

INFORMATION REPORT

February 6, 2004

SECY-04-0018

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0018 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 30, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

On January 21, 2004, a routine monthly 0350 Oversight Panel meeting was held near the site. The licensee discussed their activities to improve operations performance. The licensee also discussed their criteria for evaluating performance during the heatup that began on January 26, 2004. The NRC staff is continuing its Management and Human Performance Inspection and an additional inspection by the Restart Readiness Assessment Team is planned. As of January 26, 2004, 7 of 31 Restart Checklist items remained open.

On January 20, 2004, Anthony J. Alexander was elected President and Chief Executive Officer by the FirstEnergy Corporation Board of Directors to succeed H. Peter Burg, who passed away January 13, 2004.

Meeting with Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) on Activities Related to NRC Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized-Water Reactors"

On January 22, 2004, the NRR staff met with the WOG to discuss their program to establish guidance for plant-specific modifications to emergency response guidelines and emergency procedure guidance for Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering light-water reactors. The proposed guidance would describe up to 11 operator actions intended to reduce the risk from the accumulation of debris on pressurized water reactor sump screens. WOG advised the staff that a number of licensees have indicated plans to consider the guidance for implementation at their plants.

Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Industry Representatives on Fire Protection Issues

On January 28, 2004, NRR and RES held a meeting with NEI and industry representatives to discuss the use of guidance in the draft NEI document concerning the resolution of associated circuits and the established fire protection issues management process. The staff updated NEI on the status of the NRC's response to the industry's proposal to conduct self-assessments in the area of associated circuits and development of NRC comments on the draft NEI document and the use of NFPA 805. The staff agreed to hold monthly phone calls with NEI to review the issues management list to ensure it is kept up to date and that timely actions continue to be taken.

Meeting with NEI and Industry Representatives on Steam Generator Structural Integrity Criteria

On January 21, 2004, NEI and industry representatives discussed the status and plans for resolving the steam generator (SG) structural integrity performance criteria (SIPC) issue. This is the one remaining issue needing resolution before the staff can complete its review of the SG Generic License Change Package (GLCP) and the associated Catawba Units 1 and 2 lead plant license amendment. Industry representatives stated that an impact study indicating that

non-pressure- related primary loads may influence tube burst pressures for some plants under certain circumstances. This was not generally considered in prior tube integrity assessments. Industry representatives stated that there are no near-term safety concerns. The industry is conducting a test program to validate analytical methods for evaluating the effect of non-pressure loads on burst pressure with completion scheduled for April 2004. Industry representatives proposed developing a revised SIPC and associated technical basis by July 2004, preparing implementation guidelines by September 2004, and resubmitting necessary changes to the GLCP and Catawba amendment request by October 2004.

The staff emphasized the importance of timely resolution of this issue, expressed the desire for frequent communication on the status of this effort, and the need for demonstrating that the SIPC resolution is consistent with the plant design and licensing bases.

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Workshop on Boric Acid Corrosion Control

On January 27, 2004, NRR staff attended the opening portion of an INPO workshop on Boric Acid Corrosion Control. This workshop was held to discuss development of industry-wide guidelines for consistent implementation of boric acid corrosion control programs. The staff discussed the importance of these programs moving beyond their traditional focus on leakage through mechanical connections to provide greater emphasis on pressure boundary leakage that may be caused by primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC). Representatives of NEI and the industry's Materials Reliability Program also made presentations that stressed the importance of inspection programs addressing PWSCC.

License Renewal Application for Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3

On January 22, 2004, the staff received a license renewal application from Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., for Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3. Millstone Unit 2 is a pressurized-water reactor (PWR) designed by Combustion Engineering and Unit 3 is a PWR designed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation with current operating licenses that expire on July 31, 2015 and November 25, 2025, respectively. Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. has requested and received an exemption from submitting an application earlier than 20 years before the expiration of the operating license as provided in 10 CFR 54.17(c). At the time of filing the exemption request on December 13, 2002, Millstone Power Station Unit 3 had more than 18 years operating experience. This is the first combined license renewal application for two different reactor vendor designs. The staff plans to hold a public information meeting near the plant on February 17, 2004, to describe the license renewal process.

Staff Issues Final Supplement 14 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on License Renewal for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

On January 28, 2004, the staff issued the final Supplement 14 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. The supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) represents the completion of the staff's environmental review for the license renewal application submitted by the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation. In the SEIS, the staff concludes that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

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ENCLOSURE A

With the issuance of the final SEIS, the New York Department of State, Office of Coastal Resources, will commence its review of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation's Coastal Zone Management Act consistency certification related to the license renewal application. The state is expected to complete its review within two to three months of its receipt of the final SEIS. State approval of the consistency certification is required before the renewed license can be issued.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue the Notice of Filing of the final SEIS in the January 30, 2004, Federal Register. There was no request for a hearing; the decision on issuing the license is scheduled to be completed by June 4, 2004.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Public Meeting

On January 22, 2004, Division of Inspection Program Management staff hosted a ROP public meeting to discuss several significance determination processes (SDPs) under development, including SDPs on Containment Integrity, Shutdown Risk, and Steam Generator Tube Integrity. A number of new or open frequently asked questions (FAQs) were also discussed.

Public Meeting on the Construction Inspection Program

On January 29, 2004, Division of Inspection Program Management staff hosted a public meeting with NEI and industry representatives on the Construction Inspection Program (CIP). Major topics discussed included revisions to the 10 CFR Part 52 construction inspection program framework document and establishment of a working group to test the Construction Inspection Program Information Management System (CIPIMS).

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Meeting on Yucca Mountain

On January 20-21, 2004, an NRC on-site representative for the Yucca Mountain Project and a staff member from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended a public meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's panels on the Engineered Barrier System and the Waste Management System in Las Vegas, Nevada. On January 20, 2004, meeting participants discussed updates on project status, repository design, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's science and technology program, and studies by Nye County, Nevada, related to the engineered system. On January 21, 2004, participants discussed the status of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) transportation program, the preparation of waste shipments, container availability and use, carrier considerations, receipt of waste shipments at the proposed repository, prior transportation experience and lessons learned, and State and local government concerns. Public attendees were invited to comment at selected times during the meeting.

Meeting with France Directorate-General for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection and State of Utah

On January 26, 2004, the NRC staff participated in a meeting with the France Directorate-General For Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection and the State of Utah's Department of Environmental Quality. The French representatives included the Director of the Sub-Directorate for Research Reactors, Dismantling of Nuclear Installations Contaminated Sites and Radioactive Waste. During the meeting, the French representatives asked questions regarding radioactive waste management in the U.S. and the relationship between the Agreement States and NRC. Following the meeting, the State of Utah and NRC escorted the French representatives to Envirocare for a site visit. The site visit included a site tour and a presentation on the site design and operation of the facility. Specific topics discussed included radiation monitoring activities and the processes for the acceptance, treatment, processing, and disposal of waste.

10 CFR Part 71 Final Rule Published

On January 26, 2004, the 10 CFR Part 71 final rule was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 3698). This rule amends Part 71 (Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material) to make it compatible with the latest version of the International Atomic Energy Agency standards, codify other applicable requirements, and make Part 71 compatible with Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. The Part 71 final rule also makes changes in fissile material exemption requirements to address the unintended economic impact of NRC's emergency final rule entitled "Fissile Material Shipments and Exemptions" (February 10, 1997; 62 FR 5907), and addresses a petition for rulemaking submitted by International Energy Consultants, Inc., that had requested removal of the double containment requirement for plutonium shipments. The final rule becomes effective October 1, 2004. DOT also published its parallel rule (69 FR 3632) on January 26, 2004.

Meeting with Department of Energy and NAC International Regarding Transport of Tritium Producing Burnable Absorber Rods

On January 27, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the DOE and NAC International to discuss the transport of tritium producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs). The meeting was held to discuss the application for amendment of the Certificate of Compliance that is being prepared by NAC on behalf of DOE.

Final Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Assessment for U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc.'s Lead Cascade

On January 27, 2004, a Notice containing the Finding of No Significant Impact and an announcement of the availability of the Environmental Assessment for U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc.'s (USEC) license application for its American Centrifuge Lead Cascade facility, that is to be located in Piketon, Ohio, was published in the Federal Register. The final Safety Evaluation Report for this facility was issued on January 28, 2004. NRC will issue Material License SNM-7003 to USEC Inc. for this facility after the Department of Energy approves the lease allowing USEC Inc. to refurbish and subsequently operate the facility in accordance with its license application submitted to NRC on February 11, 2003, as amended.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-004, Bowling Green Medical Center - POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONAL EXTREMITY OVEREXPOSURE DURING INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT.
2. PNO-I-04-003, Industrial Services of America - DAMAGED GAUGE FOUND AT SCRAP YARD.
3. PNO-IV-04-004, Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc. - POTENTIAL RADIATION OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER.
4. PNO-IV-04-003, Southern California Edison - UNIT 3 SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR A LETDOWN SYSTEM PIPING LEAK.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, -61BT, -24PHB, and -32PT, Revision; Correction (AH26 - Part 72)

On January 29, 2004, a document correcting the final rule that revised the Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, and 61BT cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 4219). This action corrects amendment 5 to restore effective dates for amendments 6 and 7. The direct final rule became effective January 7, 2004.

Financial Information Requirements for Applications To Renew or Extend the Term of an Operating License for a Power Reactor (AG84 - Part 50)

On January 30, 2004, a final rule that amends the regulations concerning financial information requirements for applications to renew or extend the term of an operating license for a power reactor was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 4439). The final rule removes the requirement that non-electric-utility power reactor licensees submit financial qualifications information in their license renewal applications. The final rule also adds a new requirement that licensees of nuclear power reactors who are electric utilities reorganizing as non-electric-utility entities without a license transfer must notify the NRC and submit information on their financial qualifications. The final rule becomes effective March 1, 2004.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

ADAMS User Group (AUG) Meets at Headquarters

The eighth meeting of the ADAMS User Group was held at NRC's headquarters location in Rockville, MD. Approximately 16 AUG members and NRC staff participated in the meeting. Several issues related to the new web-based access to ADAMS public records were discussed, including the need for further refinement of searches after the initial refinement is done in Web-based ADAMS. Other issues covered were (1) stopping the display of a record in Citrix-based ADAMS, (2) explanation of Official Agency Records, (3) status of the Web-based ADAMS Legacy Library, and (4) search strategies for finding NUREGs. There was extensive discussion about titles and packages in ADAMS and AUG members both in person and on the telephone bridge gave examples of how title descriptions could be better represented. The next AUG meeting is scheduled to be held on June 16, 2004.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of January 23 through January 29, 2004:

Contract No. 1099145, translation services	FOIA/PA-2004-0105
Allegation RIII-03-A-0107	FOIA/PA-2004-0106
James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Station, safety problems, correspondence re: allegation R1-2003-A-0068, correspondence re: ESW pump room fire dampers in 1979 including LER-91-021-00	FOIA/PA-2004-0107
Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear power plant, accident 1979, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0108
MLTS information on 9236 Hall Road, Downey, CA 90241	FOIA/PA-2004-0109

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Arrivals		
Gerald Wilson	Operations Engineer	R-II
Retirements		
Peter A. Balmain	Reactor Operations Engineer	NRR
Kathleen Lanigan	Administrative Officer	OPA
John L. Minns	Project Manager	NRR
Robert M. Pulsifer	Project Manager	NRR
Departures		
Victoria Nguyen	Student Clerk	R-III

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Media Interest

Significant coverage of the NRC finding of no significant environmental impact related to the license renewal application for R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant near Rochester, N.Y.

Questions regarding nuclear industry efforts associated with extended power uprates that may increase the output of individual plants.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant is expected to announce next month that it will apply for license renewal to extend the New Jersey facility's power generation until 2029.

