

INFORMATION REPORT

October 31, 2003

SECY-03-0184

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0184 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 24, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

D.C. Cook Plant - New Site Vice President

Joseph (Joe) N. Jensen was named as the Site Vice President for D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant and will be responsible for Plant Operations and Maintenance of the D.C. Cook Plant. Mr. Jensen is scheduled to assume his duties at D.C. Cook on October 27, 2003. Mr. Jensen has most recently held the position of Plant Manager at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. Prior to that, he spent 15 years at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Station where he held various positions including Training Manager, Engineering Director, and Production Planning Manager.

Closeout of GSI-186 - "Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants"

The Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) met on October 20, 2003, to discuss closeout of GSI-186, "Potential Risk and Consequences of Heavy Load Drops in Nuclear Power Plants," and coordination of related actions to enhance regulatory guidance in the area of heavy load handling.

Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Nuclear Reactors

On October 16, 2003, a Federal Register notice (68 FR 59645) was published, announcing the issuance and availability of Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.159, "Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Nuclear Reactors." This revision was developed to reflect recent changes in a direct final rule on 10 CFR 50.75, which was signed by the Executive Director for Operations on October 20, 2003. This document provides guidance to licensees and applicants of nuclear power, research, and test reactors concerning acceptable methods for complying with requirements in the rules regarding the amount of funds for decommissioning. It also provides guidance on the content and forms of the financial assurance mechanisms in those rule amendments.

Early Site Permit (ESP)

On October 21, 2003, the NRC staff received an early site permit (ESP) application dated October 16, 2003, from System Energy Resources, Inc., a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, for a site on property co-located with the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station near Port Gibson, MS. This is the final ESP application of the three the staff expected to receive in 2003. The first two, for North Anna and Clinton, were received on September 25, 2003.

Meeting with NRC and Department of Transportation (DOT)

On October 16, 2003, members of the Emergency Preparedness and Plant Support Branch and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of the DOT's Office of Enforcement. Discussions included recent changes to the Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone, Appendix D of NRC Inspection Manual 0609, "Public Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process" and the Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and DOT. This meeting was in preparation for a meeting requested by the Nuclear Energy Institute to discuss changes to the Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone.

Public Meeting on Davis-Besse High-Pressure Injection Pump Modifications

On October 21, 2003, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), the licensee for the Davis-Besse nuclear power station, met with the NRC staff in a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland to discuss its modifications to its high-pressure injection (HPI) pump. The purpose of the meeting was for FENOC to describe its pump modifications and associated testing and analyses that ensure the HPI pumps will perform their required safety functions under all design conditions. The licensee discussed the design issues of concern, its planned modifications to resolve the design issues, and the results of ongoing analyses and testing supporting the modifications. The presentation also included a discussion of the modifications major conservatisms and assumptions used in the analyses and testing. The licensee's design modifications are complete and the pumps are currently being modified. A final report will be submitted to the NRC in the next few weeks.

NRR staff will review the final report, evaluate the adequacy of the pump modifications, and make a recommendation to the NRC's Davis-Besse Oversight Panel prior to plant restart.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

2003 Annual Organization of Agreement States Meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois

During the week of October 13-17, 2003, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) managers and staff attended and participated in the 2003 Annual Organization of Agreement States meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois. Staff participated in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency workshop on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to disposal of low-activity radioactive wastes. Staff made presentations on the status of National Materials Program (NMP) pilot projects and participated in panel discussions on NRC and Agreement State priorities, expectations, and resources for the NMP. In addition, staff made presentations on: (1) decommissioning guidance consolidation; (2) issues related to 10 CFR Part 35 policy, implementation, and training and experience; (3) status of rulemaking on control of disposition of solid materials, and working group activities for jurisdiction/source material; (4) 10 CFR Part 40 rulemaking activities; (5) assured isolation; (6) reevaluation of the two-person rule for radiography; and (7) revision to materials inspection guidance. NMSS senior management discussed activities and initiatives to risk-inform the nuclear materials and waste arenas and made a presentation on the status of the source tracking system.

Representatives from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response also participated. They discussed matters related to the U.S. General Accounting Office report on materials security, Agreement State and NRC coordination on Homeland Security, analysis of the TOPOFF 2 exercise, and compensatory measures training.

Meeting of the Radiation Therapy Committee of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in Salt Lake City, UT

On October 18, 2003, a member of the staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety represented NRC, at the fall meeting of the Radiation Therapy Committee of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM RTC). The staff member provided information on a variety of topics through a presentation and accompanying question and answer session. Current publicly-available information was provided on the following topics: (1) NRC rulemaking addressing the sections of the revised 10 CFR Part 35 involving training and experience requirements for authorization; (2) discussion topics for the upcoming meeting of NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes on November 12 and 13, 2003; (3) the status of legislation possibly extending NRC regulation to accelerator-produced and naturally-occurring radioactive materials; and (4) the status of anticipated enhanced NRC security requirements for some radioactive sources used in medicine. Additionally, information was sought and acquired about current or upcoming AAPM RTC activity on the issue of guidance on quality control for the Leksell Gamma Knife Automatic Positioning System.

Spanish Nuclear Safety Counsel Commissioner Tours Yucca Mountain

On October 15, 2003, NRC's On-Site Representatives for Yucca Mountain escorted Spanish Nuclear Safety Counsel Commissioner Julio Barceló, the Director of NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Regional Administrator of NRC Region IV, NRC's Chief Financial Officer, the Deputy Director of NRC's Division of Waste Management, and a staff member from NRC's Office of International Programs on a tour of Yucca Mountain. The tour included entering the exploratory studies facility (main tunnel), with stops that included the drift-scale thermal test, and areas of fracture and fault studies. The tour also included a visit to the DOE's Yucca Mountain Science Center in Las Vegas.

NMSS High-level Waste Staff Attends Steering Committee Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden

On October 13-16, 2003, Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff, along with the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) staff, attended the final workshop and steering committee meeting of the **DECOVALEX** (development of coupled models and their validation against experiments) international project on coupled processes. NRC is one of the funding organizations for this multi-phase project. One of the experiments that is being modeled for validation by the international participants is the Drift-Scale Heater Experiment at the Yucca Mountain Project. Representatives from DWM and CNWRA made presentations and discussed the progress made to date in modeling the thermal-hydrological aspects of the heater experiment. Also discussed were the scope and schedule for a potential future extension of the project to predict the permanent changes in mechanical and hydrological properties as a result of thermal impacts.

Meeting with Local Elected Officials on Proposed Louisiana Energy Services Enrichment Plant

On October 16, 2003, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Offices of Congressional Affairs and Public Affairs, met with the County Manager of Lea County, New Mexico, and two Lea County Commissioners, to discuss the status of the Louisiana Energy Services proposed gas centrifuge enrichment plant project. The Lea County officials stated that they appreciate NRC efforts to discuss the plant licensing at the planned November 4, 2003, public meeting in Eunice, New Mexico. They also stated that they will support any NRC requests for information needed for licensing.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Human Factors and Ergonomics Annual Conference

On October 16, 2003, RES participated in a panel discussion on "Human Factors in Regulation" at the annual Human Factors (HF) and Ergonomics Society Convention. Other participants in the panel were from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration. The primary conclusion from the panel was that all of the agencies are faced with similar problems, both technical and organizational. Some of the technical areas of common interest are the effects of fatigue and its measurement, root cause analysis techniques, HF job aids for non-HF inspectors (e.g., tool for use by inspectors), and safety culture. The organizational issues include lack of regulatory basis, limited HF staff, and lack of accident data. Other topics of interest discussed at the conference were cognitive factors in homeland defense, mental models in counter terrorism, team process and performance measures, and cognitive engineering and decision making.

There was also a consensus that it would be appropriate to establish an interagency task force of HF professionals working in regulatory agencies to share information, leverage resources, and possibly form cooperative agreements to fund research. The representative from the FDA volunteered to take the lead in setting up a meeting in the first quarter of FY-2004. NRC staff will participate to the extent allowed by resources.

Project Meeting at the Center for Safety-Critical Systems, University of Virginia

RES staff met with researchers at University of Virginia's Center for Safety-Critical Systems (CSCS) to discuss application of CSCS' digital system safety assessment techniques and tools to evaluating security of safety-critical digital systems. The staff has been involved in cutting-edge research on digital system safety assessment through a cooperative agreement with CSCS and other federal agencies. The techniques have been applied to safety-critical digital systems in both the United States and Europe. Currently, CSCS is involved in a design effort with Electricite de France (EdF). The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways for RES to gain more leverage on the embedded system security research between CSCS and the National Science Foundation for application to nuclear digital safety systems.

Handbook of Parameter Estimation for Probabilistic Risk Assessment (NUREG/CR-6823)

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) published the subject Handbook, which provides references on sources of information and methods for estimating parameters for distributions used in PRA analysis. This includes determination of both plant-specific and generic estimates for initiating event frequencies, component failure rates and unavailability, and equipment non-recovery probabilities, all of which directly supplement the "Standard For Probabilistic Risk Assessment For Nuclear Power Plant Applications" published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 2002 (ASME-RA-S-2002). This Handbook was generated to support this and other documents by providing a compendium of good practices that a PRA analyst can use to generate the parameter distributions required for quantifying PRA models. NUREG/CR-6823 is available at the NRC's website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6823/>.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Fatigue Order for Security Forces

On October 23, 2003, the NRC approved a clarification regarding turnover time and a relaxation regarding the conduct of force-on-force exercises related to Order EA-03-038 (April 2003), which imposes work-hour limits on security force personnel. The letter issuing the relaxation was posted on the NRC Web page on October 23, 2003, under "New at our Web Site " and under "Power Plant Security Orders." On October 24, 2003, plant-specific letters were sent to licensees. The clarification excludes shift turnover time from the calculation of the group average work hours. The relaxation increases the group average limit from 48 hours per week to 60 hours per week during the time period that licenses conduct force-on force exercises. Full implementation of the Order is required by October 29, 2003.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

State of Utah: NRC Staff Assessment of Utah's Proposed Alternative Standard To use Utah's Existing Groundwater Regulation in Lieu of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulations; Addition of Supplementary Information, Notice of Availability of Documents, and Extension of Comment Period (Part 40)

A document supplementing the information provided in an earlier Federal Register document was published in the Federal Register on October 24, 2003 (68 FR 60885). The earlier document, published August 27, 2003 (68 FR 51516), presented the NRC staff assessment of a proposal from the State of Utah. Utah wishes to regulate a portion of the groundwater aspects of uranium milling within the State under its existing groundwater protection regulations, which are based on the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water limits, in lieu of a portion of the specific groundwater requirements in Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 40. This document provides details about the hearing process discussed in the earlier notice, indicates that two referenced documents have been placed in the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS, and extends the comment closing date until November 24, 2003.

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Public Meeting (Part 71)

A document published in the Federal Register on October 24, 2003 (68 FR 60886) announces a Department of Transportation (DOT) meeting at which the NRC will participate. The public meeting will be held on November 5, 2003. The agencies are seeking public views on DOT's positions concerning proposed changes to the requirements of the 1996 Edition for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. These changes will likely require compatibility rulemakings by both DOT and the NRC.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

NRC Contribution to General Services Administration Federal Technology Service (GSA/FTS)
FTS 2001 Replacement

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) representatives have been working closely with the Federal Technology Service (FTS) on the Interagency Management Council (IMC) over the past year to craft a replacement acquisition strategy and program for FTS2001 and other telecommunications contracts. This new acquisition is entitled "FTS Network." The Request For Information (RFI) was posted on EDBIZOPPS for review and comments by industry. The FTS Network RFI summarizes the characteristics of the contracts to be awarded, the services to be acquired, and the management and operations requirements developed to date. In addition, the RFI provides an opportunity for wider input and discussion of the FTS acquisition strategy.

Records Management Training Offered for NRC Staff

On October 10, 2003, OCIO contacted Office Directors and Regional Administrators and offered to present a 2-3 hour records management training course to staff who had an interest. The course covers basic records management principles and is tailored to meet the needs of an office and to include examples of records that are unique to the office. To date OCIO has received requests from six offices/regions for the course, and anticipates others will follow.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
October 17 through October 23, 2003:

FOIA request log, 1-1-2003 to 7-1-2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0018
Application of named individual for "Senior Geophysicist" position	FOIA/PA-2004-0019
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, transcript of named individual	FOIA/PA-2004-0020
RIV-2003-A-0021, copy of interviews, etc.	FOIA/PA-2004-0021
FOIA Requests, response, administrative tracking files, specific FOIA requests	FOIA/PA-2004-0022
Quehanna facility, Curtiss-Wright Corp., 1955-1960, by-product license 37-2416-2, facility license R-36 and any source material or special nuclear material licenses, and all related indemnification agreements and radioactivity records	FOIA/PA-2004-0023
Neutron Products Inc., material licenses, applications, reports, memos re: radioactive waste disposal or residual radioactive contamination (use of Quehanna Nuclear Reactor facility in the 1980's)	FOIA/PA-2004-0024
Quehanna Nuclear Reactor facility, licenses issued to PA State Univ., 1962-1967, reports, assessments, memos re: radioactive waste disposal	FOIA/PA-2004-0025
Martin Co. (Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin Corp.); by-product material license from AEC, 6-26-62, 19-1938-29 (F64), all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0026

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, communications between
named individuals and NRC since 1992 re: complaints, allegations,
safety concerns

FOIA/PA-2004-0027

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Arrivals		
Hsu, Kaihwa	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LARSON, Brian	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	R-IV
OPARA, Stella	IT SPECIALIST	RES
WHEELER, Virginia*	CONSULTANT	OIG

*Effective 10/28/03

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Media Interest

The Office of Inspector General's report on NRC oversight of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant's boric acid leakage and corrosion.

NRC tests reportedly indicate the Davis-Besse nuclear reactor's corrosion-damaged lid was closer to a catastrophic rupture last year than either the NRC or FirstEnergy Corp. thought.

Energy Department saying it will not slow plans to build a national nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, despite the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's warning about metal casks corroding at high temperatures and releasing radioactivity.

Bucks County Court in Pennsylvania ordering Milford Township to permit CFC Logistics to operate its irradiator.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-134	NRC To Hold Public Meeting November 4 in Eunice, N.M., To Discuss Licensing Process For Proposed Uranium Enrichment Facility (10/23)
03-135	NRC Announces The Availability Of License Renewal Application For Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (10/24)
Regions:	
IV-03-042	NRC To Hold Public Meeting To Discuss Results Of Special Inspection At Diablo Canyon (10/23)
IV-03-043	NRC To Meet With Nebraska Public Power District To Discuss Recent Inspections At Cooper Nuclear Station (10/24)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Memoranda		
1. M031023A	10/23/03	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-03-0173 - Fansteel, Inc. (Muskogee, Oklahoma, Site), Docket No. 40-7580-LT. State of Oklahoma's Request for Hearing and Terminating the Adjudicatory Proceeding; II. SECY-03-0177 - Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2)
2. M031007	10/23/03	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Decommissioning Activities and Status

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated October 16, 2003, provides the status of NRC licensing and regulatory duties and the status of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Designation of Presiding Officer - Sequoyah Fuels Corp. - Docket #40-8027-MLA-7.
2. Designation of Presiding Officer - Sequoyah Fuels Corp. - Docket #40-8027-MLA-8.
3. State of Utah: NRC Staff Assessment of Utah's...; Addition of Supplementary Information, Notice of Availability of Documents, and Extension of Comment Period.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - Notice of Meeting (11/5-8/2003).
5. NRC Peer Review Committee for Source Term Modeling - Notice of Meeting.
6. Application to Request a License to Export Plutonium - DOE Headquarters.
7. Ohio Citizens for Responsibility Energy, Inc. - Denial of a Petition for Rulemaking.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Indian Point

On October 21, 2003, Entergy, the Indian Point licensee, conducted a 4-minute operational test of all 154 sirens surrounding the Indian Point site. Observers were stationed at every siren. One siren in Rockland County failed. Information available to the Counties incorrectly indicated nine sirens had failed. Entergy is working to resolve the problems.

On October 23, 2003, a representative from Region I observed an exercise planning meeting for the upcoming June 2004 emergency exercise. Representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency Regions I and II, the New York State Emergency Management Office, Entergy, and contractors representing Rockland, Westchester and Orange counties attended the meeting. The discussion focused on the decisions that need to be made regarding scenario, participation by local and federal entities, and extent of assigned roles.

Public Meeting Regarding Ginna License Renewal

On October 22, 2003, the staff from Region I and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation met with management of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, which operates the R.E. Ginna nuclear power plant. The meeting, which was open to public observation, was conducted to discuss the NRC's aging management program inspections, which are part of the NRC's review of the Ginna station license renewal application. Questions by several members of the public in attendance focused on issues related to the future sale of the facility and past plant performance.

Quehanna (Permagrain) Pennsylvania Site Visit

During the week of October 20, 2003, an inspector from Region I visited the former Permagrain site in Quehanna, Pennsylvania, to observe decommissioning activities and meet with personnel from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the licensee) and its decommissioning contractor. The license for this site, which is on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list, was renewed on September 29, 2003, to allow decommissioning of Hot Cell 4. Work began this week with the deployment of a robot due to the high levels of residual strontium contamination from old activities at this site. The strontium will be encapsulated and solidified in waste containers and shipped to the Barnwell low level waste burial facility for disposal. Completion of Cell 4 clean-up is scheduled by the end of 2003.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Management Meeting

On October 23, 2003, representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status and future plans for the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation that is under construction at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

Envirocare of Utah Public Meeting

On October 21, 2003, a public meeting was held with Envirocare of Utah, Inc., in the Region IV office. The meeting was held to discuss current issues involving the NRC regulated portion of Envirocare's waste disposal facility.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 24, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 36

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	TBA 2123 RHOB	TBA	NRC, DOE, Bechtel, NEI, NARUC	Review of the Progress of DOE's Yucca Mountain Project	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Gerke	10/29/03 2154 RHOB	2:30	GAO, AMS, and others	Government Financial Management Problems	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform