

INFORMATION REPORT

October 12, 2004

SECY-04-0183

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-04-0183 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 1, 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.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Nine Mile Point - Public Meetings Regarding License Renewal

On September 21, 2004, the staff conducted two public scoping meetings at the Town of Scriba Municipal Building in Oswego, NY. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) being prepared as part of the review of the license renewal application for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The application was submitted by Constellation Energy Group, Inc. (Constellation), on May 27, 2004. The scoping period ends on October 11, 2004. The SEIS will be a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437).

Approximately 65 people attended the meetings, including members of the public, news media, and State and local government officials. Public comments and questions were mainly focused on public radiation exposure and health impacts, emergency response and preparedness, and the new hearing process under 10 CFR Part 2.

Public Meeting with Exelon on EPU Flow-Induced Vibration Effects at Dresden and Quad Cities

On September 23-24, 2004, staff held a public meeting with Exelon Generation Company at the licensee's offices in Warrenville, IL, to discuss potential flow-induced vibration effects resulting from extended power uprate (EPU) operation at Dresden, Units 2 and 3 and Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2. The discussion focused on flow-induced vibrations on components such as the reactor pressure vessel internals and main steam and feedwater system components. NRC staff from NRR, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and Region III participated in the meeting.

In its letter dated May 12, 2004, the licensee committed to hold this meeting as part of its plan to obtain approval from the NRC staff prior to returning Quad Cities Units 1 and 2 to EPU operation. The licensee presented an overview of its vibration evaluation for plant components known to be susceptible to EPU flow-induced vibration, its vulnerability assessment program for identifying other potentially affected components at EPU operation at Dresden and Quad Cities, and the status of the activities to resolve the steam dryer issues. The NRC staff and licensee agreed to meet in the near future to discuss the steam dryer analysis supporting the continued EPU operation of Dresden Units 2 and 3, and the instrumentation of the new steam dryer to be installed in Quad Cities Unit 1 in March 2005.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

NRC and DOE Staffs Hold Quality Assurance Meeting on Yucca Mountain Project

On September 29, 2004, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety and Department of Energy (DOE) staffs held the fourth-quarter public NRC/DOE Quality Assurance (QA) Meeting on DOE's Yucca Mountain activities in Las Vegas, Nevada. Topics discussed included QA overview; QA audits and surveillance activities; corrective action program oversight; trend evaluation and reporting; and Revision 17 to the QA Requirements and Description. Participants at the meeting included representatives from the State of Nevada, local counties, and interested members of the public. NRC Headquarters and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staffs participated via video conferences from Rockville, Maryland, and San Antonio, Texas.

Electric Power Research Institute's Decommissioning Technology Workshop

On September 21-22, 2004, NRC staff attended the Electric Power Research Institute's Decommissioning Technology Workshop in Middletown, Connecticut. This workshop dealt with the key aspects of the final site survey process; instrumentation, data capture, dose modeling, and final site survey experience. Staff provided presentations on NRC's overall management of decommissioning, use of realistic scenarios for compliance, and updates about on-going research into approaches for surveying sub-surface residual radioactivity.

Participation in Organization of Agreement States Annual Meeting

On September 21-24, 2004, NRC management and staff representatives from the Office of State and Tribal Programs, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), and Regional Offices participated in the 2004 Organization of Agreement States Annual Meeting held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. NRC staff provided training to the Agreement State representatives on the Nuclear Material Events Database; participated in a panel discussion on source tracking database initiatives; presented radiation dose reconstructions for two significant materials events that involved overexposures of members of the public; presented updates of on-going rulemaking initiatives; shared results of NRC oversight reviews of Department of Energy National Laboratories; and summarized some of the challenges facing IMNS. The meeting served to foster a good dialog between Agreement State representatives and NRC staff.

Meeting with the Department of Energy

On September 23, 2004, staff members from NSIR, NMSS, and the Office of the General Counsel, met with the Department of Energy (DOE) staff in a closed meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the development of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC and DOE. The MOU would delineate DOE's and NRC's regulatory oversight roles and responsibilities for USEC Inc.'s 3.5 million separative work unit gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility known as the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP). The USEC Inc. has proposed that ACP be housed in existing buildings and areas owned by DOE at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Fourth American Nuclear Society (ANS) International Topical Meeting on Instrumentation and Control and Human Machine Interface Technologies

On September 19-22, 2004, staff of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) hosted the Fourth American Nuclear Society International Topical Meeting on Nuclear Plant Instrumentation, Control and Human Machine Interface Technologies. The key note speech was given by the RES Office Director. The technical information gained from this conference will support the development of risk-informed regulatory guidance for nuclear plant real-time software-based systems, helping to ensure that NRC actions are effective and realistic.

OECD International Fire Data Exchange Working Group Meeting

On September 23-24, 2004, RES staff participated in a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) International Fire Data Exchange working group. The purpose of the Fire Data Exchange working group is to allow OECD Fire Project member countries to exchange fire incident information and analyses to better understand fire events, their causes, and their prevention. The meeting was well attended and included international participants from France, Japan, Sweden, and the Netherlands. The presentations by Fire Project member countries were well received and provided valuable insights into recent fire events. The next Fire Data Exchange working group meeting is scheduled to be held in May 2005.

Meeting on Examination of CRDMs Removed from North Anna Unit 2

On September 20, 2004, staff members from RES and NRR met with representatives from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and Westinghouse to discuss the non-destructive and destructive examinations of the salvaged control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetrations and J-groove welds removed from North Anna, Unit 2. The NRC and EPRI signed an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding for a collaborative effort to gain a better understanding of stress corrosion cracking of vessel head penetrations. In Fall of 2002, the licensee for North Anna notified the NRC that boric acid residue had been found on the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head at Unit 2. Subsequently, the vessel head nozzles were removed from the RPV head and shipped to PNNL, Argonne National Laboratory, and Westinghouse. The collaborative research will better characterize the cracking in the nozzles and the J-groove welds, and will correlate the field non-destructive examination (NDE) findings with crack location and sizing information obtained through destructive examination. Laboratory confirmation of field NDE results is scheduled to be completed in January 2005. Destructive examination results are scheduled to be completed in August 2005. Results from these efforts will be incorporated as appropriate in the development of inspection requirements.

Implementing Agreement Between NRC and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI)

On September 24, 2004, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the international Implementing Agreement between the NRC and SKI Regarding Participation in the NRC Cooperative Project on Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) for Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking in Nickel-base Materials and Dissimilar Metal Welds.

The NRC and SKI will work together to (1) compile data describing the morphology and NDE responses associated with primary water stress corrosion cracking, and (2) assess available and developing techniques for NDE of nuclear power plant components. The results from this cooperative project will improve the quality of standards for in-service inspections for structural integrity endorsed by 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," and Regulatory Guide 1.147 (Rev. 13) "In-service Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1." This Agreement will remain in effect for four years.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-012, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company - FIRE IN VACANT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT DECOMMISSIONING REACTOR SITE.
2. PNO-II-04-009, Florida Power and Light Co. - REGION II RESPONSE TO HURRICANE JEANNE.
3. PNO-II-04-009A, Florida Power and Light Co. - REGION II RESPONSE TO HURRICANE JEANNE.
4. PNO-II-04-009C, Florida Power and Light and Progress Energy - Florida Power Corporation - TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE JEANNE.
5. PNO-IV-04-026, Pacific Gas and Electric Company - RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE.
6. PNO-IV-04-026A, Pacific Gas and Electric Company - RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE - UPDATE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Compatibility With IAEA Transportation Safety Standards (TS-R-1) and Other Transportation Safety Amendments; Correction (AG71- Part 71)

On September 29, 2004 (69 FR 58038), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a correction to a final rule, published January 26, 2004 (69 FR 3698), that amended the regulations governing the packaging and transportation of radioactive materials. The correction added unintentionally omitted text, and corrected editorial errors, references, and numerical values as printed in the final rule. The correction and the final rule become effective October 1, 2004.

Contract Awards

On September 22, 2004, a fixed-price Contract No. NRC-33-04-349 was awarded to Modern Micro Imaging, as a result of a competitive small business set-aside solicitation. The contractor shall provide micrographic and CD-ROM duplication services. The contract value is estimated at \$451,000.00 for a five year period of performance, inclusive of four one year option periods.

On September 24, 2004, a competitive, cost reimbursement type contract was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc. This contract requires the contractor to provide code improvements, developmental assessment, and engineering analyses of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Computer Codes. The period of performance is for three years, inclusive of two one-year option periods at an estimated cost of \$1,291,045.00.

On September 27, 2004, a fixed-price Contract No. NRC-28-04-261 was awarded to Verizon Federal, as a result of a full and open competitive solicitation. The contractor shall provide Region I with telecommunication services. The contract value is estimated at \$165,476.00 for a five year period of performance, inclusive of two one-year option periods.

On September 28, 2004, a competitive, fixed-price delivery order was awarded to Barquin and Associates, Inc., under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule. This delivery order requires the contractor to provide instructional and facilitation services to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a one-day course entitled, "Knowledge Transfer Interviewing and Distillation." The period of performance is for one year at the cost of \$55,793.00.

On September 29, 2004, a fixed-price Purchase Order No. DR-33-04-360 was awarded to Native Intelligence, under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The contractor shall provide web-based Computer Security Awareness courses, usage licenses, and maintenance. The contract value is \$50,000.00 for a thirty-nine month period of performance.

On September 29, 2004, a competitive fixed-price Delivery Order DR-10-04-400 was awarded to Jami, Inc. under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule. The contractor will provide desk chairs to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The period of performance is 16 months at an estimated cost of \$60,565.60.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Windows Server Upgrade on Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Main and Public Access Records System (PARS) Library

On September 25, 2004, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) staff upgraded the ADAMS Main and PARS libraries operating system to the Windows 2000 server. The upgrade was performed for three reasons: (1) Windows NT will no longer be supported by Microsoft; (2) the upgrade should give ADAMS a performance boost; and (3) the upgrade will provide a head start towards the back-end FileNet upgrade of ADAMS planned for April of 2005. The FileNet upgrade will bring the ADAMS system up to the most currently supported version to take advantage of Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and quicker FileNet code, including the new Verity content search engine.

Electronic Government (E-Gov) Activity Update Issued

The E-Gov activity update through August 2004, has been issued. The report addresses NRC's status on the Presidential Priority Initiatives, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) growing focus on citizen awareness, and updates on OMB guidance including recent guidance received for E-Gov funding. An update of the Lines of Business (LOB) initiative is provided along with a summary of the goals and plans for the Human Resource and Financial Management LOB.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of September 24 through September 30, 2004:

Howmet Corporation, 41605 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0368
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, communications to/from NRC Office of Public Affairs, January 1, 2003 to present	FOIA/PA-2004-0369
NRC Budget, 2004	FOIA/PA-2004-0370
Browns Ferry 1 Tech Spec submittal re: power uprate, complete document dated 6-28-04	FOIA/PA-2004-0371
Diablo Canyon submittal re: License Amendment Request (LAR) 04-01 revised steam generator voltage-based repair criteria, 3-18-04	FOIA/PA-2004-0372

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Arrivals		
Edgar D. Bailey	Consultant	NMSS
Jaclyn H. Becker	International Relations Specialist	OIP
Cynthia Carter	Human Resources Specialist	HR
Richard S. Denning	Member	ACRS
Rhea Donfor	Human Resources Specialist	HR
Allen H. Fetter	Hydrogeologist	NMSS
Charemagne E. Grimes	Secretary	RES
Brandi K. Hamilton	Secretary	NMSS
John R. Knoke	Nuclear Systems Engineer	NSIR
William Luch	IT Specialist	NSIR
Eric Michel	Reactor Inspector	R-II
Randy Patterson	Security Specialist	NSIR
William R. Rautzen	Health Physicist	OSTP
Bebbie C. Rhodes	Technical Librarian	OCIO
Chaundra Robinson	Secretary	OCFO
Michelle Simmons	Health Physicist (NSPDP)	R-I
Retirements		
Lee R. Abramson	Senior Research Statistician	RES
Jerome J. Blake	Senior Project Manager	R-II
Dennis C. Dambly	Asst GC for Matls Litigation & Enforc	OGC
Donald Van Epp	Senior Systems Accountant	OCFO
Russell Wise	Senior Allegations Coordinator	R-IV
Departure		
Brian Moy	General Engineer (Summer)	NRR

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Media Interest

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

Critics' charges that the Nuclear Energy Institute's contract with Wackenhut to develop a mock adversary force for security exercises at power plants represents a conflict of interest.

