

INFORMATION REPORT

August 11, 2004

SECY-04-0146

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0146 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 6, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Management Changes at Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

On July 29, 2004, TVA announced that Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Manager Michael D. Skaggs has assumed the position of BFN Site Vice President, and BFN Assistant Plant Manager Kurt Krueger has assumed the position of plant manager as Skaggs's replacement.

Mr. Skaggs joined TVA in 1994 as a Senior Project Manager at Watts Bar and while at that site, he held several other positions. Before joining TVA he worked for TU Electric. Mr. Krueger, who has experience in commercial and military nuclear power, was named BFN Assistant Plant Manager in October 2003. He came to TVA from a 13-year career with PSEG Nuclear where he served as Operations Manager at Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek) and Site Outage Manager for Hope Creek and Salem Generating Stations.

In addition, another change was made in the corporate organization through the creation of a new department that includes both Nuclear Assurance and Licensing. Mr. John Fornicola was selected to head this department. Mr. Fornicola has 20 years of management experience with GPU Nuclear, 6 years in the U. S. Nuclear Navy, and 4 years as a management consultant to the nuclear industry. The TVA site licensing managers at BFN, Sequoyah, and Watts Bar will report to Mr. Fornicola.

Issuance of NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2004-13: Consideration of Sheltering in Licensee's Range of Protective Action Recommendations, Dated August 2, 2004

On August 2, 2004, the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff issued the subject Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS). NRC staff review revealed that some licensees had addressed sheltering inconsistently in their emergency plan, implementing procedures, and notification forms. This RIS is intended to clarify the regulatory requirement that licensees develop a range of protective actions that includes sheltering for the public in the plume exposure pathway emergency planning zone. This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of addressees.

NRC Information Notice (IN) 2004-16: Tube Leakage Due to a Fabrication Flaw in a Replacement Steam Generator

On August 3, 2004, the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff issued the subject Information Notice (IN). This IN was sent to all operating PWRs to inform them about recent operating experience with replacement steam generators. In particular, the IN addressed the potential for tubes to be damaged during fabrication and packaging. The NRC anticipates that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider taking actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar issues. However, no specific action or written response is required.

Point Beach Nuclear Plant License Renewal Reactor Vessel Integrity Evaluations

On August 3, 2004, the staff held a public meeting with Nuclear Management Company (NMC) representatives from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, to discuss the applicant's revised reactor pressure vessel integrity evaluations for license renewal. The focus of the meeting was on the applicant's pressurized thermal shock (PTS) analysis.

Point Beach was one of three plants discussed in a May 27, 2004, Executive Director for Operations (EDO) memorandum to the Chairman, entitled, "Pressurized Thermal Shock Analyses for Renewal of Certain Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses." NMC has decided, consistent with the staff recommendation in the memorandum, to submit an evaluation of the Point Beach, Unit 2, vessel in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.61, indicating when the vessel is projected to exceed the PTS screening criteria, a discussion of the applicant's intent with regard to neutron flux reduction, and an identification of viable options for managing this issue in the future. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.61, NMC will submit details of the specific option selected for NRC approval at least 3 years prior to exceeding the PTS screening criteria. The NRC staff's license renewal safety evaluation would rely on continued compliance with 10 CFR 50.61 to address PTS during the period of extended operation. NMC planned to submit their revised reactor pressure vessel integrity evaluations for staff review by the end of August.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Meetings of Committees of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine

From July 24-28, 2004, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety represented NRC, as liaison, at meetings of several committees during the annual meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The committee meetings at which NRC was represented included Government and Regulatory Affairs, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Protection, and Radiation Therapy. The principal topic discussed by staff at all of the meetings was NRC's revision of the training and experience requirements in 10 CFR Part 35.

International Atomic Energy Agency Consultants' Meeting on Safety Assessment

From July 26-30, 2004, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety staff attended an International Atomic Energy Agency Consultants' Meeting for Development of a Safety Requirements Document on Safety Assessment in Vienna, Austria. The objective of the safety requirements document is to produce a set of consistent requirements for a range of fuel cycle activities. These would provide a "thematic" standard to link the type, scope, and depth of safety assessment necessary for the different stages of the licensing process. The purpose of this initial meeting was to develop the structure, content, and underlying principles of the document.

Pre-Application Meeting with Department of Energy to Discuss a New Highly Enriched Uranium Transportation Package

On August 2, 2004, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and the Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Nuclear Security Administration met to discuss the design of the Model No. ES-3100 transportation package, which is a new package for the shipment of highly enriched uranium. The Model ES-3100 is being designed to replace the Department of Transportation Specification 6-M package, which will no longer be authorized for use after October 1, 2008. However, DOE intends to eliminate the use of the 6-M package by January 2006; it plans to submit the Model ES-3100 Safety Analysis Report to NRC for review and approval in October 2004.

Holtec International HI-STORM 100 Certificate of Compliance Amendment 2 Design Review

On August 4, 2004, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with Holtec International (Holtec) to discuss the remaining technical issues identified by the staff during the review of the Amendment 2 application for the HI-STORM 100 spent fuel storage system. The staff presented its principal concerns regarding the thermal analyses and methodologies employed by Holtec and responded to a number of questions from the applicant. Based on these concerns, the staff is closing its review of the existing application. Holtec indicated that it would withdraw those portions of the application (relevant to the thermal analyses) that it believed were preventing the staff from approving the amendment request, and would re-submit the application by the end of next week.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

NRC Staff Workshop with the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA) in Beijing, China

During the week of July 26, 2004, the NRC staff presented a four day workshop on AP1000 Design Certification to the Chinese National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA). The workshop was attended by an audience of approximately 75 engineers and regulators, including representatives from Chinese utility operators. The workshop provided a detailed description of specific new reactor passive safety systems, NRC review policies, and issues resolved during the NRC's AP1000 review.

NRC Staff Visit to AECL's Chalk River Laboratories - Meeting on Analysis and Validation of ACR-700 Coolant Void Reactivity

On July 27-29, 2004, RES and NRR staff and contractors met at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL's) Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) to discuss AECL's evolving analysis and experimental validation efforts concerning Advanced CANDU (Canadian Deuterium Uranium) Reactor 700 (ACR-700) coolant void reactivity. AECL presented some preliminary changes and analysis of the fuel design. During this trip the staff gathered detailed information needed for evaluating the applicability and adequacy of the existing and planned database of benchmark experiments identified by AECL. This database included past experiment results from facilities in Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as AECL's ongoing and planned sets of experiments at CRL's Zero Energy Deuterium 2 (ZED-2) critical facility.

NRC Meetings on Fuel Performance at Framatome ANP in Lynchburg, Virginia

From July 26-28, 2004, NRC staff attended meetings on fuel performance at Framatome ANP in Lynchburg, Virginia. These meetings, held annually, also included representatives from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). Presentations dealt with recent and anticipated Framatome fuel design changes, recent Framatome fuel performance experience, and anticipated changes in Framatome safety analysis methodology. The meeting informed NRC staff of operational issues as well as new fuel designs. Following the meetings, Framatome conducted tours of the Lynchburg Technical Training Center and Fuel Fabrication Facility.

Public Meeting on External Events Probabilistic Risk Assessment Standard

On August 4, 2004, RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff held a public meeting to solicit public input on the staff's proposed position on "American National Standard External Events Probabilistic Risk Assessment Methodology," which will be documented in Appendix C to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities." The meeting was attended by representatives from American Nuclear Society (ANS) and other external stakeholders. During the meeting, the ANS and NRC staff discussed and resolved the staff's comments on the draft standard. The staff expects to issue Appendix C to RG 1.200 for formal

public comment by the end August 2004. A follow up public meeting on the standard is planned for November 2004.

Peer Review of Expert Elicitation for LOCA Frequencies

On August 3-4, 2004, RES staff working on the LOCA frequency expert elicitation for 10 CFR 50.46 met with the external peer review team. The external review team is evaluating the processing of the responses from each elicitation panelist, the aggregation of the panelists' responses, and the sensitivity analysis conducted to evaluate alternative methods of processing. The external review team findings will be incorporated into the summary NUREG being prepared which documents the expert elicitation. The external review team provided preliminary findings during the meeting held on August 3 and 4. Final external review team comments will be provided by the end of August.

Publication of Regulatory Guides on the ASME Code Cases

The following draft guides were published in the Federal Register for public comment on August 3, 2004: Draft Regulatory Guide 1.84, Revision 32, (DG-1124, 69 FR 46596), "Design, Fabrication, and Materials Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section III," Draft Regulatory Guide 1.147, Revision 14, (DG-1125, 69 FR 46597), "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1," and Draft Regulatory Guide 1.193, Revision 1, (DG-1126 69 FR 46598), "ASME Code Cases Not Approved for Use." