

June 6, 2003

SECY-03-0093

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0093 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 30, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/
William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP)

On May 27, 2003, the staff issued a license transfer order to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The order gave the staff's consent to the transfer of DCNPP from PG&E to Electric Generation LLC and Diablo Canyon LLC. Diablo Canyon LLC will become the owner of the facility, while Electric Generation LLC will operate and maintain DCNPP under the terms of a lease that will make Electric Generation LLC responsible for all costs of operation. This application was filed in connection with a comprehensive bankruptcy reorganization and restructuring of the businesses and operations of PG&E, including its nuclear and non-nuclear generation, transmission, and electricity distribution businesses.

Mitigating System Performance Index/Reactor Oversight Process (MSPI/ROP) Meeting

The staff conducted its monthly combined MSPI/ROP public meeting on May 21-22, 2003. Meeting participants discussed the staff's efforts to address the success criteria and agency goals and objectives for the MSPI pilot, industry's response to the staff's proposed MSPI timeline of scheduled activities and milestones that was handed out at the previous public meeting, and an update of Office of Research (RES) activities involving the independent verification and Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) model work and further research of the resolutions of the invalid/insensitive technical issues. As discussed in the meeting, the staff is working to respond to industry's markup of the MSPI pilot timeline and milestone schedule that was originally presented by the staff at the last public meeting. Industry desires a milestone date of July 21, 2004, for MSPI full implementation, instead of the January 2005, date proposed by the staff. The staff plans to issue an updated timeline for the next MSPI public meeting. During the meeting RES stated that work to enhance SPAR models for a number of MSPI pilot plants are already completed. These are Braidwood, San Onofre, Salem, Palo Verde, and Prairie Island. The remaining six pilot plant SPARs will be completed by early July 03.

Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC)

On May 22, 2003, the New Reactor Licensing Project Office (NRLPO) held a Category 2 public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss issues associated with ITAAC for operational programs (i.e., programmatic ITAAC), and 10 CFR Part 52 combined licenses (COLs). Regarding ITAAC for operational programs, the staff and NEI discussed options for addressing the Commission's September 11, 2002, staff requirements memorandum on the subject. The staff plans to choose a representative program (e.g., fire protection, radiation protection) and develop guidelines for the level of programmatic information that would be needed in order to issue a COL without ITAAC for that program. Regarding COL issues, NEI provided the staff with a list of 22 issues that they would like to discuss with the staff to prepare for a COL application by mid-calendar year 2006. NEI proposed priorities and timeframes for resolution of the issues. Many of the higher priority issues have already been, and continue to be, discussed with the staff. NEI proposes to develop COL application guidance with the table of contents being ready by September 2003 and an initial version of the document issued by December 2004.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Staff Participates in Regional Meeting on High-Level Waste Transportation

On May 22, 2003, a management representative from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) participated in the 2003 Spring meeting of The Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force held in Burlington, Vermont. The meeting was attended by representatives from several offices within the Department of Energy, as well as the Federal Railroad Administration, and also by representatives from the States throughout the northeast. The SFPO representative provided an overview of several topical issues within the spent fuel program, including: (1) status of spent fuel storage facilities; (2) 10 CFR Part 71 rulemaking status; (3) Package Performance Study (PPS); (4) Baltimore Tunnel Fire Study; (5) security issues impacting Part 71 and 10 CFR Part 72 activities; and (6) status of the Private Fuel Storage license application. The State representatives expressed a great deal of interest in the security issues, especially their ability to gain the necessary information to carry out their responsibilities under the Part 71 Interim Compensatory Measures and their efficacy for conducting the PPS, in view of the extensive safety record for transportation casks. During the roundtable discussion, in which the States provide a brief overview of key observations within their respective jurisdictions, two of the more notable and universal points were: (1) the level of interest and diversity for programs associated with the distribution of KI tablets; and (2) the complexity of coordinating shipments of large quantities of radioactive material through various jurisdictions within a given State/City.

Public Workshop for Rulemaking and Scoping for Environmental Issues on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials

On May 21-22, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff held a public workshop in Rockville, Maryland, to solicit new input on rulemaking alternatives for solid material with no, or very small amounts of, radioactivity, with a focus on the feasibility of those alternatives that would limit where the solid material can go. This workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the rulemaking effort as well as the National Environmental Policy Act scoping process for preparation of a generic environmental impact statement. Stakeholders representing a diversity of viewpoints were present at a roundtable discussion, including representatives from: the metals, cement, and scrap industries; citizen groups; worker unions; Federal and State agencies; licensee organizations; Tribal governments; scientific organizations; international organizations; and solid waste industries. Stakeholders offered input on the potential alternatives, with particular focus on whether the conditional use and Environmental Protection Agency-regulated landfill disposal alternatives: (1) are effective; (2) are reasonably possible to implement; and (3) would increase public confidence in the process. Although the focus of the meeting was on the roundtable discussion, there were opportunities for members of the audience to offer comments and ask questions.

On-site Review of Integrated Safety Analysis at Nuclear Fuel Services

On May 20-22, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff conducted an on-site review of the integrated safety analysis (ISA) for the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU)

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Preparation Facility. Staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Division of Engineering, participated on the review team also. The amendment request for operation of this facility is the second of three amendment requests to support the BLEU Project. The reviewers performed a general (horizontal) review of the accident sequences identified for each technical discipline, and a detailed (vertical slice) review of four accident sequences selected by the team. In general, the team found that the licensee applied the ISA methodology correctly. A "punch list" of follow-up action items was prepared and reviewed at the close-out meeting.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc. Submits Redacted Integrated Safety Analysis Summary for the Lead Cascade

On May 27, 2003, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) provided a redacted (unclassified) version of the Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) Summary for the Lead Cascade to NRC. Although this document is unclassified, according to the Department of Energy, it contains "Export Control Information." As such, NRC will mark and handle it as an "Official Use Only" document. NRC had requested USEC to submit this document primarily to allow its staff and contractors who do not have Q clearances to be able to review the ISA Summary, since the original ISA Summary submitted in February 2003 with the license application for the Lead Cascade contained classified information up to the Secret Restricted-Data level. NRC anticipates completing its licensing review for the Lead Cascade by February 2004.

2003 Devils Hole Workshop and Death Valley Regional Flow Model Interaction Meeting

On May 21-23, 2003, staff from the Division of Waste Management attended and presented a paper at the 2003 Devils Hole Workshop hosted by the University of Nevada - Las Vegas. The workshop provided the opportunity for members of the scientific and research community, affected agencies, and all others interested in the Death Valley Regional Flow System (DVRFS) and regional water resource issues to meet, exchange information, and discuss pertinent and related issues. Understanding the DVRFS and Yucca Mountain's role within this regional flow system helps to assess the suitability of the chosen site as a potential repository. The latest results of the Inyo County drilling program were presented, as were future planned activities. Inyo County's main concern regarding a potential Yucca Mountain repository is contaminant transport through the Lower Carbonate Aquifer into the Death Valley springs located in Inyo County. Additional presentations included an overview of the modeling efforts of the DVRFS, spatial and temporal variations in ground-water levels in southern Nye County, and estimated ground-water withdrawals from the DVRFS, 1913-1998, by the U.S. Geological Survey. The Department of Energy will be using data from DVRFS in its evaluation of Yucca Mountain.

Staff Participation in the Annual Meeting of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

On May 21-23, 2003, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff represented the U.S. at the third annual meeting of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC), sponsored by the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) of the Nuclear Energy Agency, in Paris, France. Of particular note at this meeting was a topical session on stakeholder involvement tools; presentations on public consultation experiences in Germany, Switzerland, and Denmark; and updates of Member States' waste programs, with emphasis on stakeholder issues. At this meeting, the FSC issued a report, "The Evolving Image and Role of the Regulator in Decision Making for the Long-Term Management of Radioactive Waste." As a member of the core

group, DWM staff led a working session on the development of other FSC products and participated in planning for the next FSC country workshop, to be held the week of November 17, 2003, in Belgium.

West Valley Meetings

On May 22, 2003, NRC staff participated in two meetings in the vicinity of the West Valley site. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority conducted an afternoon meeting with NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the New York State Department of Health, to discuss comments on the schedule for the Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). DOE thanked NRC and the cooperating agencies for their comments on the schedule, and indicated that it intends to reconsider the schedule, to provide cooperating agencies sufficient time to assure the development of a quality EIS.

NRC staff also participated in an evening meeting in response to an invitation by the West Valley Citizen Task Force. Representatives from EPA and NYSDEC also participated in this meeting. In this meeting, NRC presented information and addressed questions on a variety of topics, including: specific provisions of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act; NRC guidance on decommissioning; Incidental Waste and its applicability to West Valley; and NRC's Implementation Plan for the Final Policy Statement on Decommissioning Criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project. Other topics of discussion included the Regulators' Communication Plan for Decommissioning the West Valley site, and EPA-NRC Memorandum of Understanding on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Public Meeting on Developing a Regulatory Structure for Future Nuclear Power Plant Licensing

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) held a public meeting on May 28, 2003 to provide external stakeholders with the status of on-going staff activities related to developing a regulatory structure for future nuclear power plant licensing. This meeting is the first in presenting the program plan which involves four major tasks: (1) Develop high level decision criteria (framework); (2) Develop a set of recommended technology-neutral risk-informed regulations; (3) Develop guidance for implementing the above decision criteria (framework) on a technology-specific basis; and (4) Develop technology-specific high level regulatory guides for candidate reactor designs. The meeting focused on Task 1 with detailed discussion on the various issues needing resolution (e.g., what risk metrics to use, what is meant by defense-in-depth and how it is implemented, treatment of uncertainties in the decision process, concept of design basis accidents?). In addition, NEI made a presentation on their proposed framework (documented in NEI-02-02). Meetings will be scheduled to continue exchanging information and soliciting public input.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-03-009, Twitchell Corporation - MISSING NDC THICKNESS GAUGE
2. PNO-III-03-025, University Hospitals of Cleveland - MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

General License for Import of Major Nuclear Reactor Components (Part 110)

A direct final rule that amends the regulations concerning the export and import of nuclear equipment and material was published in the Federal Register on May 28, 2003 (68 FR 31587). The direct final rule issues a general license for the import of major nuclear reactor components for end-use at NRC-licensed reactors. The general license facilitates the import of major components of domestic nuclear reactors, thereby, continuing to protect health and safety and avoiding unnecessary regulatory burden. The direct final rule becomes effective August 11, 2003.

The companion proposed rule for this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 28, 2003 (68 FR 31641). The comment period for this action closes June 27, 2003.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Information Quality Correction Request

On April 30, 2003, Novoste Corporation filed by e-mail via the NRC web site, an information quality correction request. They sought to have references to their corporation removed from a Draft Abnormal Occurrence Report attached to SECY-2003-0036. On May 2, 2003, NRC acknowledged receipt of their request. On May 28, 2003, a response letter was sent to Novoste Corporation informing them that their request did not fall within the scope of the Information Quality Guidelines because information submitted to Congress which has been previously disseminated to the public (which is the case here) is exempt from the guidelines. However, the letter recognized that NRC will consider refraining from identifying by name companies not involved in events in future Abnormal Occurrence Reports to Congress unless the facts involving the event warrant doing so.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of May 22 through May 29, 2003:

NRC data center, incumbent contractor, information on web site and e-mail	FOIA/PA-2003-0293
Official Personnel file, all documents	FOIA/PA-2003-0294
Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology, application and all corresponding documents	FOIA/PA-2003-0295
Processing and handling of previous request 2003-0025	FOIA/PA-2003-0296
EA-01-073 and EA-01-073 depositions of named individuals; transcript of closed hearing	FOIA/PA-2003-0297
MLTS, hospitals and clinics that receive nuclear medicine products in Michigan	FOIA/PA-2003-0298

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Electronic Benefits Statement Activated for Use by Agency Employees

On May 28, 2003, the Electronic Benefits Statement was activated for use by agency employees. This statement contains a complete description of all employee benefits along with their cost to the employee and to NRC. Employees are now able to check their benefits at their desk and can calculate retirement estimates.

