

August 18, 2003

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Reports 107-681 and 108-10, directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue to provide a monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties and expanded the scope of the report to include information on the status of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. The initial reporting requirement arose in the FY 1999 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Senate Report 105-206. On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to transmit the fifty-fifth report, which covers the month of June 2003. I am also providing more recent information in this cover letter in order to keep you fully and currently informed of NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

The previous report provided information on a number of significant activities, including the establishment of a new position – the Deputy Executive Director for Homeland Protection and Preparedness – to increase the agency's attention to cross-cutting issues that affect security, incident response, emergency preparedness, and external integration of comprehensive strategies for these areas. The Commission also approved a license amendment to allow Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS), Incorporated, to possess and use special nuclear material at the newly constructed uranyl nitrate building on its Erwin, Tennessee, complex. Additionally, the NRC issued an Order to confirm that NFS will implement security enhancements, which are similar to those ordered by the Commission earlier this year for other fuel cycle facilities.

I would like to provide you with an update on the status of the leakage identified in the bottom of the reactor vessel at the South Texas Project (STP) nuclear power plant, Unit 1, located near Bay City, Texas. As we previously reported, the NRC dispatched a special inspection team on May 5, 2003, to review the circumstances of the discovery, the licensee's root cause analysis, and the adequacy of the licensee's repairs. Since our last report, the Special Inspection team has completed its work and held a public meeting in Bay City on July 28 on the team's findings. NRC staff concluded that the repair was acceptable. The root cause of the leakage is still under investigation. Following a review of the licensee's activities, which includes a commitment to implement a continued monitoring program, the NRC concluded that STP officials have taken all the actions necessary to ensure a safe restart of Unit 1.

Since our last report, the Commission has approved an agreement with the State of Wisconsin by which Wisconsin assumes part of the NRC's regulatory authority over certain radioactive materials in the State pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act. With the approval, Wisconsin becomes the 33rd State to enter into such an agreement with the NRC. The agreement became effective on August 11, 2003.

Recently, the Commission and the NRC staff also:

- published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2003 (68 FR 46929), a final rule that amends NRC regulations to increase the maximum secondary retrospective deferred premium for liability insurance coverage in the event of nuclear incidents at licensed, operating, commercial nuclear power plants with a rated capacity of 100,000 kW or more. Currently established at \$83.9 million per reactor per incident (but not to exceed \$10 million in any one year), the maximum secondary retrospective deferred premium is being increased to \$95.8 million per reactor per incident (but not to exceed \$10 million in any one year). The change is based on the aggregate percentage change of 14.2 percent in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from December 1997 through March 2003. The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 requires that this inflation adjustment be made at least once each five years.
- published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2003 (68 FR 45172), notice of a proposed amendment to NRC regulations governing the use of byproduct material in specifically licensed portable gauges. The proposed rule would require a portable gauge licensee to provide a minimum of two independent physical controls that form tangible barriers to secure portable gauges from unauthorized removal whenever the portable gauges are not under the control and constant surveillance of the licensee.
- completed the NRC staff review of the potential clogging of the containment sump at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and made the preliminary determination that it was a “yellow” finding, one of substantial importance to safety. The plant, operated by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company at Oak Harbor, Ohio, has been shut down since February of last year. To correct the potential problem, FirstEnergy has installed a redesigned sump screen, providing substantially larger surface area; recoated surfaces in the containment with approved coatings; and removed other sources of debris.
- issued on July 29, 2003, a Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) that summarizes the results of NRC staff’s review of the responses to Bulletin 2002-01, “Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity.” This RIS also provides information on additional regulatory actions the NRC is considering based on its review of the bulletin responses and recent events at South Texas Unit 1.
- published in the Federal Register on July 29, 2003 (68 FR 44550), a notice of availability for public inspection and comment for the License Termination Plan (LTP) for the Big Rock Point Nuclear Facility (BRP) located in Charlevoix, Michigan. Reactor operations at the BRP ended on August 29, 1997. The reactor was defueled, and all fuel was moved to an independent spent fuel storage installation in March 2003. The NRC also conducted a public meeting in Charlevoix on August 5, 2003, to discuss the BRP LTP.
- received the results of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s most recent review of the adequacy of off-site emergency preparedness plans and procedures for the Indian Point nuclear power facility. The Federal Emergency Management Agency concluded that measures to protect the health and safety of surrounding communities can be taken and are capable of being implemented in the event of a radiological incident at the Indian Point facility. The NRC determined, based on its continuing evaluation of the licensee’s on-site emergency planning and preparedness for radiological events, that Indian Point meets the requisite criteria for reasonable assurance of adequate protection.

- published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2003 (68 FR 43400), a notice of availability of a draft report describing state-of-the-art methods for performing fire dynamics calculations at nuclear power plants. The report, "Fire Dynamics Tools (FDTs) - Quantitative Fire Hazard Analysis Methods for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fire Protection Inspection Program (Draft NUREG-1805)," will help agency inspectors perform quick, first-order calculations for potential fire scenarios using principles of fire dynamics.
- issued on July 21, 2003, Supplement 1 to NRC Information Notice 2002-26, "Additional Failure of Steam Dryer After a Recent Power Uprate," to alert nuclear power plant operators of another failure of the steam dryer at Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, a boiling water reactor, during operations following a power uprate. It is expected that the recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.
- issued the final plan NRC will use to review an expected application from the Department of Energy (DOE) to construct a high-level nuclear waste geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The principal purpose of the Yucca Mountain Review Plan is to ensure the quality and uniformity of the NRC staff's reviews. A copy is available on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov>
- held four public meetings concerning an update of NRC's 1996 Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for license renewal of nuclear power plants. The meetings were held throughout the country to solicit comments from the public on the update.
- met with the Department of Energy representatives on July 15 and 16, 2003, to discuss the status of the program at the Yucca Mountain and the Yucca Mountain Project Quality Assurance Program.
- issued a Fact Sheet on NRC Force-on-Force exercises that are being held as part of the comprehensive security program at commercial nuclear power plants across the country to assess and improve, as necessary, licensee security strategies. The fact sheet is available on the NRC's website at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/force-on-force.html>.
- approved a direct final rule that amends 10 CFR 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," revising the NAC International, Inc., Multipurpose Canister cask system listing with the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment incorporates changes to support the Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Yankee Rowe) fuel loading effort and makes corrections to the Connecticut Yankee technical specifications.
- issued, on June 24, 2003, a RIS entitled, "Clarification of NRC Guidance for Modifying Protective Actions." Protective actions are developed and implemented through an emergency plan designed to minimize exposure to the public in the event of a radiological emergency. This RIS clarified the regulatory requirements associated with updating protective action recommendations.

- issued, on June 13, 2003, a RIS to clarify the NRC staff's expectations regarding the frequency of licensed operator comprehensive requalification written examinations required by Part 55 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 55).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
Monthly Report

cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

LIST OF ADDRESSEES

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Rick Boucher

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Harry Reid

The Honorable David L. Hobson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Peter Visclosky

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Committee on Environmental and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James Jeffords

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515
cc: Representative John D. Dingell

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON THE
LICENSING ACTIVITIES AND REGULATORY DUTIES OF THE
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JUNE 2003

ENCLOSURE

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¹Note: The period of performance covered by this report includes activities occurring between the first and last day of June 2003. The transmittal letter to Congress accompanying this report may provide more recent information in order to keep Congress fully and currently informed of NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

I Implementing Risk-Informed Regulations

Although the staff continues to make progress on tasks involving use of probabilistic risk information in many areas, there were no significant milestones accomplished during the month of June 2003.

II Reactor Oversight Process

The NRC continues to implement the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) at all nuclear power plants. The NRC continues to meet with interested stakeholders on a periodic basis to collect feedback on the efficacy of the process and considers stakeholder feedback in making refinements to the ROP. Recent activities include the following:

On June 18, 2003, an ROP public meeting was held at the NRC Headquarters offices. Meeting participants discussed Degraded Cornerstone and Action Matrix ROP policy issues, proposed changes to the Significance Determination Process (SDP) manual chapter appendices, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the performance indicators (PIs). Status updates on draft SDPs included containment, shutdown, steam generator tube integrity, fire protection, maintenance rule, and spent fuel SDPs. Two significant issues were discussed -- the scrams with loss of normal heat removal (LONHR) PI and the Alert and Notification System Reliability Emergency Preparedness PI. For the scrams w/LONHR PI, the ROP Working Group decided to study the feasibility of using a modified approach. The Working Group will perform preliminary analysis to understand the practical ramifications for using this change to the current PI and further discussions will be conducted during the next ROP public meeting. Participants also discussed the Emergency Preparedness Alert and Notification System Reliability PI guidance and the related FAQ. After much discussion, the Working Group decided to resolve the FAQ in concert with the resolution of the generic issue of Alert and Notification System testing and reporting data.

III Status of Issues in the Reactor Generic Issue Program

Resolution of the issues in the Reactor Generic Issue Program continues to be on track in accordance with the schedules previously submitted.

IV. Licensing Actions and Other Licensing Tasks

Licensing actions are defined as requests for license amendments, exemptions from regulations, relief from inspection or surveillance requirements, topical reports submitted on a plant-specific basis, notices of enforcement discretion, or other licensee requests requiring NRC review and approval before it can be implemented by the licensee. The FY 2003 NRC Performance Plan incorporates three output measures related to licensing actions -- number of licensing action completions per year, age of the licensing action inventory, and size of licensing action inventory.

Other licensing tasks are defined as licensee responses to NRC requests for information through generic letters or bulletins, NRC responses to 2.206 petitions, NRC review of licensee topical reports, NRR responses to regional requests for assistance, NRC review of licensee 10 CFR 50.59 analyses and FSAR updates, or other licensee requests not requiring NRC review and approval before it can be implemented by the licensee. The FY 2003 NRC Performance Plan incorporates

one output measure related to other licensing tasks -- number of other licensing tasks completed.

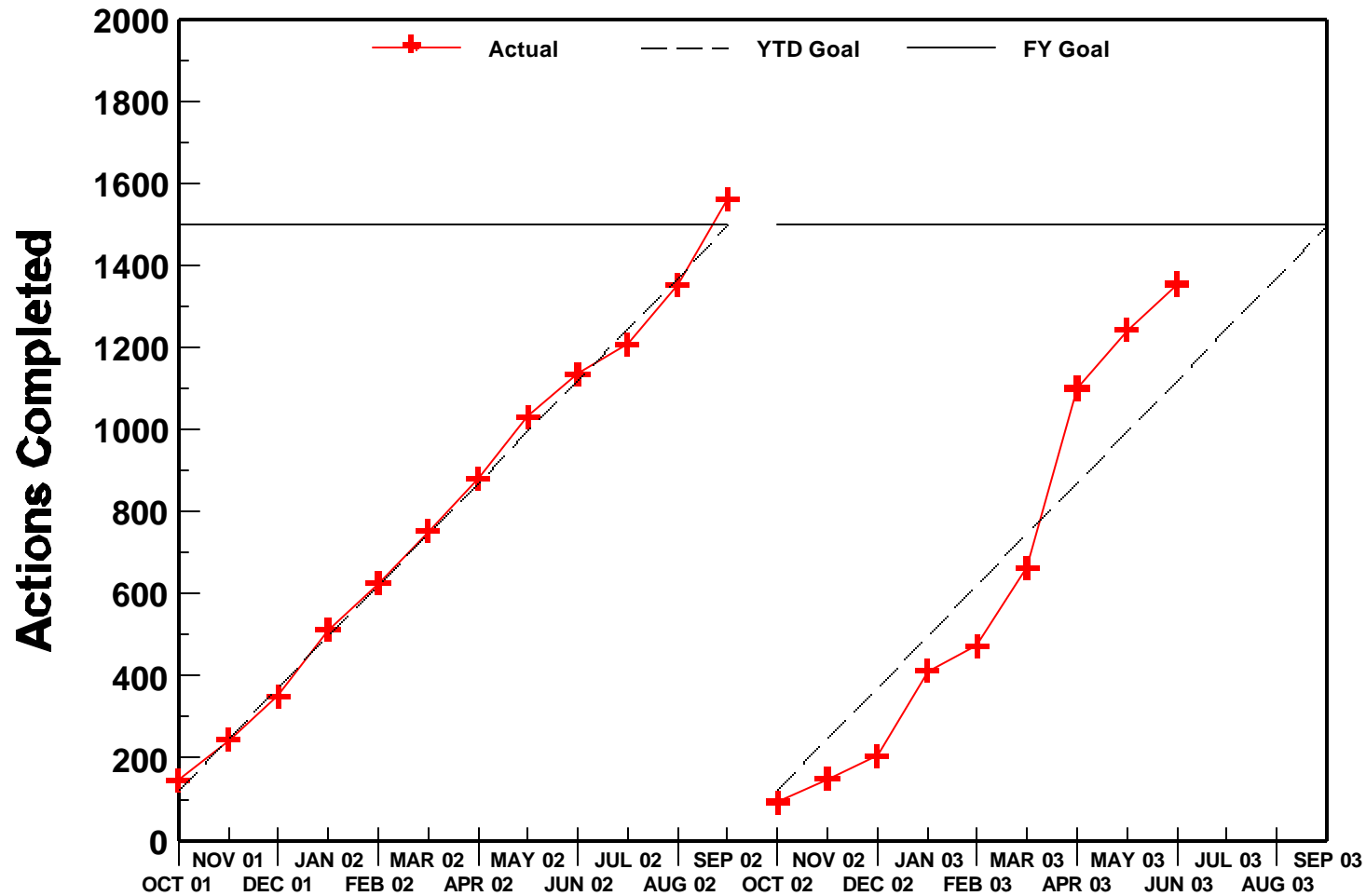
The actual FY 2001 and FY 2002 results, the FY 2003 goals, and the actual FY 2003 results, as of June 30, 2003, for the four NRC Performance Plan output measures for licensing actions and other licensing tasks are shown below:

PERFORMANCE PLAN				
Output Measure	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Goals	FY 2003 Actual (thru 06/30/2003)
Licensing actions completed/year	1617	1560	≥ 1500	1355
Age of licensing action inventory	96.9% ≤ 1 year; and 100% ≤ 2 years	96.6% ≤ 1 year; and 100% ≤ 2 years	96% ≤ 1 year and 100% ≤ 2 years old	93% ≤ 1 year; 100% ≤ 2 years
Size of licensing action inventory	877	765	≤ 1000	1362
Other licensing tasks completed/year	523	426	≥ 350	392

The following charts demonstrate NRC's FY 2003 trends for the four licensing action and other licensing task output measure goals:

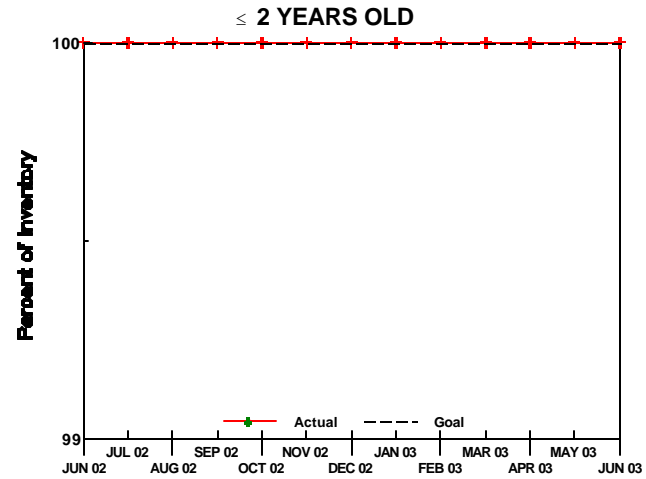
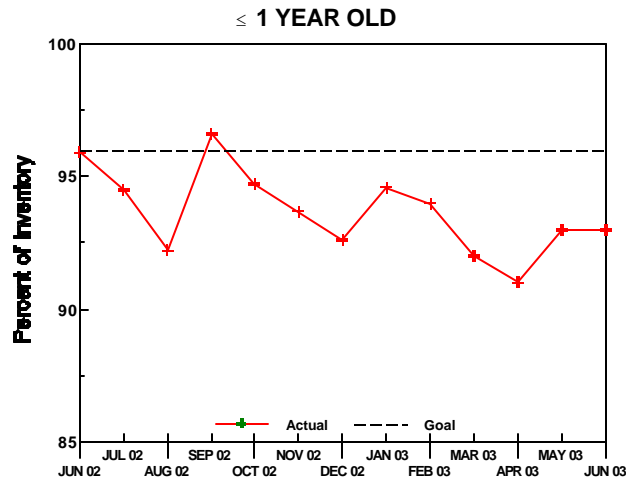
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Completed Licensing Actions



