

INFORMATION REPORT

September 27, 2001

SECY-01-0179

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0179 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA by Debra J. Corley Acting For/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Rosenberg, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) published for public comment on Resolution of Degraded and Nonconforming Conditions

On September 13, 2001, a notice of opportunity for public comment on the clarity and consistency of guidance in a proposed RIS, "Resolution of Degraded and Nonconforming Conditions (Generic Letter 91-18 Process)" was published in the Federal Register. The proposed RIS contains updated Inspection Manual Part 9900 guidance which supersedes Revision 1 to Generic Letter 91-18, October 8, 1997. The guidance is being reissued to reflect changes in regulations and practices since 1997, such as issuance of 10 CFR 50.65(a)(4), and implementation of the reactor oversight program. The comment period ends October 29, 2001.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Conference Topical Issues in Nuclear Safety

Senior managers in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) participated in IAEA's International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Safety in Vienna the week of September 3, 2001. In addition, the Deputy Director of the Division of Inspection Program Management provided a keynote presentation on the topical issue of performance Indicators on the final day of the Conference.

Bensinger, DuPont and Associates 11th Annual Fitness for Duty and Drug Free Workplace Conference

On September 10, 2001, a member of the Reactor Safeguards Policy Section participated in the subject conference held in Washington, DC. The program included presentations by the Director, Workplace Programs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Acting Director, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, Department of Transportation (DOT); and the Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration. Presentation topics included: nationwide trends and issues in drug and alcohol use; specimen validity testing; revised Health and Human Services Mandatory Guidelines for drug testing; coordinating drug and alcohol testing among Federal agencies; and implementation issues associated with DOT's new Part 40 drug and alcohol regulation.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on September 12, 2001, with industry's working group on Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). The key issues discussed included: unplanned power changes performance indicator replacement; planned revisions to IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," and NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline;" proposed changes to ALARA and emergency preparedness significance determination process; and reviews of frequently asked questions. The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2001.

NRR conducted another periodic issue-specific public meeting with industry's ROP working group on September 13, 2001, to discuss and review issues associated with Safety System

Unavailability (SSU) performance indicators (PIs). The long-term objective of the working group is to develop a common definition for unavailability for use in the ROP, maintenance rule, WANO, PRAs, and other programs. The working group has reached agreement on all major policy issues and the proposed development/implementation schedule.

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

On September 10, 2001, Maine Yankee announced that it had signed a settlement agreement with the State of Maine and Friends of the Coast Opposing Nuclear Pollution on a revised License Termination Plan (LTP) for the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station. The LTP outlines the process by which Maine Yankee will meet the NRC's residual radiological dose standards of Subpart E of 10 CFR Part 20 when plant decommissioning is complete in 2004. The LTP also demonstrates how Maine Yankee will comply with the State of Maine's residual radiological dose standard.

Maine Yankee first submitted its LTP to NRC in January 2000. In June 2000, the State of Maine and Friends of the Coast Opposing Nuclear Pollution filed separate requests for hearing and petitions to intervene with the Commission for which the Commission established an Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB). Maine Yankee proposed to submit a revised LTP and the ASLB determined that the proceeding should be held in abeyance. By letter dated June 1, 2001, Maine Yankee submitted Revision 1 to the LTP; and by letter dated August 13, 2001, submitted Revision 2 to NRC for review and approval. The revisions were made primarily to account for dose modeling changes brought about by the decision to remove demolished concrete from the site rather than use it as fill in building foundations (so called "rubblization").

On August 31, 2001, the Parties filed a joint motion with the ASLB to end the hearing process due to having achieved a settlement. Under the terms of the agreement, Maine Yankee's program for sampling and analysis of ground water, vegetation, soil, and aspects of the intertidal zone will be enhanced. The agreement also provides a framework for resolving a number of technical issues related to sampling data variability such as instrument sensitivities, field measurements, and dose modeling.

