

February 27, 2003

SECY-03-0029

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0029 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 2003

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*No input this week.

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Briefing of Representative Nita Lowey Staff

On February 19, 2003, Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff met with Ari Selman of Representative Nita Lowey's staff to discuss Indian Point nuclear security and emergency preparedness issues. Nuclear Security and Incident Response and Region I staff joined via teleconference.

Issues discussed included various security and emergency preparedness issues such as the resumption of force-on-force exercises, physical fitness and training requirements for security guards, and evacuation time estimates.

February 21, 2003

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

License Application Received from U.S. Enrichment Corporation

On February 12, 2002, NRC received a license application, from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC), to construct, and operate for 5 years, a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment test and demonstration facility (Lead Cascade). The proposed facility will be based on Department of Energy (DOE) advanced gas centrifuge technology. USEC plans to assemble and operate the Lead Cascade in an existing DOE gas centrifuge building located at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. The Lead Cascade, which will consist of up to 240 centrifuges, will provide USEC with reliability information on the machines and auxiliary systems, as they would be used in commercial operations. USEC is expected to submit a license application for its commercial-scale facility in late 2004 or early 2005.

Staff Meets with Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority

On February 12, 2003, NRC held a meeting, open to the public, with the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority (KVVWPCA), BWXT, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), to discuss remediation of the contaminated lagoon at the KVVWPCA site. A reporter from the Valley News Dispatch also participated by telephone. Much of the discussion focused on options for meeting the unrestricted release criteria under the License Termination Rule, including the option of demonstrating that the contaminated lagoon already meets the criteria, in its present configuration. NRC staff focused on what KVVWPCA needs to do to meet NRC criteria. KVVWPCA and PADEP would have to discuss any non-radiological considerations. NRC staff emphasized the importance of KVVWPCA submitting a decommissioning plan (DP) and explained how submittal of the DP would be noticed and how the DP would be reviewed. In response, KVVWPCA committed to submit a schedule, by March 12, 2003, for the development of its DP.

Prospective Sale of Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation to Tetra Tech, Inc.

On February 18, 2003, Tetra Tech, Inc., issued a press release announcing its intent to purchase Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) from its parent company, Foster Wheeler, Ltd. According to the press release, the companies have reached a definitive agreement on the purchase, with the transaction expected to close by the end of March 2003.

NRC is currently reviewing an application submitted by FWENC for a 10 CFR Part 72 license for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel facility. The application was submitted in November 2001, under a contract with the Department of Energy. The staff will assess the impact of the proposed sale of FWENC on the pending application. At a minimum, revised financial assurance information will need to be submitted after the sale.

Inspection of Spent Fuel Dry Storage and Transportation Cask Fabrication Activities in Japan

From January 27 to February 7, 2003, an inspection team from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) performed an inspection of selected fabrication activities for spent fuel dry storage and

transportation casks being manufactured in Japan for use in the U.S. The team examined the activities at two fabrication sites, Hitachi Zosen Diesel and Engineering Company, Ltd., in Ariake, and Kobe Steel, Ltd., in Takasago. The team found the construction quality to be excellent and the licensee and certificate holder oversight adequate. The team identified some areas requiring corrective action and will recommend appropriate action to SFPO management. The team plans to issue two formal inspection reports, one to each certificate of compliance holder in late March 2003.

February 21, 2003

ENCLOSURE B

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-03-007, Southeast Missouri State University - OCCUPATIONAL OVEREXPOSURE.
2. PNO-III-03-008, University of Iowa - BRACHYTHERAPY MEDICAL EVENT.
3. PNO-IV-03-010, Engineering Consulting Services, LTD - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-IV-03-011, Longview Inspection - OCCUPATIONAL DOES IN EXCESS OF LIMIT.
5. PNO-III-03-010, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station - FUEL LOADING.
6. PNO-III-02-038A, Anderson Engineering, Inc. - RECOVERY OF STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE (UPDATE).

February 21, 2003

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Fuel Solutions Revision (Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the Fuel Solutions cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on February 21, 2003 (68 FR 8445). This action modifies the technical specifications for the cask system to permit the return of the W-21 canister to the storage cask if it must be removed from the storage cask. The direct final rule becomes effective May 7, 2003.

Contract Award

Contract No. NRC-07-03-399 was awarded on a competitive basis to ICF Consulting, Inc. on February 20, 2003. The objective of this contract is to obtain technical support for the integration of access authorization and fitness-for-duty rulemaking efforts. The contract has a three-year period of performance (February 20, 2003 through February 20, 2006) with two one-year options. The total contract value, to include options, is \$2,065,664. The streamlining initiative utilized was NRC's synopsis waiver for technical assistance requirements.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of February 14 through February 20, 2003:

Material License Tracking System, active and retired sites (FOIA/PA-2003-0169)

Hanford Site, proposed shipment of Transuranic Waste, all documents, referral by Department of Energy (FOIA/PA-2003-0170)

IG Report 02-451, "Allegations of Unlawful Interaction between NRC & the Department of Energy Staffs Regarding Yucca Mountain (FOIA/PA-2003-0171)