Arrivals		
ARMSTRONG, Garry Jr.	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
BELLINGER, Alesha	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
BLACK, Allison	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer hire)	NRR
FIVEASH, Sharon	SECRETARY	NRR
GEORGE, Gerond	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
GEPFORD, Heather	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RII
GOVAN, Tekia	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RES
HAEG, Lucas	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
HARRELL, Autumn	STUDENT LAW CLERK (Summer hire)	ASLBP
HOGAN, Kevin	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer hire)	RES
JAMES, Lois *	REACTOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
KLEIN, Gabriel	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer hire)	NRR
MORELL, Greg **	ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST	OE
SABISCH, Andrew	PROJECT ENGINEER	RII
TAYLOR, James	SR. SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
WILSON, Gerald	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
Retirements		
AYERS, Robert	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
CARPENTER, Bob	OFFICE SERVICES ASSISTANT	RIV
FISHER, Louis	SECTION CHIEF	ADM
GRUBELICH, Francis	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR

KIDD, Duane	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST	OCIO
KOZOSKY, Stephen	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCIO
LEDBETTER, Judith	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	OCM
Departures		
MENDELSON, Michelle	LAW CLERK	ASLBP
SPILLMAN, Judith	SECRETARY	RIII

* Transfer from RI

**Transfer from RIV

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Media Interest

Quality assurance issues with the Yucca Mountain project, including coverage of a Senate field hearing in Las Vegas.

Emergency planning at Indian Point, following announcement by FEMA's regional office that it had referred the issue to the agency's headquarters for consideration.

Various rulings by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the Private Fuel Storage proposal.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-067	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet June 12-13 in Rockville, Maryland (5/27)
03-068	NRC Licensing Board Decisions on Financial Assurance Issues Regarding Private Fuel Storage Application (5/27)
03-069	NRC to Hold Public Meeting June 5 on Reactor Vessel Penetration Leakage at South Texas Project (5/28)
03-070	Nuclear Regulatory Commission Honors Employees on June 12 in Rockville, Md. (5/28)
03-071	NRC to Hold Public Meeting June 18 on Backup Power Supplies for Combustible Gas Igniters (5/29)
03-072	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impact from Extended Operation of St. Lucie Nuclear Plant (5/30)
Regions:	
I-03-037	NRC to Discuss Apparent Violation with Washington, D.C., Hospital (5/27)
I-03-038	NRC Licensing Board to Hear Argument on Contention Challenging Millstone Licensing Amendment (5/29)
II-03-032	NRC to Hold Meeting June 6 at NFS to Discuss Readiness Review Associated with Proposed Project BLEU (5/27)
III-03-041	NRC Oversight Panel to Meet with Davis-Besse Officials June 3 (5/27)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-03-0078	5/30/03	NRC Staff-Sponsored Rulemaking - Codes and Standards (10 CFR 50.55a)
2. SECY-03-0078	5/15/03	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0082	5/22/03	SECY-03-0082 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 16, 2003
2. SECY-03-0075	5/14/03	Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Briefing
3. SECY-03-0086	5/29/03	SECY-03-0086 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 23, 2003
Memoranda		
1. SRM-M030528A	5/28/03	Affirmation Session - SECY-03-0077 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; Order Regarding Petition for Review

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated 05/28/2003, provides the March 2003 report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.
2. Letter to Congressman Sherwood L. Boehlert, dated April 9, 2003, regarding the regulation of non-weapons DOE nuclear facilities.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Region II Management Retreat

On May 28-29, 2003, the Regional Administrator, all regional Senior Managers and Branch Chiefs attended the Region II Management Retreat at the Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA.

Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Steering Committee Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute and Industry (NEI)

On May 30, 2003, the Regional Administrator participated in the PRA Steering Committee Meeting with the NEI/Industry in Headquarters.

Region IV Management Retreat

On May 28-29, 2003, the Deputy Regional Administrator attended the Region IV Management Retreat at the Hilton Hotel in Arlington, TX.

Federal Emergency Management Agency - Regional Interagency Steering Committee Meeting

On May 28-29, 2003, the State Liaison Officer attended a meeting of the Regional Interagency Steering Committee at the offices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV, in Atlanta, GA.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 30, 2003

Predecisional Enforcement Conference (PEC) Schlumberger Technology Corporation

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety and other NRC staff members conducted a PEC with Schlumberger Technology Corporation representatives on May 30, 2003, in Great Falls, Montana. The purpose of the predecisional enforcement conference was to discuss apparent violations associated with the use of well logging sources by Schlumberger Technology Corporation.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 16

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	06/12/03 TBA	A.M.	NRC Commission and Others	Davis-Besse	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce