

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 1, 2002

SECY-02-0034

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-02-0034 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING FEBRUARY 22, 2002

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Control Rod Drive Mechanism (CRDM) Vessel Head Penetration (VHP) Nozzle Cracking Meeting

On February 20, 2002, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Materials Reliability Program (MRP), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), various utility representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss progress on establishment of a CRDM action plan and the status of industry progress on a variety of associated technical issues. A portion of the meeting was closed due to presentation of proprietary information. A second meeting was held on February 21 to continue more in-depth technical discussion between industry and NRC experts on a variety of issues. The goal of the action plan and industry efforts is to develop and implement a long term strategy to address the VHP nozzle cracking.

Public Meeting on Consideration of 10 CFR 50.55a In Risk-Informed 10 CFR 50.69 Rule

On February 21, 2002, the NRC staff held a public meeting with stakeholders to discuss the consideration of 10 CFR 50.55a in the development of 10 CFR 50.69 as part of Option 2 of the NRC's effort to risk inform the regulations. The NRC regulations in 10 CFR 50.55a incorporate by reference Sections III and XI of the ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (BPV Code) and the ASME *Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants* (OM Code), and also certain IEEE standards. Participants at the meeting included NRC staff, ASME and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) representatives, and members of the public. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information that will assist the NRC staff in reaching a decision on whether to (1) reduce unnecessary burden in the implementation of 10 CFR 50.55a for low-risk safety-related structures, systems, and components (SSCs) through use of the ASME risk-informed Code Cases, or (2) exempt low-risk safety-related SSCs from the 10 CFR 50.55a requirements and rely on the 50.69 rule language for treatment of these SSCs. The NRC staff presented an overview of the Option 2 effort and the status of the 50.69 rulemaking. The ASME representatives stated that, at this time, ASME does not have a single position on the consideration of 10 CFR 50.55a in the 50.69 rulemaking, because of the significant differences of opinion among its members on the issue in terms of safety and burden. ASME plans to develop a position following issuance of the proposed 50.69 rule for public comment. ASME is continuing to prepare Code Cases to reduce unnecessary burden on licensees for low-risk safety-related SSCs. NEI considers the requirements in 10CFR 50.55a to represent an unnecessary burden for licensees and NRC. NEI believes the proposed requirements in the draft 50.69 rule provide sufficient regulatory assurance for low-risk safety-related SSCs. The NRC staff will consider the information obtained during the public meeting in preparing the proposed 10 CFR 50.69 rule for public comment.

Issuance of Orders to all Operating Power Reactor Licensees

The NRC staff prepared Orders for all operating power reactor licensees to implement interim safeguards and security compensatory measures. The details of the specific interim compensatory measures are sensitive, but they include such things as more restrictive personnel access controls, enhanced requirements for guard forces, increased stand-off

distances for vehicle searches, and enhanced coordination with appropriate local, State, and Federal authorities.

Some of the interim compensatory measures in the Orders formalize security measures detailed in the Safeguards and Threat advisories issued by the NRC following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The licensees have already voluntarily implemented many of these measures in response to the advisories. Some additional security enhancements, which have emerged from the on-going security review, are also included as requirements in the Orders.

The NRC staff met with the industry Security Working Group on February 21, 2002, to discuss the content of the Orders including the specific interim compensatory measures and issued the the Orders on February 25, 2002.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

On February 14, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's on-site representatives attended a public meeting of the Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to present an update on Yucca Mountain related topics. The advisory committee discussed the status of the Yucca Mountain Project, options related to the potential site recommendation, and the expected release of the Department of Energy's Final Environmental Impact Statement. The committee addressed license application considerations and Yucca Mountain water rights issues. Finally, the committee discussed the recently released Clark County Impact Assessment Report. This report provides Clark County's analysis of the potential impacts resulting from the construction, operation, and closure of the proposed high-level waste repository. The meeting provided an opportunity for the effective exchange of information between the affected units of local government, community opinion leaders, and local citizens.

Nuclear Energy Agency Forum on Radiological Protection of the Environment

On February 12-14, 2002, Division of Waste Management staff attended the Nuclear Energy Agency forum, "Radiological Protection of the Environment," held in Taormina, Sicily. The forum, the first in a series of three, was held in collaboration with the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The objective of the forum was to gather input from Nuclear Energy Agency member countries, and other interested parties, for ICRP recommendations on rationale for radiological protection of the environment. The ICRP report of recommendations is proposed to be released as a draft for comment late in calendar year 2002. In addition to representatives of member countries, forum participants included representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute, Greenpeace, the European Commission's Framework for Assessment of Environmental Impact project, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition to the NRC, other U.S. representatives included the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. Future forums in the series will focus on the ICRP draft report (second forum) and the issuance of a new ICRP recommendation (third forum).

Meeting to Discuss Changes to the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On February 13, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with staff from Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS), the mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility (MFFF) applicant, to discuss what impacts the Department of Energy's announced changes to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program will have on the MFFF. DCS stated that the MFFF will now receive approximately 6 metric tons of material that were previously planned to be immobilized. This will require design changes to the MFFF to accommodate material having impurities that were not included in the previous design. Additionally, high alpha and uranium waste streams from the MFFF, previously planned to be processed through the Savannah River Site (SRS) high-level waste tanks, will now be solidified at a SRS facility to be constructed on a different site. DCS's revised schedule calls for submitting a supplementary or revised environmental report (ER) and construction authorization request in October 2002. However, at

the meeting DCS stated that the ER may be submitted as early as August 2002. NRC staff plan to issue the Draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) on schedule by April 30, 2002, but will delay issuing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) until after a revised or supplementary ER is submitted by DCS. The impact of the changes is expected to be greater on the EIS than on the SER.

#### Meeting on Confidentiality of Nuclear Safety Information

On February 11-15, 2002, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff attended a meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. The topic of the meeting, which was convened by the IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety, was the need to preserve the confidentiality of certain information concerning radioactive sources and nuclear installations. The meeting participants prepared a draft report that proposed guidelines for handling nuclear safety information that might aid someone with "malicious intent." Proposals included expanding the existing IAEA scheme for protecting sensitive information to include information concerning radioactive sources and nuclear installations; establishing a regime for classifying and handling nuclear safety information, received from Member States, concerning radioactive sources and nuclear installations; and establishing guidelines for the dissemination of information (in view of the IAEA's mandate to support the expansion of nuclear energy by sharing nuclear safety information). The draft paper offered examples of the type of information that would need sensitive handling and proposed the basic elements of a classification scheme. A final version of the report will be presented to the IAEA Board of Governors at its next meeting.

#### Meeting with Westinghouse Electric Corporation on Its Integrated Safety Analysis Plan

On February 20, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Risk Task Group met with staff from the Westinghouse Electric Corporation (WEC) at its uranium fuel fabrication facility in Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss WEC's methodology for conducting an integrated safety analysis (ISA) for its Columbia facility. On December 5, 2001, the NRC had declined to review WEC's ISA Plan due to the fact that it proposed an inadequate ISA methodology. During the meeting, WEC's contractor, the ABS Group of Knoxville, Tennessee, described a revised ISA methodology that will be included in the ISA Plan that WEC expects to resubmit to NRC by the end of February 2002.

#### Counterpart Meeting

On February 20-21, 2002, in order to enhance communication between the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and the Regional offices, Division Directors from NMSS met with their counterparts, from the regional Divisions of Nuclear Materials Safety at NRC Headquarters. These managers are responsible for nuclear materials, fuel cycle safety and safeguards, waste and decommissioning, and spent fuel and transportation activities. The participants discussed implementation strategies for a number of FY 2002-2003 program initiatives including NRC's response to the threat of terrorism and upcoming budget issues. Approximately 40 managers, supervisors, and senior staff attended parts of this meeting. Representatives from the Offices of Human Resources, Nuclear Regulatory Research and State and Tribal Programs also participated. This was the first of two Division Director

counterpart meetings scheduled to be held this year. Tentative plans call for the next meeting to take place near the end of FY 2002.

#### Meeting with Department of Energy

On February 20, 2002, a meeting was held between the NRC staff and representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss an agreement that would result in NRC certification of certain DOE type B transportation and fissile packages. DOE currently reviews and approves the package design of these transportation packages. DOE is considering a reimbursable agreement for authorizing resources to NRC to conduct these certifications. Early information about the transfer is not adequate to reasonably predict the number of cases per year, the timing of the agreement, or the level of effort necessary for this program. DOE's goal is to have the agreement in place quickly.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Meeting of Steering Committee for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation and Coordination in Research and Development of Multimedia Environmental Models

On February 12, 2002, the NRC hosted the fourth Steering Committee (SC) meeting for the subject MOU. During this meeting the SC approved detailed working group proposals on "Software System Design and Implementation for Environmental Modeling" (EPA lead) and "Uncertainty and Parameter Estimation" (U.S. Geological Survey and NRC co-lead). A third working group on "Techniques and Approaches Used to Parameterize Reactive Transport Models for Aquifers" was proposed by representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey and approved in concept by the SC. Other participants in the MOU will now identify members for this working group and they will begin discussions to develop a detailed proposal for review by the SC. Interest in joining the MOU by two more agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, was discussed. The NOAA request to join is anticipated within the next few weeks. These new members will bring the total number of participating Federal organizations to eight. Plans for presenting MOU activities at two upcoming professional meetings were also discussed. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman, Dr. William Ott, NRC, turned over the responsibility of the Chairmanship to Dr. Gary Foley, Director of the National Exposure Research Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency, who will Chair the SC for the next year.

February 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE C

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Training of Region IV Operations Officers

During the week of February 19, 2002, a Headquarters Operations Officer conducted Operations Officer training in Region IV. The training primarily focuses on receiving event reports, making appropriate notifications, initiation of event response, establishing appropriate communications, receipt of allegations, and the implementing procedures. The training was performed to enhance Region IV's event response capability.

Meeting with Representatives of the Coordination Center for the Office of Homeland Security

On February 22, 2002, the Incident Response Operations staff hosted a meeting with the staff from the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) Coordination Center to discuss NRC's event response capabilities and the transmission of necessary information to OHS. The meeting focused on the initial groundwork for establishing the appropriate agreements, and determining the technical feasibility of NRC transmitting information necessary to support the mission of OHS.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-02-003, Montgomery Hospital, CONTAMINATED PACKAGE.
2. PNO-I-02-004, Safety Light Corporation, TRAIN DERAILMENT INVOLVING GENERALLY-LICENSED MATERIAL.
3. PNO-II-02-005A, KCCS, Inc., RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGES.
4. PNO-II-02-007, McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company, DAMAGE TO FIXED GAUGE.
5. PNO-IV-02-011, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., FILING OF BANKRUPTCY.
6. PNO-IV-02-012, Geosoils, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Status of ADAMS as an Official Recordkeeping System

On January 16, 2002, OCIO received Archivist of the United States approval for 15 additional ADAMS records disposition schedules, bringing the total approved to 20, out of the 26 ADAMS records schedules submitted to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for review and approval. NARA's approval of the ADAMS records disposition schedules makes NRC the first agency that NARA has granted authority to maintain essentially all of its programmatic records (mission related) in electronic format in one electronic recordkeeping system and to destroy the source paper records. ADAMS is also the first comprehensive electronic recordkeeping system for which NARA has approved records schedules since NARA revised its regulations on electronic recordkeeping in 1990 and 1995.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of February 15, 2002 through February 21, 2002:

Site assessment, NY-Chatam Square, 225 Park Row, NY, NY 10038. (FOIA/PA-2002-0138)

Addresses for agencies possessing, making, or storing weapons grade plutonium, cobalt, cesium, uranium 235 and cobalt 60. (FOIA/PA-2002-0139)

FOIA log for request concerning a 1945 Trinity Test. (FOIA/PA-2002-0140)

NRC Telephone Directory. (FOIA/PA-2002-0141)

Site assessment, Cambria Heights II, 198-06 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, Queens County, NY. (FOIA/PA-2002-0142)

Site assessment, Carlstadt/Rudox, 765 Route 17, Carlstadt, Bergen County, NJ. (FOIA/PA-2002-0143)

Site assessment, Oakland 2, 97 Yawpo Ave., Oakland, Bergen County, NJ. (FOIA/PA-2002-0144)

Site assessment, NY-Wesley Hills, 92-94 Lime Kiln Rd., Ramapo, Rockland County, NY. (FOIA/PA-2002-0145)

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

<b>Arrivals</b>		
CORTES, Ramon	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RII
OUTEN, Sally	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS
TREGONING, Robert	MATERIALS ENGINEER	RES

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Media Interest

There was continuing media interest in the adequacy of emergency response plans for residents near the Indian Point nuclear plant.

President Bush's decision to build a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, received widespread media coverage.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-021	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station
02-022	ACRS Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal to Meet in Florida City, Florida, on March 13
02-023	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards To Meet March 7 - 9 in Rockville, Maryland
02-024	NRC to Hold Workshop March 12 on Alternate Dispute Resolution
Regions:	
I-02-006	Company to Discuss Cardiac Radiation Device with NRC Staff
IV-02-004	NRC to Meet with Ameren to Discuss Inspection Results
IV-02-005	NRC to Discuss Apparent Violations At High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc.

