

INFORMATION REPORT

August 28, 2002

SECY-02-0159

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-02-0159 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 23, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

NEI Letter on Control Room Habitability Assessment Guidance

In a letter of August 19, 2002, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) provided their thoughts regarding a revision to NEI 99-03, "Control Room Habitability Assessment Guidance" to incorporate resolution to issues identified during the July and August NRC meetings on control room habitability. While the staff is moving forward to complete the related regulatory guides on schedule, we are reviewing the NEI proposal and its potential impact on these regulatory guides. Staff plans to meet with NEI during the week of September 9 to discuss their proposal.

Manual Actions for Fire Protection of Redundant Trains

On August 22, 2002, the NRC Executive Team (ET) approved the staff's proposal to develop a rulemaking plan to amend the regulations to permit use of feasible and safe manual actions for III.G.2 areas. The staff's proposed approach would allow licensees to take credit for manual actions as an alternative to the physical fire barriers or separation required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix R III.G.2. for redundant safe shutdown trains in the same fire area without prior NRC staff review and approval.

Meeting with Framatome ANP to discuss the SWR-1000

On August 15, 2002, members of the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Regulatory Research met with Framatome ANP to discuss their pre-application review for the SWR-1000. The SWR-1000 is a 1000 MWe boiling water reactor with passive safety features. In a letter dated May 31, 2002, Framatome ANP indicated that it intends to submit a design certification application for the SWR-1000 by the end of 2005. The purpose of this meeting was for Framatome ANP to provide the staff with an overview of the design, discuss the analysis methods and codes they plan to use, and the test program to support the application. Framatome ANP intends to rely on a combination of tests already performed and to schedule tests in the near future to characterize component and/or system performance, to assess interactions between components, and to obtain data for computer code qualification. The staff and Framatome ANP agreed that frequent interactions during the code and testing development work prior to the design certification application would be mutually beneficial.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Training on the Revised 10 CFR Part 35

On August 21-22, 2002, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff and a subject matter expert from Region II provided training on the Revised 10 CFR Part 35. The training was performed in the Region III office. Over 50 people representing Region III, two Agreement States, two States in the process of becoming Agreement States, and master material licensees attended the training. This was the fourth of five training sessions directed toward inspection and licensing and Headquarters staffs. The final training session will be in Region II on August 26-27, 2002.

Certificate of Compliance for the NAC-LWT Transport Package

On August 15, 2002, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued a revised Certificate of Compliance for the NAC-LWT package. The revision increased the U-235 gram content for low-enriched uranium Materials Test Reactor type research-reactor fuel. This was a high-priority review that supported the Department of Energy's foreign research-reactor fuel-return program.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

NRC Staff Assignment at U.K.'s Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)

Plans have been finalized for a representative from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research to be assigned to NII between September 3 and December 13, 2002. The purpose of this assignment is to learn about regulatory challenges (technical safety issues and regulatory practices) in using graphite as structural component and as moderator in gas-cooled reactors. The work plan includes a mix of interactions with industry and academic technical experts in U.K., the regulatory personnel at NII, observer-status inspection trips with NII inspectors to licensee plants, active interactions with researchers at University of Manchester, participation at the IAEA meeting on graphite properties database, participation at the 3rd International Graphite Specialists meeting at Parma, Ohio, and safety assessment training conducted by the Nuclear Safety Directory (NSD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The technical information gathered from this assignment will be used to (a) develop recommendations for regulatory positions (b) input for codes and standards development, and (c) provide basis for development of research programs to address gaps. The outcome of this assignment will support infrastructure development for the advanced reactor reviews, while advancing international cooperative research.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Meeting with Stakeholders on Interim Compensatory Measures for the Transportation of Large Quantities of Radioactive Material

On August 20, 2002, staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Division of Nuclear Security, held a closed meeting with stakeholders (licensees, shipping companies, the Nuclear Energy Institute, States, and Federal agencies) to discuss proposed Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs) for the transportation of large quantities of radioactive material.

Sandia National Laboratory Seminar on Radiological Dispersal Device Consequences

On August 20, 2002, representatives of Sandia National Laboratory presented a seminar on consequence modeling for radiological dispersal devices (RDDs). Sandia has conducted a large number of experiments to determine release fractions and respirable fractions that could result from an RDD. The results of their research have been incorporated into a consequence calculation code. The NRC Operations Center will be obtaining this code and training responders in its use.

Remote Sensing Laboratory on Geographical Information System (GIS) Capability Upgrade

On August 21, 2002, a representative of the Remote Sensing Laboratory (Las Vegas, NV) visited the NRC Operations Center to discuss the upgrading of the GIS capability for response to a radiological emergency. Technological improvements in recent years will permit the NRC Operations Center to have greater GIS capabilities.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-024B, Virginia Electric and Power Company, TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT TO END STRIKE AT NORTH ANNA AND SURRY.
2. PNO-IV-02-041, Geotechnical Testing Services, Yuma, AZ., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE
3. PNO-IV-02-042, URS Corporation, Seattle, WA., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE
4. PNO-II-02-031, Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Farley Unit 1, Ashford, AL., FIRE AND TRIP OF THE 1C SERVICE WATER PUMP
5. PNO-I-02-015, Dept. of Veterans' Affairs Medical Group, Northport, NY, REPORT OF POSSIBLE TELETHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION AND/OR SAFETY EQUIPMENT FAILURE

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Contract Award

On August 22, 2002, an order was awarded to PEC Solutions, Inc., a small business, using competitive procedures under CISSCO-II Blanket Purchase Agreement No. NRC-01-183. The Contractor shall design and deliver a digital data management system that enables the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) to establish and operate a courtroom with digital information retrieval, utilization, and display capabilities to support licensing proceedings for the high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The total value of the order over the 3-year period of performance is \$1,464,213 for the software design and delivery under Task 1, with an optional Task 2 for audio-visual component development valued at \$355,640, and an optional Task 3 for integration of the software with the audio-visual components valued at \$1,006,778. Both optional tasks will be available for exercise during the second year of the order.

Event Notification Requirements (Parts 72 and 73)

A proposed rule that would amend the event notification requirements applicable to an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and to a Monitored Retrievable Storage installation and safeguards event notification requirements for certain facilities of these types was published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2002 (67 FR 54360). The proposed changes are intended to align these requirements with recent changes to power reactor event notification requirements. The comment period for this action closes November 5, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
August 16, 2002 through August 22, 2002:

MLTS, Colorado companies licensed to handle, store, or distribute radioactive material (FOIA/PA-2002-0378)

MLTS, list of RO/SRO licenses from 1996 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0379)

Nuclear power program of India, 1985 to present, Referral by Dept. of State (FOIA/PA-2002-0380)

Nuclear power program of India, 1985 to present, Referral by Dept. of State (FOIA/PA-2002-0381)

Sylvania Corning Nuclear Corp. (SYLCOR), contract issued by AEC to produce uranium fuel, between 1952 and 1966; nuclear materials licenses SM-57 and SM-82, issued to SYLCOR, Sylvania Electric, or Corning (FOIA/PA-2002-0382)

IMPAC listing (FOIA/PA-2002-0383)

FOIA Request FOIA/PA-2002-0353 (FOIA/PA-2002-0384)

Baltimore tunnel fire of 7-18-01, all reports, correspondence, etc. of NRC staff and/or its contractors that discuss the temperature and duration of the fire (FOIA/PA-2002-0385)

ERDA and Washington Public Power System (WPPSS), contracts and leases, AT(45-1)-2416 and AT(45-1)-2269 (FOIA/PA-2002-0386)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Arrivals		
COLE, Shelly	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
DIXON, John	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
ELLIS, Renee	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
GEORGE, Teri	SECRETARY	RII
JONES, David	PROJECT ENGINEER	RII
LEE, Chia-Ling	SECRETARY	RES
MARSHFIELD, Mark	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RI
McCARVER, Samuel	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
QUINONES-GONZALEZ, Jose	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
SMITH, Crystal	SECRETARY (0A) SPAC	HR/CSU
ROSALES BUSH, Cindy	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST	OIP
WILLIAMS, Herman	RECORDS MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN	RIV
ZIGH, Abdel	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
Departures		
BAKHSH, Sarah*	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
ENGEL, Debra	SENIOR ATTORNEY	OGC
FU, Jennifer	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
HARDESTY, Kelly	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
IJAZ, Sairah	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
JOYCE, Regina	IT SPECIALIST	NMSS
KLEIN, Gabriel	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
KLETT, Audrey	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
LANYI, David	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RII
O'NEIL, Martin**	ATTORNEY	OGC
REITER, Michael	STUDENT CLERK	OI/RIII

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SMITH, Katherine	STUDENT ENGINEER	RI
STEVENS, Matthew***	STUDENT SOCIAL SCIENTIST	OIP
SULLIVAN, Margaret	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
WOLCHANSKY, Jennifer	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
WU, Michelle	STUDENT CLERK	HR

*Effective 8/26/02

**Effective 8/19/02

***Effective 7/26/02

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of State and Tribal Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Meeting with National Environmental Policy Act Task Force

On August 23, 2002, staff from the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the General Counsel, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and State and Tribal Programs met with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Task Force Members. The NEPA Task Force includes members from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the NEPA Task Force is to seek ways to improve and modernize NEPA analyses and documentation and foster improved coordination among all levels of government and the public. In addition, the Task Force is soliciting examples of effective NEPA implementation practices to develop a publication of case studies including examples of best practices (see 67 FR 45510).

The discussion was focused on the following areas: (1) information management and security; (2) interagency collaboration; (3) programmatic analyses; (4) adaptive management and monitoring; (5) developing categorical exclusions; and (6) structuring and documenting environmental assessments.

The Task Force will forward additional requests of information to STP for coordination of responses.

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Media Interest

There was media interest in the public meetings held in Region III for problems and repairs at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-092	NRC Announces the Availability of License Renewal Application for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
02-093	NRC Amending Rules on How Licensees, Applicants and Members of Public May Submit Documents Electronically
02-094	NRC Orders Enhanced Security for Enriched Uranium Fuel Fabricators
02-095	NRC Develops Threat Advisory and Protective Measures System Based on Office of Homeland Security Color-Coded System
Regions:	
I-02-052	Pre-Hearing Conference Scheduled on IP2 License Amendment Request
I-02-053	NRC Staff to Meet with Exelon to Discuss Two Preliminary Inspection Findings at Peach Bottom
I-02-054	NRC Issues Finding of Low to Moderate Safety Significance To Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
I-02-055	Pre-hearing Conference on IP2 License Amendment Is Canceled

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM on 01-0112	08/20/02	National Materials Program: Transmittal of the Final Working Group Report Presenting Options for a National Materials Program
Voting Record on 01-0112	08/20/02	(same)
2. SECY-02-0107	6/18/02	Addendum to SECY-02-0074: "National Materials Program: Pilot Projects"
SRM on 02-0107	08/20/02	(same)
Voting Record on 02-0107	08/20/02	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0155	8/15/02	SECY-02-0155 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 9, 2002

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Subcommittee on Fire Protection - Notice of Meeting.
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena - Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment - Notice of Meeting.
4. ACNW Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
5. ACRS Meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Factors - Notice of Meeting.
6. ACRS Meeting of Subcommittee on Plant Operations - Notice of Meeting.
7. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
8. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - Meeting Notice.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Maine Yankee Fuel Transfer to ISFSI

On August 24, 2002, Maine Yankee, with assistance from its contractor NAC International, completed the transfer of the first spent fuel canisters for storage at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). Maine Yankee is using NAC International's NAC UMS Transportable Storage Canister (TSC). After loading the TSC with spent fuel, a shield lid is welded on, the canister is pressure tested, dewatered, and vacuum dried, the canister is back-filled with helium, the vent and drain ports are sealed, the canister is leak tested, and a structural lid is welded onto the canister. The TSC is then placed into a vertical concrete cask (VCC) and transferred to a concrete pad for storage at the ISFSI. The transfer of the remaining canisters of spent fuel to the ISFSI is expected to take approximately one year.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie and Turkey Point Site Visits

On August 19-20, 2002, the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant in Jensen Beach, FL and the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant in Florida City, FL. The visit include a tour of the material condition of the nuclear facility, discussion of current issues, and feed back on the reactor oversight program with licensee management and the NRC, resident inspectors.

Region II Meetings with Licensing and Plant Managers

On August 21, 2002, the Regional Administrator and regional managers participated in a counterpart meeting with Licensing Managers from all the Region II nuclear power plants. On August 23, 2002, the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, participated in a meeting of all the plant managers from the nuclear facilities in Region II. The purpose of both these meetings was to discuss current NRC issues, answer questions about the regional reactor inspection and operator licensing programs, and discuss recent activities in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Open Public Meeting On Sequoyah ISFSI Construction

On August 20, 2002, representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were in the Region II office to attend an open public meeting to discuss the Sequoyah Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation construction schedule.

Combined Federal Campaign Leadership Kickoff

On August 20, 2002, the Director, Division of Resource Management and Administration, participated in the Combined Federal Campaign Leadership Kickoff meeting for the Atlanta area Campaign. The meeting included a talk on giving by the Founder of the Chick *Fil-A* restaurant corporation.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Unusual Event

On August 21, 2002, the licensee reported a Notice of Unusual Event at the Unit 1 Farley reactor facility, based on an arc flash and flame on a service water pump motor. The Event is described further in a Preliminary Notification (PNO-II-02-031). Region II on site inspectors responded to the Event and followed the licensee's response actions. The fire was terminated upon tripping of the pump breaker and the licensee terminated the Notice. Region II notified the State of Alabama of the Notice and Preliminary Notification.

Duke Energy Corporation - McGuire Nuclear Reactor Site

On August 19-20, 2002, three members of the French regulatory agency visited the McGuire site accompanied by a manager from the regional office. The visit included a tour of the facility and

discussions with licensee managers and NRC resident inspectors in areas such as radiation protection, outage preparations, ALARA planning, and the role of the resident inspector in observing the adequacy of the licensee's radiation protection program.

On August 22, 2002, the licensee reported a Notice of Unusual Event for the Unit 2 reactor facility, based on a fire in the hydrogen cooling system for the main generator. The fire was generated when a plug on the cooling system piping, located near the system dryer in the turbine building, was released after being tightened by a technician. The fire was extinguished after several minutes by actions of onsite responders. Licensee reactor operators manually tripped the reactor unit. Region II resident inspectors responded to the Event and followed up on the licensee's corrective actions. Further details of the Event are in a Preliminary Notification (PNO-II-02-032).

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 23, 2002

Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant (Decommissioning) Sacramento Municipal Utility District,
Docket 72-11;50-312

COMPLETION OF TRANSFER OF SPENT FUEL TO DRY STORAGE: On August 21, 2002, the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant placed the last of its spent fuel assemblies into dry storage in their Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The reactor was shutdown in June 1989 and is currently undergoing decommissioning. The ISFSI is a facility adjacent to the Rancho Seco reactor site and consists of 21 NUHOMS® concrete horizontal storage modules. In April 2001, Rancho Seco began the process of loading spent fuel into casks for storage at the ISFSI. All spent fuel assemblies have been removed from wet storage in the reactor's spent fuel pool and are now in dry storage in stainless steel canisters loaded into concrete vaults.

Omaha Public Power District Management Visit to Region IV Office

On August 21, 2002, Fort Calhoun Management visited the Region IV Offices to introduce several new managers and discuss general plant issues with the Regional Administrator. The issues discussed included 2001/2002 successes, current initiatives, 2002 refueling outage and performance goals.

Cooper 95003 Exit

On August 22, 2002, NRC Region IV conducted a public exit meeting with the Nebraska Public Power District President and Cooper Nuclear Station staff to discuss the results of the 95003 supplemental inspection. The meeting was attended by approximately 80 people including one television station and five newspaper and radio people. In addition, five Nebraska Public Power District Board members attended the meeting.