Senior Reactor Operator exam (50-339/2002-301) and licensing (SOP-21732), all records on self, correspondence between NRC and Virginia Power - North Anna (FOIA/PA-2003-0172)

W-2 for 1993 on self (FOIA/PA-2003-0173)

Unspecified FOIA request; UFO information (FOIA/PA-2003-0174)

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Departures		
BIRMINGHAM, Peter	INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST	NSIR
FRANCIS, Joseph	STUDENT IT TRAINEE	RI
NUBGAARD, Rod	BRANCH CHIEF	OCFO
SPRING, Steven	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG

February 21, 2003

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Media Interest

Press reporting continued to focus on Davis-Besse, including complaints of a whistle blower. Region III informed media of "white findings" regarding contamination and radiation exposure violations at Davis-Besse.

Other inquiries were about the Clinton/Markey proposal for tracking radioactive materials, plant security, missing moisture density gauges, dirty bombs and emergency preparedness.

Region I Public Affairs supported the Regional Administrator at Representative Engel's meeting in New York with local officials about emergency preparedness in the counties surrounding Indian Point.

Japanese NHK TV interviewed the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and filmed the Technical Library and Technical Training Center for a program to air next month in Japan.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-23	NRC Announces Opportunity for Comment on Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Proposals
Regions:	
I-03-008	NRC Hearing Scheduled in Connecticut for Haddam Neck Nuclear Power Plant License Termination Plan
IV-03-03	NRC Proposes \$6,000 Fine for Cooper heat-MQS Inc.

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Visit of Nuclear Counselor, Embassy of France

On February 13, 2003, the Director of the Office of International Programs met with Regis Babinet, Nuclear Counselor of the Embassy of France, Mr. Babinet requested the meeting to obtain NRC's views on the French proposal relating to convening an international convention and registry of radioactive sources. The proposal was discussed in light of other related activities such as the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Conduct.

February 21, 2003

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0015	01/31/03	Annual Report on Commission Adjudication
Memoranda		
1. SRM-M030211	02/21/03	Briefing on the Status of OCFO Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Honorable Cari M. Dominguez, Chairwoman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, dated February 14, 2003, provides NRC's "Annual Affirmative Employment Program Accomplishment Report" for Fiscal Year 2002.
2. Letter to Robert R. Loux, Agency for Nuclear Projects, Office of the Governor, State of Nevada, dated February 13, 2003, concerns testing of spent nuclear fuel casks.
3. Letter to Robert W. Bishop, Esq, Vice President and General Counsel, Nuclear Energy Institute, dated February 10, 2003, concerns NRC's voluntary implementation of Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations.
4. Letter to the Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of Utah, dated February 10, 2003, responds to request that the NRC and the State of Utah establish an amended Agreement pursuant to section 274b of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

NRC Meeting with Elected Officials Regarding Indian Point

At the request of New York Congressman Eliot Engel, on February 21, 2003, the Region I Regional Administrator met with Congressman Engel and numerous elected officials from the area around the Indian Point site. The meeting was held at Mercy College in Westchester County, New York. In addition to Congressman Engel, participants included Congresswoman Nita Lowey, State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, State Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, and more than 20 other local elected officials and staff. Local elected officials expressed their dissatisfaction with emergency planning for the Indian Point site, and advocated a more effective response to their concerns from the federal government.

Quarterly Presentation Before Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee

On February 19, 2003, Region I staff attended the Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) meeting regarding the Connecticut Yankee (CY) facility in Haddam Neck, Connecticut. The Region I staff provided a summary of NRC inspection findings from the last quarter, and an overview of current inspection plans. Approximately twenty-five people attended the meeting, including members of CDAC, the licensee and the public.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 21, 2003

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Health Meeting

On February 18, 2003, the Regional Administrator, and the Chief, Materials Licensing/Inspection Branch, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety met with the Secretary and Sub-Secretary of Health and the Radiological Health Program Director at the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of Health in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Florida Power and Light Company - Turkey Point Emergency Exercise

On February 19, 2003, the Region II office participated in the Turkey Point Emergency Exercise with a full Base Team and Site Team. The Deputy Regional Administrator, was the Site Team Leader; the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, was the Deputy Site Team Leader and the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, was the Base Team Manager. Headquarters staff participation included Commissioner Dicus as the Exercise Team Director and the Director, Division of Incident Response Operations, as the Executive Team Director. The Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the exercise, involving officials of the State of Florida and the applicable local governments.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. Meeting

On February 20-21, 2003, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety met with licensee management and the resident inspector at Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, TN., and toured the facility.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 5

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	02/25/03 SD-366	10:00	Secretary Abraham	FY04 Budget: Energy Department	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Madden/ McDermott	02/25/03 2167 RHOB	2:00	FEMA, Hub Miller, and others	Emergency Preparedness Plan at Indian Point Nuclear Plant	Reps. LaTourette/Norton Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Transportation & Infrastructure
Madden/ McDermott	03/10/03 <i>Tentative</i>	TBA	TBA	Indian Point	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform