

# INFORMATION REPORT

July 22, 2004

SECY-04-0131

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-04-0131 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING JULY 16, 2004

## 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 and 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/**

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Catawba - Hearing on License Amendment for Mixed Oxide Lead Test Assemblies

On July 14-15, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) testified as a panel before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board regarding the Duke Power Company's proposed license amendment for Catawba Units 1 and 2 to irradiate four mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel lead test assemblies (LTAs). The issue in contention concerns the impact of the MOX LTAs on the ability of the reactor to safely shutdown and prevent unacceptable radiation releases in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident. The purpose of the MOX LTAs is for the licensee to acquire data on MOX fuel performance for use in future utilization of MOX fuel in a batch application. Utilization of MOX fuel in commercial nuclear reactors is part of the Department of Energy program to dispose of excess plutonium. The staff will continue to support the hearing process as findings are developed.

Nine Mile Point - Public Meeting on License Renewal Review

On July 8, 2004, NRR staff, supported by representatives from Region I and the Office of General Counsel, conducted a Category 3 public meeting near the Nine Mile Point (NMP) nuclear power plant in Fulton, New York, to discuss the NRC's license renewal process. About 30 individuals attended the meeting. In general, the public questions were related to the license renewal review process, the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), and the recently revised 10 CFR Part 2 hearing process. The meeting received media attention, including local television coverage.

Eighth NRC/ASME Symposium on Valve and Pump Testing

On July 12-14, 2004, NRC and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) jointly sponsored the Eighth NRC/ASME Symposium on Pump and Valve Testing in Washington, DC. This biennial symposium provides a forum for exchanging information on technical and regulatory issues associated with the inservice testing of safety-related pumps and valves in nuclear power plants. The symposium also provides an opportunity to discuss improvements in inservice testing methods that help to ensure the continued, reliable performance of pumps and valves under design basis conditions. About 200 individuals, including participants from other countries, attended, representing nuclear power plant licensees, consultants, valve and pump vendors, and regulators.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Participation in Health Physics Society Annual Meeting

On July 12-15, 2004, staff members from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society (HPS), held in Washington, DC. Staff participation included presenting a technical paper on extremity monitoring; conducting presentations in the poster session on the International Atomic Energy Agency's Code of Conduct and the NRC's General License Tracking System; supporting the NRC's recruiting booth for entry-level health physicists; and serving as a proctor for the Health Physics Certification exam. The HPS meeting program covered topics such as public policy issues, homeland security issues, internal/external dosimetry, instrumentation, waste management, and decommissioning.

Meeting with Representative of Missouri Department of Natural Resources

On July 13, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) staff met with the Director and senior management of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), in Jefferson City, Missouri. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Westinghouse-Hematite site phased Decommissioning Plan submitted to NRC on April 30, 2004. Staff described the NRC's license termination rule, and the decommissioning regulatory process. A productive discussion of site cleanup issues followed. Both MDNR and NRC staff reaffirmed their desire for continuing open communications between the two agencies. NRC staff also visited the Westinghouse site in Hematite, Missouri.

Crow Butte Resources Plans to Expand *In Situ* Leach Operations

Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff has learned that Crow Butte Resources (CBR) plans to expand its *in situ* leach (ISL) uranium extraction operations in Nebraska by operating up to four satellite facilities. CBR estimates that it will submit a license amendment application to NRC for the first satellite facility in May 2005, and an application for a second satellite facility is targeted for 2006-2007. Depending on economics, applications could be submitted to NRC for license amendments for two additional satellite facilities in the 2007-2010 time frame. Although a memorandum of understanding to defer active groundwater regulation at ISLs may be executed with the State of Nebraska before the first license amendment is submitted in 2005, NRC must prepare environmental assessments for each application.

Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services

On July 8, 2004, NRC staff met with representatives of Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to discuss two issues related to the uranium enrichment plant proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico. The first issue involved how to define Items Relied on for Safety (IROFS) for geometrically safe components. The second issue involved how to separate the Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) summary from the application, in accordance with 10 CFR 70.65(b). At the conclusion of the meeting, LES agreed to re-evaluate its approach for identifying IROFS for geometrically safe components, and to assess how best to separate the ISA summary from the application. LES stated that these actions may delay submission of the revised application, previously scheduled for the end of July 2004.

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE B

Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Issuance of Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2003-18, Supplement 1

On July 13, 2004, NRC issued the subject RIS entitled "Use of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 99-01, Methodology for Development of Emergency Action Levels," Revision 4. This RIS (ADAMS Accession No. ML041550395) clarifies technical positions concerning the revision of emergency action levels and documents information provided by NRC in an April 26, 2004, public workshop on the same subject.

Southern Nuclear Company Common Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) Drill Observation

On July 14, 2004, Emergency Preparedness Directorate (EPD) staff members with assistance from Region II and the resident inspectors observed a common EOF response drill. The purpose of this drill was to demonstrate Southern Nuclear Company's (SNC's) ability to respond to an emergency event at multiple sites utilizing the proposed common EOF. This included demonstration of effective communication with the affected State and local emergency management agencies as well as effective notification of the public/media. The State of Georgia participated at the EOF and also staffed its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The State of Alabama staffed its Radiological Health Department and communicated with the affected site and the EOF.

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Electronic Maintenance and Submission of Information: Correction (AH33 - Part 2)

On July 12, 2004, a document correcting the final rule that clarified how and when licensees and the public may use electronic means to communicate with the agency was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 41749). The correction restores the proper addressee for the submission of requests for action under 10 CFR 2.206. The correction became effective July 12, 2004.

Contract Award

On July 9, 2004, a competitive, cost reimbursement type contract was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc. This contract requires the contractor to perform detailed risk analyses of events or conditions that have occurred during all phases of reactor operations. The period of performance is for 41 months at an estimated cost of \$2,200,838.

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
July 9 through July 15, 2004:

MLTS database	FOIA/PA-2004-0293
Contract for Custodial Management Services, current contract price & completed payments	FOIA/PA-2004-0294
Properties under Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Van Ness Street, Wash. DC, 35 acres, any reports	FOIA/PA-2004-0295
Allegation NMSS-2003-A-0013 and OI investigation files	FOIA/PA-2004-0296
Sen. John Edwards, all correspondence between NRC, Jan. 2002 - present	FOIA/PA-2004-0297
OI report 3-2001-051 and all related exhibits	FOIA/PA-2004-0298
OI report 3-2001-049 and all related exhibits	FOIA/PA-2004-0299
Solicitation RS-HR-04-384, dollar amount of contract including breakdown per line item	FOIA/PA-2004-0300

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

<b>Arrivals</b>		
Robert E. Einziger	Sr. Materials Engineer	NMSS
Chad Tancil	Student Clerk (Summer)	R-III
Rachel Woolwine	Student Clerk (Summer)	R-III

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

The U.S. Court of Appeals ruling on Yucca Mountain, and the NRC's License Support Network for Yucca Mountain-related documentation.

The discovery of previously "missing" spent fuel segments at the Vermont Yankee plant.

The threatened strike at the Pilgrim plant, which was averted.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff assisted at public meetings regarding the Palo Verde, Davis-Besse, and Indian Point power plants.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
04-085	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet July 20-22 in Rockville, Maryland (7/14)
04-086	NRC Names Allen G. Croff to Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (7/15)
04-087	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Palisades (7/15)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-04-037	NRC Updates Public on Indian Point Spent Fuel Storage Plans (7/15)
III-04-042	NRC to Hold Public Meeting July 21 on Decommissioning Plans for Thorium-Contaminated Sites near Bay City, Michigan (7/13)
III-04-043	NRC Special Inspection into Causes of Reactor Shutdown and Associated Equipment Problems at Clinton (7/16)



Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

<b>Document Released to Public</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-04-0116	7/13/04	SECY-04-0116 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 2, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Sen. James Jeffords, Rep. Bernard Sanders, and Sen. Patrick Leahy, dated July 8, 2004, concerns the NRC's investigation of a fire in the main transformer area of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, In the Matter of U.S. Department of Energy (High Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters; Docket No. PAPO-00; ASLBP No. 04-829-01-PAPO; July 9, 2004; ORDER (Initial Pre-License Application Phase Order).
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Renewal Notice (period of two years).

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Pilgrim Station - Ratification of a New Union Contract

On July 15, 2004, the members of the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) Local 369 voted to ratify a new union contract, thus averting a potential strike. The union represents operations, maintenance, and clerical staff at Pilgrim Station. The new contract was ratified by a vote of 208 to 28 and will remain in effect for four years. Entergy, the licensee for the Pilgrim nuclear station, continues to negotiate a first contract with the professional-technical groups at the site, who are represented by UWUA Locals 590 and 369-Technical.

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Site Tour at St. Lucie and Meeting with Florida Power & Light Company/FPL Energy Seabrook

On July 14, 2004, the Regional Administrator, Region II; Regional Administrator, Region I; and the Region II Director, Division of Reactor Projects and Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety; toured the St. Lucie facility in Jensen Beach, Florida. On the following day, the management team participated in a Category 1 public meeting with Florida Power & Light Company/FPL Energy senior managers to discuss the St. Lucie, Turkey Point, and Seabrook Nuclear Power Plants.

July 16, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 16, 2004

Palo Verde Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) Public Exit Meeting

On July 12, 2003, the Region IV Regional Administrator and the AIT leader held a public exit meeting at the Estrella Community College in Goodyear, Arizona. The purpose of the meeting was to present the AIT findings of the loss-of-offsite-power event at the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant on June 14, 2004, and hold a question and answer session with the public. Approximately 60 individuals attended the meeting.

Regional Administrator Visit to San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

On July 13, 2004, the Regional Administrator conducted a site visit at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The Regional Administrator toured the facility, which included the decommissioning Unit 1 and the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, and discussed current issues with licensee management and the NRC resident inspectors.

Comanche Peak End-of-Cycle Meeting

On July 15, 2004, members of the Region IV staff met with representatives of the licensee to discuss the Reactor Oversight Process and the annual assessment results for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station for 2003. The meeting was held in Glen Rose, Texas. In addition to licensee employees, the meeting was attended by one press representative, State and local officials, and members of the public.

Deputy Regional Administrator Visit to Wolf Creek Generating Station

On July 16, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator conducted a site visit at the Wolf Creek Generating Station to tour the facility and to present operator license certificates to a group of recently qualified plant operators.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending July 16, 2004

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 67**

Portner	TBA SD-124	TBA	Markup	FY2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	07/19/04 345 CHOB	4:30	Markup	Homeland Security Authorization	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security
Keeling	07/20/04 SD-342	9:00	OPM, OMB, GAO, HHS, DOJ, NASA	Federal Workforce Management	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Governmental Affairs
Keeling	07/21/04 SD-342	10:00	Markup	S. 2657, supplemental dental and vision benefits for federal employees, retirees, and their dependents, S. 2409, continued health benefits for certain federal employees, S, 583, Reservists Pay Security Act	Senators Collins/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Combs	07/21/04 2154 RHOB	1:30	TBA	Federal Government Management of Information Technology	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census Government Reform