

INFORMATION REPORT

February 13, 2003

SECY-03-0021

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0021 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 7, 2003

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/ by Melinda Malloy acting for

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
C. Glenn, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary Notice 2003-02, Importance of Giving NRC Advance Notice of Intent to Pursue License Renewal dated February 3, 2003

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to emphasize to addressees the importance of providing the NRC with advance notice of their plans for license renewal so that the NRC staff can better plan and budget for the processing of renewal applications. This RIS does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions.

Staff Issues Final Supplement 10 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on License Renewal for Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3

The staff has issued the final Supplement 10 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3. This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) represents the completion of the staff's environmental review for the license renewal application submitted by Exelon Generation, LLC.

The SEIS includes the staff's final analysis in which the staff considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. It also includes the staff's final recommendation regarding the proposed action; that the Commission determine that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Peach Bottom, Units 2 and 3 are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

Public Meeting with NEI and Industry on Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone Issues

On January 23, 2003, staff members participated in a teleconferenced public meeting with representatives of the nuclear industry and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss program changes to the radioactive material control branch of the Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone of the Reactor Oversight Process.

The staff routinely holds public meetings to receive stakeholder input on the significance determination process and revise it as experience is gained with the program. At these meetings, NEI brings up issues and concerns with individual branches of the cornerstone based on recent inspections. The focus of the meetings is to refine the significance determination process into a user friendly, clear and accurate inspection assessment tool. The next public meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2003.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Meeting on "Radioactivity in Material Not Requiring Regulation for Purposes of Radiation Protection" and the Associated Safety Report, "Derivation of Exclusion Levels"

On January 27-31, 2003, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in a meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, on DS-161, "Radioactivity in Material Not Requiring Regulation for Purposes of Radiation Protection" and the associated Safety Report, "Derivation of Exclusion Levels." The purpose of the meeting was to review the Safety Report and recommend changes, along with corresponding changes to the Safety Guide, and to ensure all Member State comments previously received were adequately addressed. The title of the Safety Guide was changed to "Radioactivity in Material Not Requiring Regulation for Purposes of Radiation Protection." This was done to reflect the fact the Guide defines exclusion levels for all material. The documents will be transmitted to the Transportation Safety Standards Committee, the Radiation Safety Standards Committee, and the Waste Safety Standards Committee members in early February as the next step in the IAEA review process.

Meeting of the U.S. - Russian Special Joint Working Group on Regulatory Matters in Plutonium Management and Disposition

On January 27-29, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff and National Nuclear Security Administration staff and contractors met with staff of the Russian Federation's Gosatomnadzor (GAN) and Minatom in London for the fourth meeting of the Special Working Group. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the regulatory framework and licensing strategy for construction and operation of a replicate version of the U.S. Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) in Russia. The U.S. delegation provided an overview of the NRC licensing process. GAN expressed an interest in using NRC information as a basis for development of licensing processes for the Russian MFFF, to the extent possible under Russian Federation law. The U.S. delegation agreed to make regulatory documents available that could benefit GAN in the licensing of the Russian MFFF. Meetings and workshops to help the Russian side understand the NRC process and related documentation were proposed. It was agreed that there would be a comprehensive cooperative effort to share information and experience, to facilitate the Russian MFFF licensing process. Other topics discussed at the meeting included the significance of coordinating regulatory activities among Russian Federation organizations involved in the plutonium disposition licensing process.

Meeting with Category III Fuel Cycle Licensees on Final Interim Compensatory Measures

On January 30, 2003, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response met with industry representatives from the Category III fuel cycle facilities to discuss the final interim compensatory measures. Representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, and Louisiana Energy Services also attended. The measures the Commission approved on January 7, 2003, were reviewed and methods of demonstrating compliance were discussed. The staff is planning to issue the revised order, implementing the interim compensatory measures, after final concurrence and signature.

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE B

Meeting with Nuclear Fuel Services Concerning Application for Uranyl Nitrate Building in the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Complex

On February 4, 2003, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) to discuss several licensing issues related to the amendment application requesting authorization for operations in the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Uranyl Nitrate Building. Proposed responses to recent requests for additional information were reviewed. NFS plans to submit formal responses by February 10, 2003.

U.S. Army Requests Alternative Decommissioning Schedule for Jefferson Proving Ground Site Decommissioning Management Plan Site

On February 4, 2003, staff from the Division of Waste Management received a request from the Department of the Army for an alternative schedule for submitting a decommissioning plan for the Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) Site. The Army is proposing that the JPG license be amended to create a 5-year renewable possession-only license, which would remain in effect for an indefinite period of time. The Army's rationale for this request is that further characterization activities needed to develop a decommissioning plan for the site would result in an unacceptable safety risk to workers, because of the unexploded ordnance at the site. The Army indicated that it planned to announce the request at a site Radiation Advisory Board meeting on February 5, 2003. The JPG site is listed on the SDMP, and the staff plans to provide additional information to the Commission regarding removal of the site from the SDMP listing.

NRC Staff Meets with Stakeholders to Discuss Cabot Reading Site

On January 29, 2003, a technical meeting was held at Region I to discuss the Cabot Reading site. Attendees included representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), their contractors and counsel; NRC staff; Cabot Corporation, their contractors and counsel; and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

ATSDR reviewed its recent exposure investigation at the Cabot site, discussed the analytical techniques used, and reiterated its findings. Technical discussions about site conditions followed, addressing PADEP concerns, and concluding with NRC's concerns and remaining questions regarding the site. NRC will request additional information from the licensee.

The following day, NRC conducted a site inspection and reviewed site monitoring documentation. That evening, NRC participated in a public meeting sponsored by the City of Reading near the site.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1120 and Draft SRP Section 15.0.2 on Transient and Accident Analysis Methods have been Issued for Public Comment

Draft regulatory guide DG-1120 and draft standard review plan section 15.0.2 have been issued for public comment. The documents pertain to the development and review standards of transient and accident analysis methods. The public comment period ends March 24, 2003.

Workshop on Federal Needs for Geographic Information in Environmental Modeling

On January 28-30, 2003, a multi-Federal-agency workshop was held to investigate the needs for and support of geographic information in existing environmental modeling systems. Participants at the workshop were members of the workgroup on software systems design and implementation of the Federal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research and development of multimedia environmental models. The result of the workshop was the initial design of a standard framework for communication between modeling systems, geographic information viewers, and geographic information storage and processing systems that will adhere to existing and emerging geographic information system (GIS) standards. When complete, this framework will allow NRC staff modeling natural systems as part of environmental reviews to readily incorporate from a GIS spatial input needed for site environmental models of varying complexity. It will also allow staff to easily examine intermediate and final spatial results of these models through the visualization or analysis tools of the GIS.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Briefings

Staff from the Division of Engineering Technology (DET) briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) thermal-hydraulic phenomena subcommittee on February 4 and the full ACRS committee on February 6 on the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research activities supporting resolution of the Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance (GSI-191). The DET staff presented Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1107, "Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following A Loss-Of-Coolant Accident" to seek ACRS concurrence on issuance of the draft guide for public comment. DG-1107 provides guidance for evaluating adequacy of water in the sump or suppression pool for long term recirculation cooling following a loss of coolant accident. It also describes an acceptable method for conducting these evaluations. Representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Nuclear Energy Institute also made presentations regarding their actions to resolve GSI-191.

On February 6, 2003, DET staff briefed the ACRS on Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1077, "Guidelines for Environmental Qualification of Microprocessor-Based Equipment Important to Safety in Nuclear Power Plants." DG-1077 was issued for public comment in October 2001. Eleven respondents provided comments on the draft guide. The staff presented the proposed final Regulatory Guide, including a discussion of its regulatory positions, technical basis and resolution of the public comments. With the increasing use of microprocessor-based systems in nuclear power plants, comprehensive guidance is needed to describe acceptable means to ensure that the microprocessor-based systems are qualified for the environment in which they

operate. The proposed final Regulatory Guide endorses current U.S. and international consensus standards for environmental qualification of safety-related microprocessor-based systems. The standards to be endorsed are IEEE 323 and IEC 60780. The methods endorsed in this guide address the unique characteristics of microprocessor-based equipment.

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

NRC Staff Presentation at EPA Region 6 Regional Response Team Winter Meeting

On January 30, 2003, staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response provided a presentation on "Emergency Response and Security Issues at Nuclear Facilities" at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Regional Response Team Winter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting was co-chaired by the U.S. Coast Guard and the EPA, and included significant participation by petroleum industry stakeholders.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-03-007, Arizona Public Service Co. - ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER PLANT SITE.
2. PNO-III-03-004, Duane Arnold Energy Center - SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR CONDENSER LEAKAGE.
3. PNO-III-03-005, JanX - INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY OVEREXPOSURE.
4. PNO-III-03-006, U.S. Enrichment Corporation, STRIKE BY UNION PERSONNEL.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
January 31 through February 6, 2003:

Columbia Generating Station or Crane Nuclear Inc., all statements, verbal or written, and documents between NRC and named individual, May 2001 to present; including allegation RIV-2001-A-0077 (FOIA/PA-2003-0145)

OI Report 3-2001-054 (FOIA/PA-2003-0146)

Exhibits of OI Report 03-2001-054 (FOIA/PA-2003-0147)

Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, 9-27-01 teleconference between NRC and Dresden regarding high pressure coolant injection system (FOIA/PA-2003-0148)

FOIA requests, 10 oldest open or pending being processed or held pending correspondence with other agencies (FOIA/PA-2003-0149)

Commissioners' travel and telephone logs, calendars, from 1-17-02 through 9-30-02; summary of meetings between an individual Commissioner and representatives of industry for the same time frame (FOIA/PA-2003-0150)

Radiation exposure on named individual (FOIA/PA-2003-0151)

NRC's EDO green ticket G20020599, all records; all records associated with named individual's letter to Chairman Meserve dated 10-15-02 (FOIA/PA-2003-0152)

Allegation NRR-1997-A-0027, all documents including correspondence between NRC and named individual (FOIA/PA-2003-0153)

India's Tarapur facilities and shipments of nuclear fuel, referral by the Department of State (FOIA/PA-2003-0154)

Yucca Mountain, referral by the Department of Energy (FOIA/PA-2003-0155)

Yucca Mountain, referral by the Department of Energy (FOIA/PA-2003-0156)

Davis Besse, OIG records of interview, e-mails, transcripts, re: how the plant was allowed to remain operating until mid-February 2002 (FOIA/PA-2003-0157)

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Retirements		
LEEMON, Roy	REACTOR INSPECTOR	NRR
Departures		
BERILLA, Holly	LICENSING ASSISTANT	RI
CARRASCO, Joseph *	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIII

*Effective 1/31/03

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Media Interest

Media interest focused on the controversy over emergency response plans for Indian Point, especially the New York State Emergency Management Office's refusal to certify the plan over the objections of four counties.

The Davis-Besse plant received significant media coverage, with Rep. Dennis Kucinich's call for the plant's closure and claims from a watchdog group that an NRC inspector received evidence of the boric acid rust problem as early as April 2000. The Commission's meeting on "lessons learned" from Davis-Besse also received coverage.

Media inquired about the ramifications for NRC licensees of the national threat level changing from Yellow/Elevated to Orange/High.

There was also media interest in the labor strike at U.S. Enrichment Corporation's processing plant in Paducah.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-016	NRC Announces Availability of FY 2004 Budget and Media Teleconference
03-017	NRC Announces New Public Affairs Officers at Maryland and Texas Offices
03-018	NRC Approves Power Uprate for River Bend Station
Regions:	
I-03-003	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Salem Nuclear Plant
II-03-005	NRC Staff to Hold Open Meeting with Virginia Power and Framatome on February 10 in Richmond to Discuss Reactor Head Replacement (North Anna 2)
III-03-004	NRC Oversight Panel to Hold Two Meetings on Davis-Besse Reactor
III-03-005	NRC Staff Proposes \$6,000 Fine Against Michigan Testing Company

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0012	01/30/03	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 24, 2003
2. SECY-03-0008	01/21/03	Submission of the Annual Freedom of Information Act Report
3. SECY-03-0016	02/06/03	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 31, 2003

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the President, Congress, OMB, and GAO, dated January 31, 2003, provides NRC's Fiscal Year 2002, Performance and Accountability Report and the Inspector General's Fiscal Year 2002 Performance Report.
2. Letter to Senator Charles E. Schumer, dated January 30, 2003, concerns the adequacy of security at the Indian Point facility in New York.
3. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated January 29, 2003, responds to expressed concerns regarding the security at the Indian Point nuclear power plant.
4. Letter to Congressman Edward Markey, dated January 28, 2003, concerns the proposed export of approximately 13 tons of depleted uranium to Japan for use at the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant (application number XSOU8790).
5. Letter to Thomas W. Ortziger, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, dated January 27, 2003, responds to request for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 26 (Fitness-for-Duty Rule) for employees of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety who have been granted unescorted access at NRC-licensed nuclear power reactor facilities.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ASLBP Designation of Presiding Officer - Hydro Resources, Inc. (Materials License Renewal).
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Safeguards and Security - Notice of Meeting (Time Change).