The Department of Energy is facing a new wave of lawsuits that could cost taxpayers billions of dollars because it missed a 1998 deadline to have a nuclear waste repository up and running at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The Bush administration is proposing to replace safety requirements at more than two-dozen Department of Energy nuclear facilities with standards written by contractors.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-012	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impact From Extended Operation of Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (1/28)
04-013	NRC Modifies Financial Information Requirements For Power Reactor Licenses (1/27)
04-014	Note To Editors: NRC To Conduct FY2005 Budget Briefing February 2 In Rockville, Maryland (1/28)
04-015	NRC Issues Environmental Assessment And Safety Evaluation Report On Proposed USEC Facility in Ohio (1/29)
Regions:	
II-04-006	NRC To Meet With NFS Officials February 5 (1/30)
III-04-006	NRC To Conduct Restart Readiness Inspection At Davis Besse; Meetings Scheduled For February 12 In Oak Harbor, Ohio (1/30)
IV-04-006	NRC To Hold Two Public Meetings To Discuss Inspections At Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Following Earthquake (1/29)
IV-04-005	NRC To Hold Public Meeting On Environmental Review For Proposed Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 License Renewal (1/26)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0227	12/31/03	Review Standard RS-002, "Processing Applications for Early Site Permits"
2. SRM on SECY-03-0223	1/29/04	Rulemaking Plan: Assured Isolation Facilities
Commission Voting Record on SECY-03-0223	1/29/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0007	1/27/04	SECY-04-0007 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 16, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M040114A	1/30/04	Staff Requirements - Briefing on the Status of OCIO Programs, Performance and Plans
2. M040130	1/30/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: (1) COMSECY-04-0004 - Notice and Order for Louisiana Energy Services

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated January 21, 2004, provides the October 2003 monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties and the status of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting on Planning and Procedures, meeting notice (2/6/04).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, meeting notice (2/19/04).
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, meeting notice (2/10-11/04).

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ENCLOSURE O

4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, meeting notice (148th meeting 2/24-27/04).
5. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. - Notice of Reconstitution.

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Letter Issued to PSEG on Salem/ Hope Creek Work Environment

On January 28, 2004, the Regional Administrator, Region I, signed a letter to E. J. Ferland, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of PSEG, requesting that the Salem and Hope Creek stations conduct an in-depth assessment of the environment for raising and addressing safety issues. This request was based on interim results of an ongoing special NRC review in light of various allegations and inspections over the past few years. While to this point, the staff's review has not identified any serious safety violations, collectively, information gathered has led to concerns about the stations' work environment, that if left unresolved, could create an unacceptable, chilled environment for raising issues and making appropriate operational decisions. The Regional Administrator asked that PSEG provide a plan of action for addressing this matter to the NRC within 30 days of the date of this letter and requested a meeting approximately two weeks after receipt of the action plan. Also, the staff has developed and implemented a communication plan to inform key internal and external stakeholders of this request.

Region Is Planning to Dispatch a Special Inspection Team to Calvert Cliffs

Region I plans to dispatch a Special Inspection Team to review plant equipment and operator performance during an automatic shutdown at Calvert Cliffs last week. On January 23, 2004, Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 automatically shut down from 100 % power due to the loss of a steam generator (S/G) feedwater pump. Attempts to restart the feedwater pump were unsuccessful and the plant automatically tripped on low S/G level. During recovery operations, problems occurred with the automatic dump valves (ADVs) and turbine bypass valves (TBVs) complicating efforts to stabilize the plant.

The licensee stated that the apparent cause of the feedwater pump trip was a loose fuse holder and the cause of the ADVs and TBVs failing to modulate closed was a failed relay. The NRC's resident inspectors observed licensee actions during this transient.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Carolina Power and Light Company - H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant

On January 29, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator visited the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant in Hartsville, South Carolina. The purpose of the visit was to tour the facility and meet with licensee management and the resident inspectors.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V. C. Summer Management Meeting

On January 28, 2004, representatives from South Carolina Electric and Gas Company were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss V. C. Summer's latest outage, accomplishments, and corrective action program improvements.

Federal Emergency Management Agency - Regional Interagency Steering Committee Meeting

On January 27, 2004, the State Liaison Officer attended the Regional Interagency Steering Committee meeting conducted by the Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 30, 2004

Meeting with Nuclear Management Company to Discuss License Examination Results

On January 30, 2004, the Regional Administrator and members of the regional staff met in the regional office with representatives of Nuclear Management Company to discuss the high failure rates on recent initial operation license examinations at the Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear power plants.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 30, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 43

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	02/04/04 Postponed	10:00	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	02/04/04 2154 RHOB	10:30	TBA	Recruiting and Retaining Federal Workers	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Gerke	02/04/04 2247 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Examining the Government Performance and Results Act	Reps. Platts/Towns Gov't Efficiency & Financial Mgmt Government Reform
Portner	02/10/04 SD-366	10:00	DOE	FY05 Budget	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources