

INFORMATION REPORT

September 25, 2003

SECY-03-0166

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0166 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) Board Approves Contract for Support Services from Entergy Nuclear Nebraska

On September 12, 2003, the NPPD board approved a 10-year contract hiring Entergy Nuclear Nebraska, a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, of Jackson, MS, to supply support services for Cooper Nuclear Station. NPPD will continue to own, be sole operator, and retain the operating license of Cooper. Entergy personnel will fill certain key management positions and provide daily oversight and direction for plant operations. The Chief Nuclear Officer will be an Entergy employee, but will report directly to Mr. Bill Fehrman, NPPD President and Chief Executive Officer. Most of the workers at Cooper will remain NPPD employees.

Extended Power Uprate Application For Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

On September 10, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., the licensees for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station submitted an application for a 20% extended power uprate (EPU). This EPU would increase the maximum authorized power level from 1593 megawatts thermal (Mwt) to 1912 Mwt or about 110 megawatts electric. The licensee plans to make plant modifications during the Spring 2004 refueling outage that will allow for a power uprate of approximately 15%. The licensee has requested a license amendment by July 2004.

Exelon Early Site Permit Application

By letter dated September 8, 2003, Exelon Generation Company, LLC informed the NRC that it has finalized the scope of work necessary to complete the seismic portions of its early site permit (ESP) application and anticipates submitting the application to the NRC on or before October 17, 2003. This letter is a follow up to a June 27, 2003, letter in which Exelon advised the NRC that it would not be submitting its ESP application on the original schedule because it was still refining the scope of work necessary to provide the seismic-related information.

Publication of Amendment to Section 50.44

On September 16, 2003, the final risk-informed amendments to the regulations for combustible gases in containment were published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 54123). The revised regulations become effective on October 16, 2003. Specifically, the amendment to 50.44 eliminates the requirements for hydrogen recombiners and hydrogen purge systems in current light water reactors and relaxes the design and qualification requirements for hydrogen and oxygen monitoring equipment commensurate with the equipment's low risk significance. It also specifies requirements for combustible gas control in future water-cooled and non-water-cooled reactors. The NRC staff has developed corresponding changes to the standard technical specifications which will soon be published in the *Federal Register* as Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) 447, Rev. 1, "Elimination of Hydrogen Recombiners and Change to Hydrogen and Oxygen Monitors" along with a model safety evaluation under the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Program. Licensees may submit license amendments in accordance

with this guidance. Currently licensed plants will be allowed to eliminate technical specification requirements for hydrogen and oxygen monitors, but Mark I and Mark II BWRs will retain the monitoring requirement to maintain containment oxygen levels below 4% (i.e., inerted). A revised regulatory guide (RG 1.7, Rev. 3) containing guidance for meeting the new rule and a revised Section 6.2.5 of the Standard Review Plan will also be published in the near future.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) and Davis Besse Lessons-Learned Overviews to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB)

On September 10, 2003, NRR staff provided overviews of the Reactor Oversight Process and the Davis Besse Lessons-Learned report in a public meeting to the DNFSB. The DNFSB is interested in the NRC's oversight processes because the oversight policy of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration is being re-examined to allow greater flexibility for contractor self-assessments.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Hunt Valve Bulletin Issued

On September 4, 2003, staff issued Bulletin 2003-03, "Potentially Defective 1-inch Valves for Uranium Hexafluoride Cylinders," dated August 29, 2003, to notify stakeholders of potential operational problems of the Hunt valves. The subject valves have been widely used in the domestic nuclear fuel industry on cylinders for processing, storing, and transporting UF₆. A public meeting was held at Headquarters on September 16, 2003, to discuss the concerns the Bulletin addressed and the actions it requested. The Bulletin requested affected licensees, certificate holders, and registered users to identify Hunt valves in their possession and take certain actions to assure that the 1-inch valves they use meet established safety requirements, without reliance on documentation provided by the Hunt Valve company. The public meeting was attended mainly by affected users and key NRC staff. A representative from the Department of Transportation also attended and helped answer some questions from the audience. Staff is developing a Temporary Instruction that will provide guidance related to the bulletin.

Mixed-Oxide Meeting with Duke, Cogema, Stone and Webster

On September 11, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) staff met with Duke, Cogema, Stone and Webster (DCS) to discuss nuclear criticality safety (NCS) validation issues related to NCS Open Item 4 for the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. DCS has decided to change its approach for validating its criticality safety computer code. DCS stated that it no longer intended to use the Oak Ridge National Laboratory sensitivity uncertainty approach and, instead, would rely on a traditional approach. The proposed methodology was presented and discussed. FCSS staff gave DCS its initial assessment of the proposed traditional approach and areas of concern. DCS will provide a revision to the Validation Report incorporating this new methodology and taking into consideration the staff's areas of concern.

Staff Participation in Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols Workgroup Meeting

On September 15-17, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff participated in a Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) workgroup meeting, which was held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, Maryland. Also attending this meeting were representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, NIST, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The purpose of MARLAP is to provide a framework and guidance on radio-analytical laboratory data and protocols, using a performance-based approach to meet projects or program data requirement needs. The workgroup conducted a final revision of MARLAP Chapters, based on public comments and EPA's Science Advisory Board feedback. The workgroup also discussed MARLAP's publication and training needs. The workgroup plans to issue the final version of MARLAP's document by early 2004.

Publication of the Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance (NUREG-1757)

As part of its redesign of the materials license program, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) has completed the consolidation of numerous decommissioning guidance documents into a three-volume NUREG report, NUREG-1757, "Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance." NUREG-1757 provides guidance for planning and implementing license termination under the License Termination Rule (10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E), and it also incorporates the risk-informed and performance-based alternatives of the rule. The three volumes address the following topics: *Decommissioning Process for Materials Licensees* (Volume 1, Revision 1); *Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria* (Volume 2, Final); and *Financial Assurance, Recordkeeping, and Timeliness* (Volume 3, Final). This NUREG is intended for licensees and other stakeholders usage. The three volumes have been published and are now available (in print and on the web at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1757/>).

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ENCLOSURE B

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-03-037, Honeywell International, Inc. - RELEASE OF NON-LICENSED GASEOUS MATERIAL.
2. PNO-III-03-038, U.S. Inspection Services - RADIATION OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER.
3. PNO-II-03-018, ABB, Inc. (General Licensee) - MISSING SEALED SOURCE.
4. PNO-IV-03-040A, Northridge Hospital - UPDATE - HIGH DOSE RATE AFTERLOADER EQUIPMENT FAILURE.
5. PNO-I-03-027, Exelon Nuclear - DUAL UNIT REACTOR SCRAM DUE TO ELECTRICAL GRID DISTURBANCE.
6. PNO-I-03-028, Edgewater Manor Apartments - MISSING TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS.
7. PNO-IV-03-041, Utah Valley Regional Medical Center - MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
8. PNO-II-03-19, Carolina Power and Light Company - REGION II RESPONSE TO HURRICANE ISABEL.
9. PNO-11-03-19A, Carolina Power and Light Company - UPDATE ON REGION II RESPONSE TO HURRICANE ISABEL.
10. PNO-III-03-039, Chicago Prostate Cancer Center - LOST IODINE - 125 SEED STRAND.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Geological and Seismological Characteristics for Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations; (AG93-Part 72)

On September 16, 2003, a final rule on the subject title was published in the Federal Register (68 FR 54143). The rule amends the licensing requirements for dry cask modes of storage of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and power reactor-related Greater than Class C waste on an independent spent fuel storage installation or in a monitored retrievable storage installation. The amendments update the seismic siting and design criteria including geologic, seismic, and earthquake considerations. The final rule becomes effective October 16, 2003.

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ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
September 12 through September 18, 2003:

I.M.P.A.C. Listing	FOIA/PA-2003-0435
Security files on named individual - Referral by the Department of Energy	FOIA/PA-2003-0436
Personnel records regarding Nuclear Safety Intern position	FOIA/PA-2003-0437
Lifetime Occupational Exposure History	FOIA/PA-2003-0438
Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, Final Accident Sequence Precursor Analysis of August 2000 Operational Event, complete report	FOIA/PA-2003-0439
OIG Investigations closed from 1-1-02	FOIA/PA-2003-0440

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Arrivals		
ANDREWS, Susan	SECRETARY (OA)	RII
BUCKLEY, Michael	SECURITY RISK ANALYST	NSIR
CROSS, Sherri	SR. TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS ANALYST	NSIR
FARRINGTON, John	ATTORNEY	OGC
FORD, Rhonda	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST (BENEFITS)	OHR
GARRETT, Albert	SR. SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
HEISSERER, Jamie	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NSIR
JOHNS, Nancy	SR. HR POLICY & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	OHR
KRISTOBEK, Richard	IT SPECIALIST	NMSS
ROTTEN, Sietze	NUCLEAR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NSIR
Retirements		
BERRY, Carolyn	TEAM LEADER	OCFO
SCHNEIDER, George	REACTOR TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR	OHR
Departures		
PRIBLE, Amy	STUDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST	OEDO
SNYDER, Debra	SECRETARY (OA)	RII
YOUNGMAN, Kim	STUDENT ENGINEER (Co-op)	RI

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Media Interest

NRC's preparations for Hurricane Isabel as it bore down on the Mid-Atlantic region and the disruption the storm caused to some nuclear power plants.

Criticisms by a government watchdog group that the force-on-force exercise at Indian Point power plant in July was too easy and did not reflect a realistic terrorist threat scenario.

Continued local opposition to a commercial irradiator to be located in Bucks County, PA, as residents file suit to block the facility. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is considering whether to stay the NRC's approval of a license for the facility.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-117	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet September 23-24 in Rockville, Maryland (9/15)
03-118	NRC Annual Nuclear Safety Research Conference to be Held October 20-22 in Washington, D.C. (9/16)
03-119	NRC Announces the Availability of License Renewal Application for Farley Nuclear Power Plant (9/17)
Regions:	
I-03-53	NRC Region 1 Monitors Hurricane Isabel (9/18)
II-03-044	NRC Staff Proposes \$7,500 Civil Penalty Against Virginia Company for Violations of NRC Radioactive Material Controls Requirements (9/16)
II-03-045	NRC Region 2 Office in Atlanta Implements Hurricane Response Procedure (9/17)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0149	8/26/03	Proposed Amendment to the Charter of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes
SRM on SECY-03-0149	9/16/03	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-03-0149	9/16/03	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0159	9/11/03	SECY-03-0159 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 5, 2003

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated September 12, 2003, provides July report on status of NRC licensing and regulatory duties.
2. Letter to Dr. Henry D. Royal, President, Society of Nuclear Medicine, and Dr. Simin Dadparvar, President, American College of Nuclear Physicians, provides expressed concerns about dose reconstructions that NRC performed.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Revised Notice of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Meeting - September 23-24, 2003.
2. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Presentation at the Bloomfield, New Jersey Township Council Meeting

On September 15, 2003, management and staff from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety (DNMS) attended a Township Council meeting in Bloomfield, N.J., chaired by the Mayor of Bloomfield. The staff made a presentation on the Viacom, Inc., site in the township. That presentation included a general description of the role of the NRC; a discussion of the company's remediation and final survey methods; the Region's inspection and confirmatory survey activities; and the license termination process. The Viacom site included eleven buildings with nearly a million square feet of floor space on a 14-acre site. Building surfaces and soil had been contaminated with thorium and uranium from past lamp manufacturing and Manhattan Engineering District activities. Termination of the license will release the site for unrestricted use. About 40 people attended, including elected officials, media and members of the public. Township officials indicated they appreciated the Region's efforts at the meeting.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Region II Licensing Counterpart Meeting with Licensees

On September 17, 2003, the Regional Administrator attended the Region II Licensing Counterpart Meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Brunswick Nuclear Plant Operator License Certification Presentation

On September 16, 2003, the Acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects, attended the Brunswick Operator Licensing Certification presentation and performed a site tour in Wilmington, NC.

Entergy Operations, Inc. - Grand Gulf Exercise

On September 17, 2003, the State Liaison Officer participated in the full scale Grand Gulf exercise as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee, in Jackson, MS. This exercise involved officials of the States of Mississippi and Louisiana and the respective local governments.

Fuel Facility Inspection Counterpart Meeting

On September 17-18, 2003, staff from Regions II, RIII, RIV, NMSS, and NSIR participated in a Fuel Facility Inspection Counterpart Meeting as part of consolidating inspections in Region II. Discussions included introductions to the design and operation of each facility, processes to be used for implementation of the inspection program, and establishment of routine communication methods.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V. C. Summer Nuclear Station Outage Meeting

On September 18, 2003, representatives from South Carolina Electric and Gas Company attended a management meeting in the Regional office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss major activities for the upcoming V. C. Summer nuclear station refueling outage, current issues, and management changes.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River Nuclear Plant

On September 19, 2003, representatives from Florida Power Corporation were in the Regional office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss general plant performance and status at the Crystal River Nuclear Plant in Crystal River, FL.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 2003

Meeting on Byron Exceeding its Licensed Thermal Power Limits

On September 18, 2003, members of the Region III staff met in the regional office with representatives of Exelon Generation Company to discuss the facts surrounding the August 29, 2003 event notification that Byron Station may have exceeded its licensed thermal power limits.

September 19, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 19, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 31

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	09/24/03 342 Dirksen	9:30	Mikulski, Feinstein, NARFE, SSA	Pension and Retirement Benefits for Government Workers	Senators Collins/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Combs	09/25/03 2123 RHOB	TBA	NRC, DOE, Bechtel, NEI	Review of the Progress of DOE's Yucca Mountain Project	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Keeling	09/30/03 2322 RHOB	2:00	TBA <i>Hearing May Be Closed</i>	Nuclear Terrorism Prevention: Fedl Govt's Progress Toward Installing Radiation Detection Monitors at U.S. Ports & Borders	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Keeling	10/01/03 2247 RHOB	1:00	TBA <i>Closed</i>	Security of the national SCADA systems	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology Policy, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census Government Reform