses, regarding HLW, performed by the staff; and staff efforts to increase the code's abilities by adding a dose-modeling module. Staff attended a variety of other presentations and poster sessions, which included risk

December 14, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

communication, cost-benefit analyses, the Department of Energy's Stewardship program, age-specific modeling, and modeling approaches being used in non-radiation-based analyses.

Quarterly Department of Energy Quality Assurance and Management Meeting

On December 5-6, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff met with the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss quality assurance (QA), issue resolution, and management concerns. This quarterly meeting was a three-way video conference hosted at the NRC Headquarters, with connections to the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. DOE's QA presentations addressed the QA Management Assessment report findings; the purpose and strategy of the performance improvement transition plan; and the status of data and software qualification and model validation. Both NRC and DOE presented information on the status of and the process for issue resolution. During the management meeting, DOE provided a program update, a discussion of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Concerns Program, and addressed NRC/DOE communication issues.

Urenco and Exelon to Pursue Building a Gas Centrifuge Facility in the U.S.

On December 4-5, 2001, representatives from Urenco and Exelon met with individual Commissioners and staff to discuss their plans to pursue building a gas centrifuge facility in the U.S. Urenco and Exelon indicated that they will make a decision by the end of December 2001 on whether they will go forward with an application to the NRC. If they decide to go forward, they would begin discussions with NRC in January 2002, and anticipate submitting an application to NRC by the end of calendar year 2002. In a separate effort, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) plans to meet with NRC staff in mid-January 2002, to further discuss its plans and schedule for submitting a license application for the construction and operation of a gas centrifuge test facility that employs U.S. gas centrifuge technology. USEC currently anticipates submitting the application in October 2002.

Fansteel, Inc., Expected to File Bankruptcy

Fansteel, Inc., expects to file bankruptcy during the week of December 17-21, 2001. The Office of the General Counsel is seeking legal representation from the Department of Justice to represent the NRC at any future bankruptcy hearings. Fansteel is considering obtaining funding from a debtor-in-possession lender without any formal consent from NRC. The Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards is planning a Fansteel site visit during the month of January 2002. In addition, arrangements are being made for a public meeting at NRC Headquarters, per Fansteel's request.

Participation in the Department of Energy Workshop, "Protecting the Public and the Environment from Radioactive Sealed Sources Along the Mexico/U.S. Border"

On November 28-29, 2001, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), the Office of International Programs (OIP), and Region IV attended the workshop, "Protecting the Public and the Environment from Radioactive Sealed Sources Along the Mexico/U.S. Border." The workshop was sponsored by the Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Border Technology Partnership program and was coordinated by Sandia

National Laboratories. Workshop attendees were from academia, industry, State governments (Texas and New Mexico), DOE and its laboratories, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Customs Service. In addition, two Mexican physicians from towns near the U.S. border attended the workshop, but not as representatives of the Mexican Government.

The goal of the workshop was to exchange ideas about issues involving abandoned or discarded radioactive sealed sources along the Mexico/U.S. border. The NMSS attendee presented a briefing on "Preventing Loss of Control of Sealed Sources Along the Mexico/U.S. Border." Other presentations were made by the Mayor of Carlsbad and representatives from the U.S. National Border Technology Partnership Program; Sandia National Laboratory; the Bioassay, Analytical, and Environmental Radiochemistry Conference; and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' E-34 Committee on Unwanted Radioactive Sources (presented by a committee member from the State of Texas). After the presentations, workshop attendees were divided into small groups to "brainstorm," first about issues/concerns/problems with radioactive sealed sources along the Mexico/U.S. border, and then about the resources available to address the primary issues/concerns/problems identified.

December 14, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Acquisition Training and Certification Program

On December 11, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored an Acquisition Training Program module entitled "Negotiation of Project Terms and Conditions" with 10 attendees. This workshop addresses the role of the Project Manager in negotiation of terms and conditions of NRC contracts and DOE laboratory agreements and documenting the negotiation in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation, NRC Acquisition Regulation, and Management Directive 11.7.

Nuclear Energy Institute; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-72-5)

A document that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute was published in the Federal Register on December 11, 2001 (66 FR 63964). The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its regulations governing storage of spent nuclear fuel to establish a more efficient process for issuing and amending certificates of compliance (CoC) for dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel under a general license and presented an alternative approval process. The NRC denied the petition because improvements in the approval process have significantly decreased the time for approving CoC amendments; the petitioner's suggested process may require the offer of an opportunity for hearing which would eliminate any efficiencies gained; and the Commission's performance goals are better served by retaining the present process.

Minor Errors in Regulatory Text; Correction (Parts 20, 30, 32, 34, 40, 50, and 51)

A final rule that corrects a number of minor errors in 10 CFR Chapter I was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2001 (66 FR 64737). The Final rule became effective December 14, 2001.

Enforcement Program and Alternative Dispute Resolution; Request for Comments

A document announcing the NRC's intent to evaluate the use of alternative dispute resolution in its enforcement program was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2001 (66 FR 64890). The document requests public comment on specifically identified issues. The public comment period expires January 28, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
December 7, 2001 through December 13, 2001:

Panama National Oncology Institute, radiation over-exposure records 01/2000 to present
(12/11/01). (FOIA/PA-2002-0061)

Site assessment, former Pratt & Whitney Facility/Heyman Properties/Manchester Foundrey, 15
Hall Court, Manchester, CT. (FOIA/PA-2002-0062)

December 14, 2001

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Arrivals		
BLANK, Kristy	SECRETARY	OCFO
GOVAN, Tekia	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
JONES, Jamil	STUDENT ENGINEER	ADM
KAHLER, Robert	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	NRR
MATEYCHICK, John	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
PICCIOTTO, Colleen	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST	RI
TRISZCZUK, Jennifer	SECRETARY (OA) (SPAC)	HR
Departures		
HAQUE, Mohammad	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
STAMPLEY, Lydia	ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	OIG
WALLS, Gary	REACTOR ENGINEER	RI

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Media Interest

There was continued interest in the vulnerability of nuclear power plants to terrorist attack, especially at Indian Point 2 and 3.

There was interest in NRC's policy regarding the use of potassium iodide after the Food and Drug Administration issued its dosage recommendations for KI use.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-134	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Use of Alternate Dispute Resolution in its Enforcement Policy
Regions:	
I-01-070	NRC, Entergy to Discuss Performance Issues at Indian Point 2
II-01-049	Pre-hearing Conference Scheduled on McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Plant License Renewal
IV-01-053	NRC Staff to Hold Regulatory Conference with Nebraska Public Power District

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Meeting with Chubu Electric Company Washington Representative

On December 7, 2001, OIP Desk Officer, Kevin Burke, met with Chubu Electric Company Washington Representative, Kenji Toyozumi, to review the pipe-break incident at Hamaoka NPS Unit-1. The utility and regulators have released their findings and both conclude that the rupture was a "ductile fracture" as characterized by dimples detected in a cross-section of the pipe. This is the first time that this type of break has occurred in a Japanese plant. Chubu officials believe that excessive pressure due to a hydrogen explosion inside the pipe may have contributed to the event. This is still under investigation. The pipe (15 centimeters in diameter and 1.1 cm thick) may also have ruptured as a result of a water hammer.

Assignee from Finland

On December 10, 2001, Mr. Petteri Tiippana, an employee of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) arrived at the NRC for a one-year assignment. Mr. Tiippana will be assigned to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Division of Inspection Program Management, Inspection Program Branch, Performance Assessment Section.

French Visitors

During the week of December 3, Andre Jouve, Directorate for the Safety of Nuclear Installations (DSIN), and Agnes Hoorelbeke, Interministerial Commission for Artificial Radioactivity (CIREA), visited NRC headquarters and Region II for extensive discussions on the regulation of nuclear materials. In the past, CIREA was responsible for licensing radioactive materials in France. However, DSIN is expected to assume full regulatory responsibility and authority for materials in the near future. The briefings focused on the NRC approach to licensing, inspection and emergency response associated with the use of these materials.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0217	11/29/2001	Application to Amend License XSNM03171 for the Export of High Enriched Uranium to Canada to Continue Producing Medical Isotopes Using the NRU Reactor
SRM on SECY-01-0217	12/12/2001	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-01-0217	12/12/2001	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0219	12/10/01	SECY-01-0219 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 30, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator James M. Inhofe provides comments on S. 1746, "the Nuclear Security Act of 2001."
2. Letter to Paul B. Eccard, First Selectman, Town of Waterford, dated December 5, 2001, concerns request for NRC to verify that all steps necessary to meet the security demands of a "heightened state of awareness" are being taken at Millstone Nuclear Power Station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.
2. ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy; Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulics Phenomena; Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory Panel (CAP) Meeting

On December 13, 2001, the Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory Panel (CAP) held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Wiscasset Town Office. Meeting topics included the status of decommissioning, including regulatory updates by the State of Maine and NRC Region I, and a CAP discussion of their role in public safety and the movement of spent fuel offsite. Brooke Barnes, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, provided an overview of State environmental oversight issues and Dr. Ronald Bellamy, Chief, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, NRC Region I provided an overview of NRC inspection activities for the previous and current inspection periods. Dr. Bellamy also answered questions from the public concerning nuclear plant security and recent NRC Region I enforcement issues at Maine Yankee. The meeting lasted about three hours.

December 14, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Special Agent of the Office of the Inspector General visits Region II

On December 10-11, 2001, a Special Agent from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) visited the Region II office. This visit is part of an OIG effort to foster internal communications between the OIG and Regional office.

Southern Nuclear Company - Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Visits the Vogtle Nuclear Plant

On December 13-14, 2001, the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Vogtle Nuclear Plant. The purpose was to tour the facility, discuss current issues with licensee managers and NRC resident inspectors and to attend the exit meeting for a problem identification and resolution inspection.

Florida Power and Light Company - Acting Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP) Visits the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant

On December 13, 2001, the Acting Deputy Director, DRP, was at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant to tour the plant, meet with the NRC resident inspectors and discuss current status of issues with licensee managers.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - Browns Ferry Unit 1

During the week of December 10-14, 2001, the licensee conducted some non-destructive inspection of jet pumps and the vessel core shroud for Unit 1. These inspections were conducted to obtain status of these structures as input into a decision as to whether to propose a plan to bring Unit 1 back into operating status.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 14, 2001

Callaway Plant Tour and Security Briefing

On December 10, 2001, members of the Missouri Public Service Commission and members of the Missouri Task Force on Homeland Security visited the Callaway Plant for a tour and briefings on plant security. There was no media interest shown for this tour.

Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Programs Visits Cooper Nuclear Station

On December 12, 2001, the Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Programs, accompanied by the Region IV Regional Administrator, visited Cooper Nuclear Station. The site visit included a plant tour and meetings with site managers.