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Meeting at General Services Administration, Watertown, Massachusetts Site

On February 5, 2003, the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety staff met with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and their contractor to discuss schedule and plans to complete site decommissioning. The site, a parcel of the former Watertown Arsenal, is currently owned by the General Services Administration (GSA). It is on the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list of contaminated sites due to scrap depleted uranium (DU) fragments in the soil from Arsenal disposal operations.

The site is being remediated under the dose-based requirements of 10 CFR 20.1402, "Radiological Criteria for Unrestricted Use," using the NRC approved derived concentration guideline level (DCGL) of 340 pCi/g for DU. Discussions during the meeting related to the ACOE contractor plans to complete their evaluation of results from previous independent site characterizations to determine whether existing sample data are adequate to meet the DCGL. This evaluation will be the basis for the final survey report and identify whether supplemental sampling may be necessary in the burn pit area of the site. The contractor indicated that the evaluation was expected to be completed by mid-March 2003, at which time a followup meeting is scheduled to discuss plans for final contractor surveys and NRC confirmatory surveys. Staff from the GSA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection also attended and participated in a site tour.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 7, 2003

Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Session

On February 7, 2003, the Regional Administrator participated in the Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group meeting in Headquarters. The Group continued to review the Agency's Strategic Plan and discuss potential areas for revision.

Spanish Nuclear Safety Commission Representative Visited the Region II Office

On February 5-7, 2003, an Inspector from the Spanish Nuclear Safety Commission, visited the Region II Office and met with staff and managers to discuss the Reactor Oversight Process. He also observed the team conducting the North Anna Problem and Identification Resolution (P&IR) Inspection activities in the Regional Office.

Dominion/Virginia Electric and Power Company - North Anna Reactor Vessel Head Replacement

On February 5, 2003, the North Anna, Unit 2, nuclear power reactor returned to full power generation levels. This concluded the licensee's efforts to replace the reactor pressure vessel head with a new one, manufactured to the Reactor Construction Codes and Standards in the country of France. The NRC concluded its inspections of the licensee's replacement, including special inspections of the reconciliation of the construction to the Codes and Standards required by the NRC. This replacement is the first time a commercial U.S. pressurized water reactor has replaced a reactor pressure vessel head and returned to power operation.

End-of-Cycle Assessment Meetings

On February 4 and 5, 2003, the Regional Office completed the End-of-Cycle Assessment Meetings for all nuclear power reactors under the Region II jurisdiction. Representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation participated in the meetings, which were conducted as a part of the NRC reactor oversight process. On February 5, the Region II Coordinator from the Office of the Executive Director for Operations visited the Regional Office and participated in the meetings.

Eastern Isotopes, Inc. - Public Meeting

On February 4, 2003, regional representatives held a public meeting with the licensee at the licensee's facility in Somerset, New Jersey. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the requested addition of the New Jersey facility as an authorized location of use on the NRC license.

Florida Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP)

On February 6-7, 2003, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, was in Tallahassee, Florida, to attend the NRC Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program review of the State of Florida's Agreement State Program. The review included the areas of materials licensing and inspection.

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Southern Nuclear Operating Company-Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Farley Nuclear Plant

On February 6, 2003, representatives from Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., were in the Region II Office to attend a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Farley Nuclear Plant.

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 7, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 3

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner/ Gerke	02/13/03 SD-406	9:30	NRC	Oversight of the NRC	Senators Voinovich/Lieberman Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Keeling	02/13/03 2172 RHOB	10:00	Department of State	North Korea's Nuclear Program	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations
Portner	02/25/03 SD-366	10:00	Secretary Abraham	FY04 Budget: Energy Department	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

February 7, 2003

ENCLOSURE R