The NRC staff is performing an acceptance review of the revised LTP and will then conduct a detailed technical review of the document. The NRC staff intends to hold a public meeting in the Wiscasset area as part of the LTP review process.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Meeting on Yucca Mountain

On September 10-12, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) attended a public meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) in Las Vegas, Nevada. NWTRB stated that the meeting's purpose was for NWTRB to obtain insights from a variety of stakeholders on issues relevant to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) potential site recommendation. DOE briefed NWTRB on DOE's Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation, its Supplemental Science and Performance Analysis Report, and its plans to address the NRC key technical issues agreements. NWTRB discussed DOE's characterization of uncertainty, as represented in these reports, and the efforts needed by DOE to complete work agreed to in the issue resolution agreements with NRC. NWTRB heard three different scientific perspectives on the consequences of igneous activity from DOE, the State of Nevada, and the Center. The Environmental Protection Agency described its final Yucca Mountain standard (40 CFR Part 197). DOE presented interim findings and results of different independent peer reviews of DOE work on waste package materials, biosphere, and total system performance assessment.

Modular Groundwater Flow Model 2001 Conference

On September 12-14, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management attended the Modular Groundwater Flow Model (MODFLOW) 2001 Conference, which was held in Golden, Colorado. The conference included featured presentations in 14 general sessions, poster presentations, computer demonstrations, and commercial exhibits. A majority of the presentations dealt with some application relating to MODFLOW, a numerical groundwater flow model. Some of the topics covered at this conference included model calibration and parameter estimation, variable density modeling, stochastic approaches and applications, and modeling in fractured environments. Several of the presentations were applicable to NRC-licensed material and reactor decommissioning sites.

International High-Level-Waste Regulators' Meeting on Biosphere and Individual Protection

On September 11-13, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) met with representatives from the Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Belgian, and United Kingdom radioactive waste regulatory authorities in Stockholm, Sweden. The participants discussed the assumptions and approaches on developing the individual or group to be used to show compliance with the dose limit, and what biosphere setting(s) to take into account. EPA staff discussed the reasons for codifying the description and location of the dose receptor in 40 CFR Part 197. NRC staff discussed the regulations, in 10 CFR Part 63, that will be finalized shortly.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Final Accident Sequence Precursor Analyses issued for the Oconee 1, 2, and 3 potential high energy line break condition and the Indian Point 2 loss of offsite power event

The Division of Risk Analysis and Applications issued the final Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) analyses of a condition involving potential high energy line breaks (HELB) at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 and the ASP final analysis of a loss of offsite power event at Indian Point 2 (IP2) to NRR for transmittal to the licensee. A summary of the results follows.

Oconee 1, 2, and 3 Precursor Analyses

Oconee issued a licensee event report regarding a condition that could affect the emergency feedwater (EFW) system. In addition to postulated HELB concerns relating to the EFW, this analysis shows the risk significance of postulated high-energy line breaks in the turbine building that could disable all 4kV safety-related switchgear. The change in core damage probabilities (?CDP) associated with this condition over a one-year period for Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 are 8.2×10^{-6} , 5.6×10^{-6} , and 5.2×10^{-6} per year, respectively. The nominal core damage probability of Oconee Units 1,2, and 3 over a one-year period is 2.6×10^{-5} . The primary difference between the values for Unit 1 and Units 2 and 3 relates to the difference in reactor coolant pump seal designs among the plants. Unit 1 had Westinghouse seals that are more susceptible to station blackout induced seal LOCAs than the Sulzer seals installed in Units 2 and 3.

Indian Point 2 Precursor Analysis

The event involved a reactor trip, failure of an emergency diesel generator output breaker to one of the three safety buses (480-V bus 6A), and an extended loss of offsite power. Offsite power was restored to one of the three safety buses (480-V bus 5A) approximately 12 hours following event initiation. The conditional core damage probability (CCDP) for this reactor trip with an extended loss of offsite power to the vital 4-kV buses is 3×10^{-6} . The dominant contributors involved sequences with potential station blackout scenarios or scenarios with loss of auxiliary feedwater and failure of feed and bleed cooling. The analysis also considered the potential impact of the degraded tubes in steam generator 24 which resulted in a tube rupture at IP2 several months later. The potential increase in the CCDP at the time of the loss of offsite power event due to tube degradation was minimal compared to the impact due to the actual failures that occurred.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Acquisition Training and Certification Program

On September 18-20, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored the following mandatory Acquisition Certification and Training Program modules:

1. "Contract Administration" with 38 attendees. This all-day module focuses on monitoring contractor performance, spending controls, modifying contracts and agreements, and remedying contractual problems. Each participant receives a course manual that serves as a reference tool for project managers in performing their day-to-day responsibilities.
2. "Overview" with 14 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.
3. "Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate" with 11 attendees. This half-day module focuses on the importance of establishing an independent Government cost estimate, the mechanics of the process and components which can be used in its development.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
September 14, 2001 through September 20, 2001:

Fisher Scientific, confirmation of the termination of license SMB-201. (FOIA/PA-2001-0364)

MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site, copy of Duke Cogema Stone & Webster's (DCS's) Construction Authorization Request regarding criticality and safety. (FOIA/PA-2001-0365)

Freedom of Information Act request logs for past three calendar years. (FOIA/PA-2001-0366)

Contract between NRC and the National Commission on Radiation related to examination of existing data on the ionizing radiation dose-response relationships. (FOIA/PA-2001-0367)

Materials licensing tracking system, all active licensees. (FOIA/PA-2001-0368)

Security incident reports, 1995 to present for following power plants: Hatch, Farley, and Vogtle and any records related to "mock terrorist attacks" that were performed. (FOIA/PA-2001-0369)

Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, NRC license nos. 37-06176-01 and 37-06176-02. (FOIA/PA-2001-0370)

Information about NRC, general. (FOIA/PA-2001-0371)

Savannah River Plant, access to records of 1950's employees. (FOIA/PA-2001-0372)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Small Group Support Sessions Offered to Employees

On September 19-20, 2001, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) responded to the September 11, 2001 tragedy by offering small group support sessions to employees. These sessions have emphasized stress management and healthy coping. The sessions have given NRC employees a safe place to express their feelings about the terrorist attacks. The sessions have helped employees to recognize ways in which these traumas might temporarily affect them at work and in their personal lives, and they have helped employees to learn strategies for effective coping. The groups have been well attended. Individual EAP counseling/consultation sessions will continue to be offered as well.

| Arrivals | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------|
| FORD, Joseph | STUDENT CLERK | RI |
| JENSEN-OTSU, Tomoko | RISK & RELIABILITY ANALYST | RES |
| NEGRIN, Darlene | SECRETARY (OA) | NMSS |
| SMITH, Galen | REACTOR INSPECTOR | RI |
| TURNER, Terri | IT SPECIALIST | OCIO |
| WEBBER, Sr., Robert | CONTRACT SPECIALIST | ADM |
| Departures | | |
| HOPE, Lenora | OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT | NRR |
| JOHNSON, Anna | SITE SECRETARY | RIV |
| WONG, Albert | NUCLEAR PROCESS ENGINEER | NMSS |
| ZELLERS, Kevin | SENIOR RESIDENT INSPECTOR | RIII |

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Media Interest

There was media interest in the adequacy of security at the nation's nuclear plants following the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

| Press Releases | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Headquarters: | |
| 01-109 | NRC Urges Increased Security |
| 01-110 | NRC Prohibits a Former Radiation Safety Officer from Participating in NRC-licensed Activity for Five Years |
| 01-111 | NRC Receives Application from TVA to Produce Tritium at watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant in Tennessee |
| 01-112 | NRC Reacts to Terrorist Attacks |
| Regions: | |
| I-01-056 | NRC Issues Finding of Low to Moderate Safety Significance on Fermi Nuclear Plant Violation |
| I-01-057 | NRC Issues Finding of Substantial Importance to Safety to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant |
| II-01-039 | Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Prehearing Conference in North Augusta on September 21 on Proposed Fuel Facility |
| III-01-043 | NRC Staff Proposes \$11,000 Fine for Radiation Overexposure Last Year at Southeast Missouri State University |

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Decision Documents | | |
| 1. SECY-01-0099 | 6/1/01 | Rulemaking Plan and Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Entombment for Power Reactors |
| SRM on 01-0099 | 9/18/01 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on 01-0099 | 9/18/01 | (same) |
| 2. SECY-01-0171 | 9/06/01 | Proposed Subsequent Arrangement to Authorize the Retransfer of U.S.-Origin Uranium and Plutonium in Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Assemblies from Japan to the United Kingdom |
| SRM on 01-0171 | 9/21/01 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on 01-0171 | 9/21/01 | (same) |
| Information Papers | | |
| 1. SECY-01-0169 | 9/4/01 | IAEA-Proposed "International Legal Instrument" on Research Reactor Safety |
| 2. SECY-01-0174 | 9/20/01 | SECY-01-0174 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 14, 2001 |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., OMB, dated September 14, 2001, transmits the NRC's FY2003 Budget Estimates and Performance Plan.
2. Letter to Congress dated September 14, 2001, responds to request that NRC and FEMA implement the changes suggested in the General Accounting Office report, "Progress Made in Emergency Preparedness at Indian Point 2, But Additional Improvements Needed," GAO-01-605.
3. Letter to The Honorable William B. Taylor, Jr., DOS, dated September 14, 2001, concerns congratulations on recent designation by President Bush as Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia.

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4. Letter to Ralph E. Beedle, NEI, dated September 14, 2001, concerns communication to all stakeholders how PRA has been developed and used.
5. Letter to David A. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, dated September 14, 2001, concerns Notice of Enforcement Discretion issued to Detroit Edison Company for Fermi 2 and the NRC staff's response to three plant shutdowns at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.
6. Letter to Sandra L. Hochstetter, Chairman, Arkansas Public Service Commission (APSC), dated September 12, 2001, concerns APSC's actions with respect to the collection of funds by Entergy Operations, Inc. for the eventual decommissioning of Units 1 and 2 of its Arkansas Nuclear One facility.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 52 [Docket No. PRM-52-1]; Nuclear Energy Institute, Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. 10 CFR Part 2, 50, 51, and 52 [Docket No. PRM-52-2]; Nuclear Energy Institute, Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 21, 2001

Haddam Neck CDAC Meeting

On September 18, 2001, the Citizens Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) held its scheduled monthly meeting in Haddam, CT. Members of the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and representatives from NRR and the Spent Fuel Program Office (SFPO) attended the meeting. The meeting was open for public participation and was attended by approximately 250 people. The meeting was structured to provide information concerning the design basis of independent spent fuel storage installations and vertical concrete casks. A staff member from the SFPO discussed details of the Dry Cask Storage System designed for the Haddam Neck facility. NRC representatives also answered questions from the committee and the public regarding terrorism and Spent Fuel Safety. Questions regarding the letter from the EDO to the Selectmen in response to their June 27, 2001 letter to Chairman Meserve were answered and clarifications presented as appropriate. Staff from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, three Selectmen from the Town of Haddam, and a staff member from U.S. Representative Rob Simmon's office attended the meeting. Following the CDAC meeting, the Selectmen conducted a Q&A session for the local citizens.

Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

On September 19, 2001, the Yankee Rowe Community Advisory Board held its routine scheduled public meeting at the Yankee Rowe site in Rowe, Massachusetts. A member of the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety attended the meeting and responded to questions for the committee regarding terrorism and Spent Fuel Safety. Approximately twenty people attended the meeting.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 21, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 31

| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|---|---|--|
| Gerke | 09/25/01 SD-406 | 9:30 | Vote | Confirmation of Nils Diaz to be NRC Commissioner | Senators Jeffords/Smith Environment and Public Works |
| Gerke | 09/26/01 SD-342 | 9:30 | TBA | Security of Governmental Infrastructure | Senators Lieberman/Thompson Governmental Affairs |
| Gerke | 09/26/01 2154 RHOB | 10:00 | TBA | Review of Computer Security at Government Agencies | Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform |
| Keeling | 10/03/01 2172 RHOB | TBA | John Wolf, Asst Sec for Nonproliferation, DOS; Bill Wood, Intl Ops, DOS; Norm Wulf, Special Representative of Nuclear Nonproliferation, DOS | Efforts underway to prevent illegal transfer of nuclear materials and the protection of nuclear facilities against acts of terrorism. | Reps. Ros-Lehtinen/McKinney Intl Operations and Human Rights International Relations |

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----|---|--|
| Gerke | 10/10/01 2154 RHOB | 10:00 | TBA | Oversight of Debt Collection Improvement Act | Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----|---|--|

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