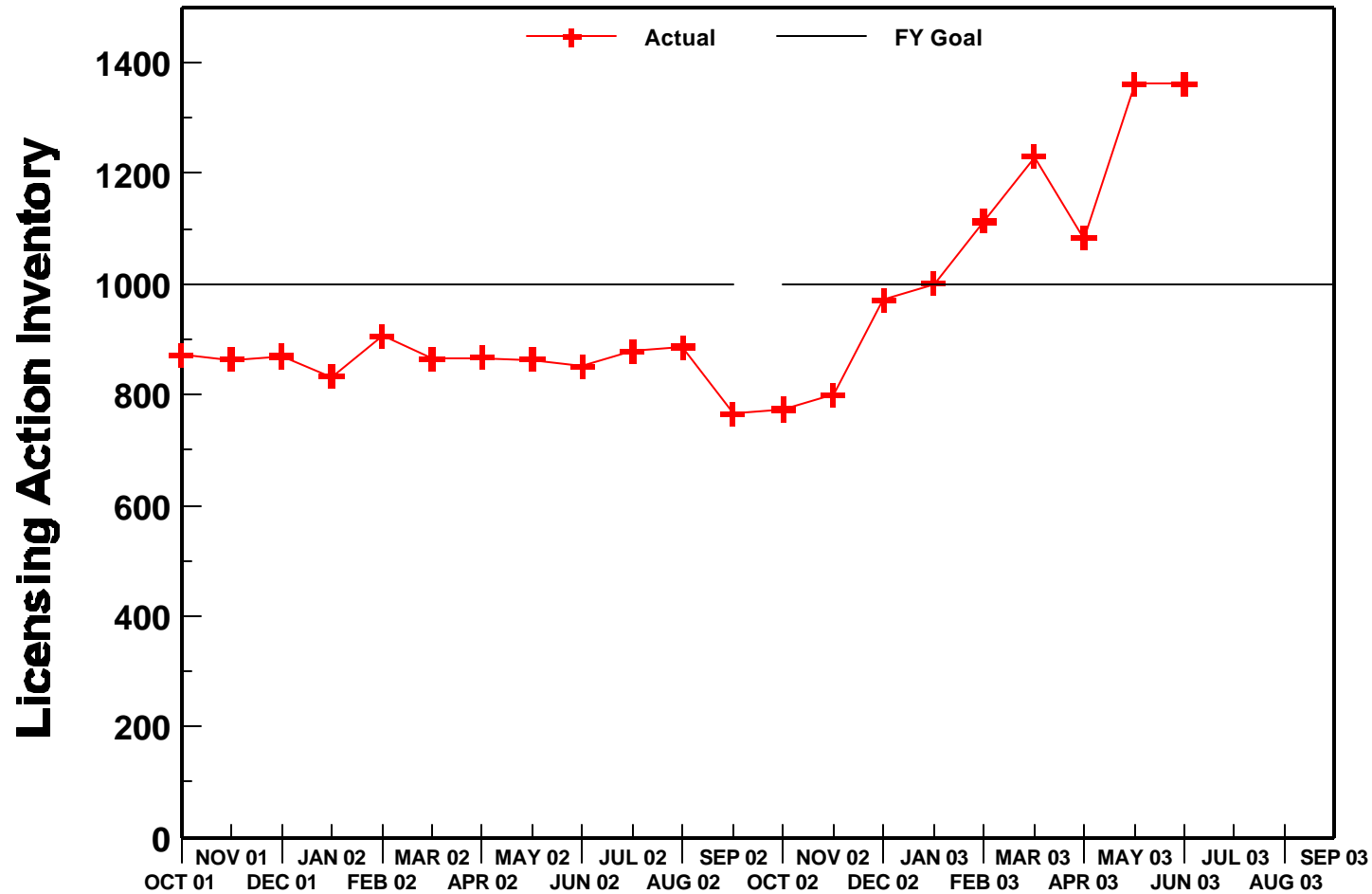
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Age of Licensing Action Inventory



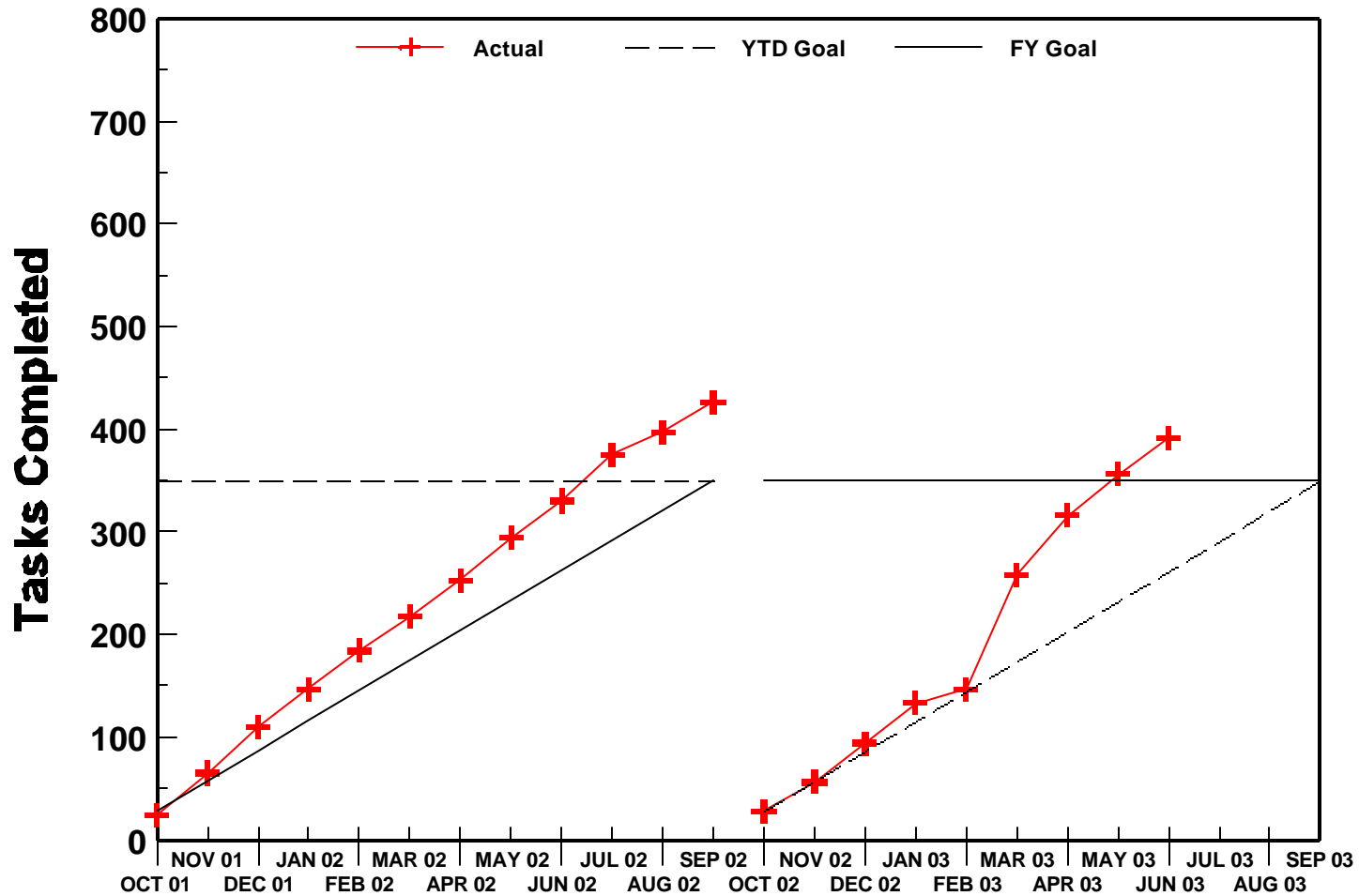
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan: Size of Licensing Action Inventory



Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Completed Other Licensing Tasks



V Status of License Renewal Activities

McGuire, Units 1 and 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

The staff issued the final supplemental environmental impact statements (SEISs) for McGuire and Catawba in December 2002. The safety evaluation report resolving the open items was issued in January 2003. A decision on the renewal of the licenses is scheduled for December 2003.

In January 2002, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) admitted contentions filed by two petitioners in the Catawba and McGuire license renewal proceeding. The staff and Duke appealed the ASLB decision, and the contentions were subsequently dismissed. However, in December 2002, the Commission reinstated late-filed contentions that had been submitted in May 2002. In April 2003, the petitioners requested that one of the dismissed contentions be reinstated. These late-filed contentions and the request for reinstatement are currently being reviewed by the ASLB for admissibility.

St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, Renewal Application

The staff issued the final SEIS in May 2003. The staff issued the safety evaluation report identifying open items in February 2003, and the applicant provided responses to the open items in March 2003. The staff is reviewing the applicant's responses and preparing to issue the safety evaluation report in July 2003.

Fort Calhoun Renewal Application

The staff issued the draft SEIS for public comment in January 2003. The public comment period ended in April 2003. The staff is addressing the comments received and is preparing the final SEIS, which is scheduled to be issued by August 2003. The staff issued the safety evaluation report identifying the remaining open items in April 2003, and the applicant's responses are due in July 2003.

Robinson Unit 2 Renewal Application

The staff issued the draft SEIS for comment in May 2003. The public comment period ends in July 2003. The safety requests for additional information were issued in February 2003, and the applicant's responses were received in April 2003. The staff is reviewing the applicant's responses and preparing to issue the safety evaluation report, which will identify any remaining open items, by August 2003.

Ginna Renewal Application

Environmental requests for additional information were issued in January 2003, and the applicant's responses were received in March 2003. The staff reviewed the responses and issued the draft SEIS in June 2003. The safety requests for additional information were issued in March 2003, and the applicant's responses were received in June 2003. The staff is reviewing the applicant's responses and preparing to issue the safety evaluation report, which will identify any remaining open items, by October 2003.

Summer Renewal Application

Environmental requests for additional information were issued in January 2003, and the responses were received in March 2003. The staff is reviewing the responses and is preparing the draft SEIS, which is scheduled to be issued in July 2003. The safety requests for additional information were issued in March 2003, and the applicant's responses were received in June 2003. The staff is reviewing the applicant's responses and preparing to issue the safety evaluation report, which will identify any remaining open items, by October 2003.

Dresden, Units 2 and 3, and Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

The application is currently under review by the staff. Environmental requests for additional information were issued in May 2003, and the responses are due in July 2003. The safety requests are scheduled to be issued by August 2003.

VI Status of Review of Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Corporation's Application for a License to Operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians

Litigation continues on the application by Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (PFS) for a license to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians in Skull Valley, Utah. On May 28, 2003, NRC issued an order holding in abeyance petitions by the NRC staff and PFS seeking Commission review of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's (ASLB) Partial Initial Decision (Regarding "Credible Accidents") (LBP-03-04). In that decision, the ASLB determined that the probability of an F-16 aircraft crash on the proposed PFS Facility is in excess of the Commission's threshold annual probability of occurrence, and allowed PFS to submit a consequence analysis to demonstrate that such an accident would not harm public health and safety. The Commission deferred action on the NRC staff and PFS petitions for review of that decision pending the completion of litigation on PFS's consequence analysis and directed the ASLB to "proceed expeditiously on the consequence aspect of the air crash issue, with a view toward resolving it no later than the end of 2003." A tentative litigation schedule has been adopted by the ASLB in accordance with the Commission's directive.

As discussed in the May report, three other matters remain in litigation. First, on May 22, 2003, the Licensing Board issued its decision on seismic and geotechnical issues, resolving all such matters in favor of PFS; the State of Utah has filed a petition seeking Commission review of that decision, which is now pending before the Commission. Second, on May 27, 2003, the Licensing Board issued three decisions resolving all financial assurance and decommissioning funding issues in favor of PFS; PFS then filed a motion before the ASLB seeking reconsideration of certain portions of those decisions, and the State of Utah requested and was granted an extension of time to file a petition seeking Commission review of the decisions until a ruling is issued on PFS's motion for reconsideration. Third, the ASLB is preparing a decision on litigated environmental issues concerning PFS's plan to build a rail line to its facility; that decision is expected shortly.

On June 16, 2003, the NRC staff held a public meeting with representatives of PFS to discuss PFS's planned submittal of its aircraft crash consequence analysis and issues associated with the proper classification of information to be submitted with regard to the consequence analysis.

VII Enforcement Process and Summary of Reactor Enforcement by Region

Reactor Enforcement by Region

Reactor Enforcement Actions*						
		Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	TOTAL
Severity Level I	June 2003	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 03 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 02 Total	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 01 Total	0	0	0	0	0
Severity Level II	June 2003	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 03 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 02 Total	1	0	0	0	1
	FY 01 Total	0	1	0	0	1
Severity Level III	June 2003	1	0	1	0	2
	FY 03 YTD	2	0	3	0	5
	FY 02 Total	2	0	0	0	2
	FY 01 Total	1	1	1	1	4
Severity Level IV	June 2003	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 03 YTD	1	0	2**	1	4
	FY 02 Total	0	0	2	0	2
	FY 01 Total	1	0	2	1	4
Non-Cited Severity Level IV	June 2003	2	0	4	2	8
	FY 03 YTD	163	126**	146	130	556
	FY 02 Total	207	89	201	151	648
	FY 01 Total	279	105	201	139	724

* Numbers of violations are based on enforcement action tracking system (EATS) data that may be subject to minor changes following verification. The number of Severity Level I, II, III listed refers to the number of Severity Level I, II, III violations or problems. The monthly totals generally lag by 30 days due to inspection report and enforcement development.

** These numbers were corrected to account for violations from previous months that had not been counted.

Escalated Reactor Enforcement Actions Associated with the Reactor Oversight Process						
		Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Total
NOVs*** Related to White, Yellow or Red Findings	6/03 Red	0	0	0	0	0
	6/03 Yellow	0	0	0	0	0
	6/03 White	0	0	1	1	2
	FY 03 YTD	5	1	7	1	14
	FY 02 Total	5	4	6	8	22
	FY 01 Total	8	4	4	3	19

***Notice of Violations

Description of Significant Actions taken in June 2003

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Dresden 3) EA-02-265

On June 23, 2003, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$60,000 was issued for the willful failure to provide complete and accurate information to the NRC Region III staff during a telephone conference call on September 27, 2001, concerning the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) system.

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Dresden 3) EA-02-264

On June 23, 2003, a Notice of Violation was issued for a violation associated with a White SDP finding involving the operability of the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) system. The violation cited the licensee's failure to correct promptly a damaged HPCI system support resulting in the equipment being inoperable for greater than the allowed outage time.

Union Electric Company (Callaway) EA-03-060

On June 20, 2003, a Notice of Violation was issued for a violation associated with a White SDP finding involving the licensee's emergency planning. The violation cited the failure to establish the means to notify certain members of the public in the emergency planning zone in the event of an emergency at the Callaway plant.

Florida Power & Light Company (Turkey Point) EA-00-230

On June 5, 2003, a Notice of Violation was issued for a Severity Level III violation for discriminating against an employee at the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant for engaging in protected activity.

VIII Power Reactor Security Regulations

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC and the nuclear industry have taken a number of actions to ensure the security at nuclear power plants. A series of Advisories, Orders, and Regulatory Issue Summaries have been issued to strengthen further the security of NRC-licensed facilities and control of nuclear materials.

The most recent Orders enhancing security at nuclear power reactors were issued on April 29, 2003. The Orders revised the threat against which individual power reactor licensees and category 1 fuel cycle facilities must be able to defend, limited the number of hours that security personnel can work, and enhanced training and qualification requirements for security personnel. These orders accomplish the mission by providing reasonable assurance that the effects of fatigue will not impact the security personnel at nuclear power plants, that training programs will enhance the readiness of armed security personnel at nuclear power plants, and that licensee security and safeguards programs will be evaluated against a more realistic design basis threat (nuclear power plants and category 1 fuel cycle facilities). The details of the individual Orders regarding threat are safeguards information pursuant to Section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act and will not be released to the public. Extensive deliberation and interaction with stakeholders preceded issuance of the Orders.

In March 2003, the NRC initiated a pilot program for full force-on-force exercises, which use expanded adversary characteristics that were developed as a result of the increased post 9/11 threat. As of the end of June, force-on-force exercises have been completed at five plants. The NRC plans to conduct force-on-force tests at a rate of approximately two per month. The exercises will be carried out at each nuclear power plant on a three-year cycle instead of the eight-year cycle that had been used prior to September 11, 2001.

Two force-on-force exercises will be conducted at nuclear power plants during the month of July 2003. NRC staff expect considerable stakeholder (public, utilities, and State and local governments) interest in these exercises. The dates of these exercises have not been publicly announced.

IX Power Uprates

The staff has assigned power uprate license amendment reviews a high priority and therefore is conducting power uprate reviews on accelerated schedules.

Licensees have been applying for and implementing power uprates since the 1970s as a way to increase the power output of their plants. The staff has been conducting power uprate reviews since then and, to date, has completed 95 such reviews. Approximately 12,197 MWt (4065 MWe) or an equivalent of over three nuclear power plant units has been gained through implementation of power uprates at existing plants. During the month of June, the staff received one measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate for Palisades. The staff currently has 6 plant-specific applications under review.

In January 2003, the staff completed a survey of nuclear power plant licensees to obtain information regarding industry's plans related to power uprate applications. Based on this survey and information obtained since the survey, licensees plan to submit 33 additional power

update applications in the next 5 years. These include 12 measurement uncertainty recapture power uprates, 3 stretch power uprates (i.e., power uprates up to about 7 percent), and 18 extended power uprates. Planned power uprates are expected to result in an increase of about 6675 MWt (2225 MWe). The staff will utilize this information for future planning.

On June 11, 2003, NRC staff made a presentation to the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel (VSNAP) regarding the process that the NRC uses for reviewing extended power uprates. VSNAP is a seven-member panel that meets periodically and considers issues relating to present and future use of nuclear power in general and of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in particular. The panel advises the Governor of Vermont, the General Assembly, and State agencies. VSNAP is considering an extended power uprate for the Vermont Yankee plant and requested the June 11 briefing to gain a better understanding of the extent of safety review that the NRC conducts for these uprates. The meeting was well attended by members of the public. This meeting provided an opportunity for the NRC to explain the regulatory processes to the public and the level of regulatory oversight that the NRC has in place for ensuring public health and safety. Conducting meetings like this is important for meeting the agency's goal of increasing public confidence.

X Status of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

During the month of June, NRC continued its inspections evaluating issues on the NRC Oversight Panel's Restart Checklist. As of June 30, 2003, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) projects an August 2003 startup of the Davis-Besse plant. The plant completed fuel load on February 26, 2003, and entered Cold Shutdown (average coolant temperature less than 200 degrees Fahrenheit) on March 12, 2003. The plant successfully completed its integrated containment leak rate test on April 9, 2003, demonstrating that containment vessel and building restoration was adequate following the new reactor head installation. The containment vessel and building were cut open and then subsequently restored to facilitate bringing in the new vessel head and removing the old one.

In June, the Oversight Panel completed its review and determined that FENOC adequately resolved two additional items on the Restart Checklist -- Adequacy of Root Cause Determinations for Organizational, Programmatic and Human Performance Issues and Adequacy of Organizational Effectiveness and Human Performance Corrective Action Plan. As a result, the NRC has now closed 13 of the 29 items on the Restart Checklist.

On June 3, 2003, the Oversight Panel conducted two public meetings in Port Clinton, Ohio. Participants at the first meeting included licensee representatives who discussed plant performance and progress on their Return to Service Plan. At the second meeting, the Oversight Panel discussed the status of the NRC activities and responded to questions and concerns from the public.

On June 6, 2003, the NRC issued a proposed Director's Decision to a 10 CFR 2.206 petition request from Representative Dennis Kucinich. That Petition was submitted on February 3, 2003 and supplemented on March 27, 2003.

In June, the NRC issued two Inspection Reports (IR). These include the routine resident inspector report (IR 50-346/03-13) and a special inspection of the Emergency Core Cooling System and Containment Spray System Sump (IR 50-346/03-06).

On June 19, 2003, the Oversight Panel conducted a public meeting to discuss the licensee's proposed modification to the High Pressure Injection Pumps. These 2 pumps are an important part of the plant emergency core cooling systems. Considerable engineering effort remains on this problem resolution and this work has the potential to affect the restart schedule.

Detailed information on NRC activities associated with the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head degradation event can be found at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/vessel-head-degradation.html>.