

INFORMATION REPORT

July 11, 2002

SECY-02-0126

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0126 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JULY 5, 2002

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	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/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

NRC Information Notice 2002-022: Degraded Bearing Surfaces in GM/EMD Emergency Diesel Generators dated June 28, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of the discovery of degraded bearing surfaces on the piston bearings in General Motors/Electromotive Division (GM/EMD) emergency diesel generator engines.

NRC Information Notice 2002-010, Supplement 1: Diablo Canyon Manual Reactor Trip and Steam Generator Water Level Setpoint Uncertainties dated June 28, 2002

The NRC is issuing this supplement to give addressees further information about the manual reactor trip of Diablo Canyon Unit 2 which resulted from a failure of the main feedwater regulating valve, non-conservative steam generator setpoints and contributing causes, and other licensee actions relating to these events. This supplement provides information that became available after the issuance of the original information notice. The NRC expects that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider taking actions, as appropriate.

Receipt of NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 Structures, Systems and Components (SSC) Categorization Guideline"

On June 28, 2002, The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted Revision C to NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 SSC Categorization Guideline," for staff review and endorsement. NEI rewrote the document to resolve staff comments and to incorporate lessons learned from the pilot plant activities. The staff plans to endorse the document, with clarifications and exceptions, if needed, in draft Regulatory Guide (RG) 1121, "Implementation of Structures, Systems and Components Categorization Process in Nuclear Power Plants." The staff will include the draft RG with its proposed 10 CFR 50.69 rulemaking package.

Staff Holds Public Meetings on the Draft Catawba Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

The NRC staff participated in two outreach activities last week related to the license renewal application for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. On Thursday, June 27, 2002, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) issued on May 13, 2002. The DSEIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). About 40 people attended the meetings, including representatives of the NRC staff, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), the nuclear industry, the press, and members of the public. Several individuals spoke at the meetings and some expressed concerns with extending the operating life of the two nuclear units at Catawba. The comment period ends on August 9, 2002.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Staff Participation at the 6th International Conference for Probabilistic Risk Assessment and Management

From June 23-28, 2002, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Director's Office, the Risk Task Group, the Division of Waste Management, the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses presented a variety of papers at the 6th International Conference for Probabilistic Risk Assessment and Management. The staff presented its work across a spectrum of NMSS-regulated activities, including the risk-related case studies, topics related to high-level waste, and risk communication. In addition, the staff attended sessions presented by international risk experts from other Government agencies, academia, and the private sector. These sessions provided the participants with an integrated view of the latest developments in risk technology systems and processes.

International Commission on Radiological Protection Committee 4 Meeting

On June 24-28, 2002, the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Committee 4 on Practical Application of the Commission's Recommendations (C4) held its second meeting in Paris, France. Meetings were held at offices of the Nuclear Energy Agency Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Committee discussed a review of version 2 of the draft ICRP Recommendations for the 21st Century, and the status of Committee 4 task groups and working parties. The last day of the meeting was devoted to task group meetings based on the plenary Committee discussions.

Observation of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, Audit of the General Electric Ceramics and Metallurgy Technology Center, a Division of GE Global Research

On June 25-26, 2002, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Bechtel SAIC Company (BSC), LLC, quality assurance (QA) supplier audit of the General Electric Ceramics and Metallurgy Technology Center (GE CMTC), a division of GE Global Research. BSC is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Maintenance and Operating Contractor for the Yucca Mountain project and is located in Las Vegas, Nevada. GE CMTC is a supplier for BSC and is located in Schenectady, New York.

The DOE audit team evaluated the effectiveness of GE CMTC QA program implementation. The DOE audit team identified four potential recommendations or observations concerning scientific notebooks; GE CMTC Rev. 1.1 QA Plan; Procurement Document Control; and Identification and Control of Materials, Parts, and Components. The staff reviewed the DOE audit team's findings and agreed with the results as presented at the post-audit briefing to GE CMTC management. The staff believes that this DOE audit was well-planned, thorough, and adequately evaluated the implementation of GE CMTC's QA program.

NRC/Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Exchange on Electronic Submissions

On June 25-26, 2002, the NRC and the Department of Energy (DOE) held a technical exchange concerning the electronic submission of documents associated with a potential license application and associated proceedings for a Yucca Mountain high-level waste (HLW) repository. NRC and DOE discussed technical issues and potential challenges that could affect the electronic submission of documents. NRC staff provided presentations on NRC HLW architecture; Electronic Information Exchange process and pilots; Electronic Hearing Docket for a potential HLW proceeding; electronic courtroom; technical issues associated with a potential license application submission and other large documents; status of putting NRC HLW documentary collection on the Licensing Support Network (LSN); and status of LSN test server. DOE and its contractor Bechtel SAIC provided a presentation on the status of its effort for putting documentary material on the LSN. DOE's contractor University of Nevada Las Vegas Information Science Research Institute presented the results of recent studies of documentary retrievability for information purposes. Representatives from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Office of the Secretary, Atomic Safety Licensing Board Panel, and the Office of the General Counsel participated in this meeting. Future meetings between NRC, DOE, and other potential parties are anticipated.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Dry Cask Storage PRA

On June 28, 2002, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) issued a draft report for comment on a pilot probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) of a specific dry cask storage system (Holtec International HI-STORM 100) at a specific boiling water reactor (BWR) site. The study is an application of a general methodology developed by RES for performing a PRA of a dry cask storage system at a nuclear power plant site. The study is also undergoing an independent peer review at Sandia National Laboratories. It was performed primarily by staff in all three RES technical divisions, with limited contractor support.

The study scope included assessing the risk to the public and identifying the dominant contributors to risk. Beginning with loading fuel from the spent fuel pool, the study covered preparing the cask for storage and transfer outside the reactor building, moving the cask from the reactor building to the storage pad, and storing the cask for 20 years on the storage pad. The study developed and screened a comprehensive list of internal and external initiating events to eliminate those that have only negligible contributions to risk.

The study was performed in response to a user request from the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, Spent Fuel Project Office to support their efforts to risk inform the regulations. The study results, in conjunction with the methodology, can help develop a basis to determine the need for other site-specific PRAs, improvements in data gathering and analysis, and additional engineering design analyses.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-02-030, Exelon Nuclear Generation Co. (Dresden Units 2 and 3), GRANTING OF NOTICE OF ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION (NOED) TO 54 LICENSED OPERATORS FOR FAILURE TO TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REQUALIFICATION WRITTEN EXAMINATION.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

National Mining Association; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-170-5)

The denial of a petition for rulemaking submitted by the National Mining Association (PRM-170-5) was published in the Federal Register on July 3, 2002 (67 FR 44573). The petitioner requested that the NRC conduct a rulemaking that would enable the NRC to waive the assessment of all annual and periodic inspection and licensing fees imposed on NRC uranium recovery licensees or, as an alternative, to establish the basis for waiving fees associated with a contemplated rulemaking that would establish requirements for licensing uranium and thorium recovery facilities (Part 41). The NRC is denying the petition because the circumstances outlined by the petitioner do not qualify the uranium recovery industry for a "public interest" exemption and, with limited exceptions, the NRC does not base its fees on the economic circumstances of particular licensees or classes of licensees.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
June 28, 2002 through July 4, 2002:

Radioactive material, reports of lost, stolen, or abandoned, between September 12, 2001, and June 27, 2002 (FOIA/PA-2002-0318)

OIG Investigations 97-46-J and 97-75-J, 1978 OIA investigation (FOIA/PA-2002-0319)

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, licensing basis (FOIA/PA-2002-0320)

Documents authored and co-authored by named individual, DPV or DPO, from 1999 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0321)

Information on the NRC (FOIA/PA-2002-0322)

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, correspondence provided to Sen. Mitch McConnell (FOIA/PA-2002-0323)

Hicksville, NY, specific locations, all records (environmental complaints, violations, reports, investigations, and conservation actions), from 1952 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0324)

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0106	6/14/2002	Review of ACRS Recommendation for the Staff to Develop A Standard Review Plan for Power Uprate Reviews
2. SECY-02-0114	6/27/2002	Weekly Information Report Week Ending June 21, 2002
Memoranda		
1. M020501	6/28/2002	Briefing on Results of Agency Action Review Meeting - Reactors

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward Markey dated June 28, 2002 concerns the recent discovery of the cavity in the reactor pressure vessel head at the Davis-Besse nuclear power station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. National Mining Association; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena - Notice of Meeting.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP)

During the week of June 24, 2002, an Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review was performed of the Massachusetts Agreement State program. The IMPEP review team consisted of NRC staff from Region I and Region IV, The Offices of State and Tribal Programs and Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, and a representative from the State of Kansas. The IMPEP team reviewed the Commonwealth's performance in the areas of inspection, licensing, staffing and training, response to incidents and allegations, legislation and program elements required for compatibility and sealed source and device evaluation program. The team's preliminary findings, as presented to the management of the Massachusetts Radiation Control Plan, is that the Commonwealth's materials program is adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC regulations.

Press Conference Regarding Homeland Security

The Director, Division of Reactor Projects participated in a press conference on July 1, 2002, convened by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA to discuss Pennsylvania's homeland security provisions for the week of the Independence Day celebrations. The conference was broad-ranging; the extensive media coverage was straightforward and balanced.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Eastern Isotopes

On July 2, 2002, Region II held an open Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference with Eastern Isotopes, Inc. The purpose of this conference was to discuss an apparent violation involving an extremity overexposure in which one of the authorized nuclear pharmacists received an annual occupational shallowing-dose.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

End of Refueling Outage at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station's (SONGS) Unit 2

On July 2, 2002, SONGS Unit 2 achieved criticality at 3:15 p.m., and ended a 42-day refueling outage. During this outage, the licensee completed inspections of the Reactor Vessel Head, and Steam Generator Tubes. In addition, the licensee replaced the reactor vessel head insulation with a new design to facilitate future vessel head inspections and replaced the seal packages for all four reactor coolant pumps. The Reactor Vessel Head inspection did not identify any degradation of either the nozzles, welds or vessel surface.

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 5, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 60

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	07/09/02 2362 RHOB	TBA	Markup	FY03 Appropriations	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy & Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	07/10/02 SD-406	2:00	TBA	Department of Homeland Security	Senators Jeffords/Smith Environment and Public Works

July 5, 2002

ENCLOSURE R