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Meeting Between Researcher for the Japanese House of Representatives and NMSS

On February 20, 2002, Mr. Junichi Yamada, a researcher for the Japanese House of Representatives, met with NMSS staff for an overview on NRC's post September 11 activities. The Japanese Diet is currently considering legislation to add additional security protection to Japan's nuclear facilities.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

<b>Document Released to Public</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-02-0002	1/02/02	Revision of Gaseous Diffusion Plant Recertification Standard Review Plan Chapter on Foreign Ownership and Financial Requirements
SRM on 02-0002	2/21/02	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 02-0002	2/21/02	(same)

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Haddam Neck CDAC Meeting

On February 19, 2002, the Citizens Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) held its scheduled monthly meeting in Middletown, CT. The meeting was open for public participation and was attended by approximately 10 people in addition to committee members. A member of the Region I Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch staff attended and presented the findings of Inspection Report 2001-003, which covered the period September 22, 2001 thru January 11, 2002. The inspector discussed significant work activities that occurred during the inspection period, including safeguards issues, results of Final Status Surveys in two onsite areas, and liquid release calculations. Dr. Jelle Zeilinga de Boer, a professor of Earth Science at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, was in attendance and discussed the content of his letter to the NRC dated September 18, 2001, regarding site seismic concerns. The inspector stated that the information had been forwarded to the licensee and the NRC will review the licensee's response, which is due in March 2002.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference With Providence Hospital

On February 20, 2002, a predecisional enforcement conference was held in Region I with management representatives from Providence Hospital, Washington, DC. The meeting was held to discuss the apparent violations related to the strontium-90 eye applicator program and 14 related misadministrations discovered after the calibration of the applicator. The licensee acknowledged the violations and provided a written statement that outlined the root cause for the program deficiencies. The licensee also described corrective actions to prevent recurrence. Region I will issue the final enforcement action within 30 days.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Duke Energy Corporation-Oconee Nuclear Plant

On February 19, 2002, the Regional Administrator toured the Oconee Nuclear Plant in Seneca, South Carolina, and met with licensee management and the NRC resident inspectors.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River Predecisional Enforcement Conferences

On February 22, 2002, Region II held two closed Predecisional Enforcement Conferences with Florida Power Corporation individuals. The purpose of these Predecisional Enforcement Conferences was to discuss apparent violations of 10 CFR 50.5, Deliberate Misconduct, and 10 CFR 50.7, Employee Protection.

Florida Power and Light Company - Full scale Saint Lucie Exercise

On February 20-22, 2002, the State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Saint Lucie exercise, involving officials of the State of Florida and applicable local governments. There was extensive media coverage of the exercise.

The Leading NRC Work Teams Training

On February 19-22, 2002, Leading NRC Work Teams Training was held in the Region II office. The training was presented by Mr. Bill King, Resolution Dynamics, Inc.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 22, 2002

Columbia Generating Station

Region IV conducted a meeting on February 21, 2002, with representatives of Energy Northwest in Richland, Washington, to discuss corrective actions, root causes, and extent of condition for a Yellow finding and an associated violation of 10 CFR 50.54(q) at the Columbia Generating Station. The issue involves the failure to maintain emergency plans and procedures which meet the standards in 10 CFR 50.47(b) for the development of a range of protective actions for the public. The meeting was open to observation by the public.

Meeting with EPA Region VI

On February 21, 2002, the Regional Administrator and the Regional State Liaison Officer met with a representative of EPA Region VI (Dallas, TX). The meeting covered items of mutual interest and re-affirmed communication channels between the two Regional offices.

Communication Protocol with Mexico

On February 22, 2002, Region IV performed initial implementation of a communication protocol with Mexico. The Region faxed to Mexico, through the Headquarters Operation Officer, a Preliminary Notification describing a moisture density gauge stolen from Southern California. This communication was performed to meet one of the goals of the recent Trilateral Conference.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending February 22, 2002

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 42**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	02/26/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	DOT, DOS, FEMA, EDS, IBM	Information Sharing and Homeland Security	Reps. Davis/Turner Technology and Procurement Government Reform
Combs	02/27/02 2128 RHOB	3:00	TBA	How Much are Americans at Risk Until Congress Passes Terrorism Insurance Protection	Reps. Oxley/LaFalce Financial Services
Combs	Early March	TBA	NRC and others	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Keeling <b>Closed Briefing</b>	03/05/02 S-407	3:00	Chairman Meserve*, NNSA, Cal Tech, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore	Radiological Dispersal Devices	Senators Biden/Helms Foreign Affairs
Combs	03/06/02 SD-419	9:30	Chairman Meserve, NNSA, Cal Tech, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore	Waste Convention**, Radiological Dispersal Devices	Senators Biden/Helms Foreign Affairs

\* Chairman Meserve is present as a resource, he is not presenting information.

\*\* Chairman Meserve is speaking only on the Waste Convention, which is expected to be just a short session to satisfy Committee hearing requirements.

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ENCLOSURE R