The threat of a strike (since averted) by security force at the Indian Point plant in New York.

Early Site Permit applications.

Other OPA Items:

OPA staff assisted at public meetings regarding Davis-Besse, Farley, Humboldt Bay, and Honeywell.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-120	NRC Annual Nuclear Safety Research Conference to be Held Oct. 25-27 in Washington, D.C. (9/30)
04-121	NRC Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes to Hold a Teleconference Oct. 5 (9/30)
04-122	NRC Offers Opportunity for Hearing on Relicensing Application for NIST Test Reactor (10/1)
04-123	NRC Web Page Describes Process for Updating Guidance on Reactor License Renewal (10/1)
Regions:	
II-04-052	NRC Cites Oconee Nuclear Plant for Inspection Finding of Low to Moderate Safety Significance (9/28)
IV-04-040	NRC Names John Hanna Senior Resident Inspector at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant (9/28)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

DOE's Application for an Export License

On September 27, 2004, NRC received an application (XSNM03369) from the Department of Energy (DOE), requesting a specific license to export highly-enriched uranium (HEU) to Canada. The material is to be used in the fabrication of target material for the production of medical isotopes.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending October 1, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0107	6/25/04	St. Joseph Mercy Hospital: Radiation Exposures of Members of the Public - Review of Dose Reconstructions
SRM on 04-0107	8/27/04	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0107	8/27/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0173	09/29/2004	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 17, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Henry D. Royal, M.D., Society of Nuclear Medicine, dated September 20, 2004, provides the final response to letter on the St. Joseph Hospital dose reconstruction.

Federal Register Notice Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Procedures for Meetings.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Management Exchange Program Between Exelon and Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG)

On October 1, 2004, PSEG Nuclear and Exelon Nuclear announced the implementation of a management exchange program between the two companies. The program involves 18 to 24 month rotational assignments for selected management personnel at both the corporate offices and the nuclear plants, including Byron, Clinton, Hope Creek, Salem, and Three Mile Island.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Honeywell Speciality Chemical Facility - NRC Management Tour

On September 30, 2004, the Regional Administrator, and the Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection toured the site and attended a public meeting with the licensee at the Honeywell Speciality Chemical Facility in Metropolis, IL.

Hurricane Jeanne

On September 25-29, 2004, Region II activated its Incident Response Center in Atlanta to monitor and assist the nuclear power plants in Florida (Crystal River, St. Lucie, and Turkey Point) in response to Hurricane Jeanne. Also, additional Region II staff members were dispatched to the three nuclear plants to augment the resident inspectors. Region II staff also supported Federal Emergency Management Agency in assessing the adequacy of the offsite emergency preparedness at St. Lucie prior to allowing restart of the plant.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 1, 2004

Cooper - Regulatory Conference

On September 27, 2004, Region IV staff held a Regulatory Conference with representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District, the licensee for the Cooper Nuclear Station, to discuss an apparent violation of NRC requirements. The violation involved an error during maintenance, which resulted in one train of the service water system and an emergency diesel generator being inoperable for 21 days. During the conference, the licensee presented the results of both the root cause analysis and risk analysis of the problem, as well as the corrective actions taken to prevent recurrence.

Humboldt Bay - Public Meeting

On September 29, 2004, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) held a public meeting in Eureka, California, to discuss the status of the licensee's programs to control and account for licensed radioactive material at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant. PG&E representatives discussed their efforts to locate three spent fuel pin segments that were reported missing on August 17, 2004. The Regional Administrator, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and staff members from both Region IV and headquarters attended the meeting.

Waterford - Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI)

On September 29, 2004, Region IV held a public meeting with representatives of EOI regarding Waterford 3 Nuclear Power Plant. Discussion topics included, engineering issues stemming from the licensee's power uprate program, and the results from a recent engineering self-assessment and the associated improvement initiatives in the area of plant engineering.