

INFORMATION REPORT

June 15, 2004

SECY-04-0097

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0097 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JUNE 4, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Meeting with NEI Concerning Emergency Preparedness ITAACs

On June 2, 2004, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff held a public meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) representatives to discuss draft proposed emergency planning (EP) inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) associated with a Combined Operating License. Staff from the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) also participated in the meeting. The meeting was a follow on to a workshop held on April 27, 2004, on the same topic. The discussion topics included the role of risk information in the development of EP ITAAC and whether it is appropriate to have ITAAC associated with offsite actions. The staff and NEI agreed to (1) review each others comments and proposals, (2) develop revisions to the proposals, and (3) discuss the issues later in the summer.

Meeting with NEI on Potential Common-Mode Failure of Underground Cables

On June 2, 2004, NRR staff held a public meeting with NEI and other industry representatives to engage the industry in resolving the issue on common-mode failures of underground cables. The staff discussed worst-case scenarios which involved a failure of more than one cable. The industry agreed that cable failures would occur at a higher rate as plants continue to age. However, the NEI and Electric Power Research Institute representatives disagreed with the staff's risk estimates on the premise that buried and wetted cables are not vulnerable to a common-mode failure. No technical basis was provided by industry to disposition this issue. The industry plans to decide whether to take up this issue for action and they will inform the staff of their decision at a later date.

Meeting with NEI Regarding Emergency Plan Changes

On June 3, 2004, NRR staff held a public meeting with NEI and other industry representatives to discuss ongoing efforts in clarifying the process for making changes to emergency plans. NEI indicated that it has been developing guidance for the industry in this regard. The staff informed the meeting participants that it plans to issue a Regulatory Issues Summary (RIS) on this topic by August, and to provide feedback on the NEI's guidance document. It was agreed that a NRC/NEI workshop be held on this topic in the near future (tentatively scheduled for September 2004), to facilitate interactions leading to potential NRC endorsement of the industry guidance.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Fire Risk Requantification Study - Addition of Nine Mile Point as Pilot

On May 26, 2004, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducted a kickoff meeting for the fire risk requantification study with Constellation Energy at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (NMP). The purpose of the fire risk requantification study is to develop guidance for conducting fire risk analysis. This guidance will support implementation of the risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule which endorses National Fire Protection Association Standard 805. During the meeting, an overview of the joint RES-EPRI fire risk requantification project was presented and preliminary plans were developed to refine procedures for conducting fire risk analysis. To date, these procedures have been demonstrated on pressurized water reactors; the effort at NMP will provide insights on the application of these procedures to a boiling water reactor. Specific plans involving NMP have not been finalized as the licensee needs to evaluate the resource impact for this program. It is expected that NMP will complete the resource evaluation within the month of June. As applicable, insights from this program will be included in a revision to the requantification study report expected to be issued by the end of Calendar Year 2005. An initial report on the fire risk requantification effort is expected to be available at the end of 2004.

OECD Topical Meeting on LOCA Fuel Issues

An Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Topical Meeting on Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) Issues was held on May 25-26, 2004, at the Argonne National Laboratories in Illinois. The meeting was organized by OECD/CSNI's [Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations'] Special Experts Group on Fuel Safety Margins. In addition to the various organizations representing the United States, sixty participants from 16 countries participated in the meeting. A number of presentations were about the behavior of zirconium alloys containing niobium under LOCA conditions, including the effects of burnup. The Special Experts Group, which organized the topical meeting, held a business meeting on May 27, in the morning, to discuss progress on its other activities. One of those activities is the planned update during the next two years of reports on fuel behavior under LOCA and reactivity-accident conditions. During the afternoon of May 27, there was an OECD review of the status of proposals to examine the damaged fuel from Hungary's Paks-2 power plant. Although removal of the fuel from the cleaning apparatus to the pool is scheduled for late 2004 and early 2005, shipment from the site cannot occur before 2006 because of cooling requirements.

Peer Review Panel Meeting for the Integrated Chemical Effects Tests

On June 3, 2004, RES and NRR staff members participated in the kick-off meeting of the peer review panel (PRP) for the integrated chemical effects test (ICET). The ICET project is a cooperative research effort between NRC and the industry to address a specific concern raised by the ACRS, and as part of the effort toward resolution of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance." Other participants included representatives from the Los Alamos National Laboratories (contractor), EPRI, and NEI's GSI-191 task group. The purpose of the meeting was to

introduce the peer review panel members and to discuss the panel members' comments on the ICET test plan and the test facility preliminary design. Extensive discussion was focused on the details of the test plan, test loop design, and preparation of test coupons to simulate potential chemical reactions between insulation, exposed materials, and representative post-LOCA containment environment. Also discussed were the schedule and key milestones for the project. Results from this meeting will be used to finalize the test plan and design of the test facility.

Mid-Year Review of Russian Fuels Program

The French Institute for Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) and the NRC conducted a review of the fuels program being conducted at the Russian Research Center — Kurchatov Institute. Progress in this program since October 2003 was reviewed during a meeting on May 24, 2004. There are two tasks associated with this program; high-burnup fuel and neutronic code analysis.

Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA)-related testing in the high-burnup fuel task will continue through June 2004, at which time this experimental work will be completed. Data analysis and reporting will continue after June. Oxidation and ring compression are being done on standard E110 (Russian Zr-1%Nb alloy, similar to French M5), non-standard E110 (called G110) with factory-polished outer surface, standard E635 (Russian Zr-1¼%Sn-1%Nb alloy, similar to American ZIRLO), and M5 cladding.

Comparisons between the Russian neutron kinetics code (BARS) and the American code (PARCS) have been made for postulated reactivity-initiated accidents. All calculations on the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel sensitivity study have been completed and the results are being evaluated. Preparation of the database for the new IRSN benchmark comparison will begin as soon as data are provided by IRSN.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-2004-003, Virginia Electric and Power Company - SURRY UNIT 2 REACTOR TRIP AND AUXILIARY FEEDWATER SYSTEM ISSUES CAUSING A UNIT SHUTDOWN TO COLD SHUTDOWN.
2. PNO-IV-2004-011A, Scela, Inc. d/b/a Radiopharmacy of Boise - UPDATED INFORMATION CONCERNING A CONTAMINATION EVENT DUE TO SPILL OF IODINE-131.

June 4, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Contract Awards

On May 27, 2004, a competitive delivery order was awarded under the General Services Administration's federal supply schedule to Project Performance Corporation. This order requires the contractor to develop a project plan that will ensure the NRC's timely and efficient review of the Department of Energy's license application to construct a geologic repository to store high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The period of performance is seven months. The total estimated cost of this order is \$291,955.

On May 24, 2004, a competitive delivery order was awarded under the General Services Administration's federal supply schedule to Resource Consultants, Inc. This order requires the contractor to validate, update, and maintain data in the Agency's space management system for the White Flint complex. The period of performance is eighteen months at an estimated cost of \$180,788 and the contract includes three one-year option periods at an estimated cost of \$128,228 per year.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
May 28 through June 03, 2004:

BP Whiting Business Unit, Whiting, IN, all reports and records regarding a radioactive source level gauge leak incident, 02/2004	FOIA/PA-2004-0261
Goodyear Aerospace, Akron & Hartville, Ohio locations, 1976 - 1987, materials used, safety violations and any enforcement actions	FOIA/PA-2004-0262
Chinese nuclear weapons programs & policies, export of nuclear materials (Referral by Dept. of State)	FOIA/PA-2004-0263
Radioactive device bearing NRC serial number 8664LX shipped by Peco Controls, 1993; found in scrap metal delivered to Acerinox, S.A., 2003; licensed radioactive device register to LaChoy Food Products, 1993-2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0264
Allegation NRR-97-A-0069, including all correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2004-0266

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Arrivals		
Stephanie Black	Student Clerk (Summer)	R-III
Doris Lewis	Nuclear Engineer (NSPDP)	RES
Gilena A. Monroe	Student Engineer (Summer)	ACRS
Elizabeth Owen	Reactor Inspector (NSPDP)	R-IV
Jamie Riley	Student Clerk (Summer)	R-III
Scott Rutenkroger	Reactor Inspector	R-IV
Retirements		
Maria Lopez-Otin	Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff	OCM/NJD
Eric D. Weinstein	NSIR Program Liaison Officer	NSIR

June 4, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Media Interest

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

Preparations for an emergency preparedness drill involving a terrorist scenario at the Indian Point nuclear plant in New York.

CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight" for a 2-minute feature on safety and security at nuclear plants.

NRC's directive to some nuclear plants to account more thoroughly for their spent fuel inventories.

NRC staff's letter to Vermont state senators regarding the Vermont Yankee uprate request.

NRC's Bulletin to pressurized-water reactors on inspecting pressurizer parts for possible corrosion.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted the Chairman in his presentation at McGraw-Hill's conference on homeland security on June 3.

OPA set up the Chairman's June 3 interview on CNBC's "Kudlow and Cramer" program on nuclear plant security and safety.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-066	NRC Issues Bulletin to Nuclear Power Plants on Inspecting Certain Reactor Piping Components (6/2)
04-067	NRC Staff Approves Transfer of Operating License for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (6/4)
04-068	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hear Arguments June 15-16 in Hobbs, N.M., on Proposed Uranium Enrichment Facility (6/4)
Regions:	
II-04-040	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hear Public Statements on Use of Mixed Oxide Fuel at Catawba (6/1)
III-04-036	NRC to Meet with Nuclear Management Company to Discuss Performance of Prairie Island Nuclear Plant (6/2)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Visit of Akio Yamamoto, Chubu Electric Company

On June 1, 2004, Mr. Yamamoto, an Assistant Manager of the Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant, Chubu Electric Power Company of Japan, visited NRC headquarters and met with staff from NRR. The discussion topics included the NRC's effort in reducing unnecessary regulatory burden and the licensing process under 10 CFR Part 52, "Early Site Permits; Standard Design Certifications; And Combined Licenses For Nuclear Power Plants." Hamaoka Unit 5, an Advanced Boiling Water Reactor, has started power ascension testing and will begin commercial operation in January 2005.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0084	5/17/04	Status of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program
2. SECY-04-0087	6/1/04	SECY-04-0087 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 21, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Robert Loux, State of Nevada, dated May 27, 2004, responds to letter expressing Nevada's concern regarding the Yucca Mountain Licensing proceeding.
2. Letter to Martin Malsch, Esq., dated May 26, 2004, concerns DOE's commitment to provide notice to the State of Nevada 45 days in advance of any shipment of the material in the Fernald silo.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. U.S. NRC, Peer Review Committee for Source Term Modeling, notice of meeting (06/16-18/04).
2. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Duke Energy Corporation, Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, AMENDED Notice of Evidentiary Hearing and Opportunity to Make Limited Appearance Statements (06/15/04 and 07/14-15/04).
3. U.S. NRC, 10 CFR Part 2, RIN 3150-AH31, Licensing Proceeding for a High-Level Radioactive Waste Geologic Repository; Licensing Support Network, Submissions to the Electronic Docket, Final Rule.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

National Conference on Radiation Control

The National Conference on Radiation Control sponsored by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) was held in Bloomington, Minnesota, on May 24-26, 2004. The conference was attended by representatives from nearly all Agreement and non-Agreement States, as well as several federal agencies. During the conference, the Region I Regional State Agreements Officers made two presentations. A poster presentation was given on the "Consolidation of Regions I and II Materials Programs," and a talk was given on the "Decommissioning of a Bankrupt Underwater Irradiator Facility."

AIT Exit Meeting with Baxter Healthcare

On June 1, 2004, the NRC's Augmented Inspection Team (AIT), formed to inspect a recent event at Baxter Healthcare, conducted its exit meeting with the licensee by teleconference. The AIT inspected the event involving an irradiator source that failed to return to the fully shielded position at the licensee's facility in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. The event posed a high potential for radiation exposures to licensee employees in excess of regulatory limits. The team discussed the scope of the inspection, the items that were reviewed and the team's preliminary findings regarding the event. The licensee representatives described corrective actions taken to prevent recurrence. The AIT report will be issued within 30 days of the exit meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 4, 2004

Progress Energy Company - Brunswick White Finding

On June 2, 2004, a Final Significance Determination Letter and Notice of Violation was issued to Brunswick for a White finding associated with an Unit 2 emergency diesel generator (EDG) jacket water cooling leak that resulted in the EDG being inoperable for 30 days. The finding involved a corrective action violation for not adequately repairing the leak in a timely manner, resulting in the EDG exceeding its Technical Specifications allowed outage time.

Westinghouse Electric Company/Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division - Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On June 3, 2004, representatives from Westinghouse Electric Company/Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division attended a Predecisional Enforcement Conference in the Regional Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss nine apparent violations of NRC requirements involving operation of the incinerator off-gas system.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 4, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 61

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	06/07 Chicago, IL	10:00	OPM, GAO and others	Federal Hiring Process	Reps. Davis/Davis Civil Service and Agency Organization Government Reform
Keeling	06/09 SD-226	10:00	Secretary Ridge, DHS	Oversight on terrorism and the Dept. of Homeland Security	Senators Hatch/Leahy Judiciary
Keeling	06/09 2141 RHOB	10:00	Markup	H.R. 2934, increase criminal penalties related to terrorist murders, including crimes involving nuclear sabotage	Reps. Sensenbrenner/Conyers Judiciary
Combs	06/09 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Federal Information Technology R&D	Reps. Burton/Watson Human Rights and Wellness Government Reform
Portner	06/10 TBA	TBA	Markup	Fiscal 2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

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ENCLOSURE R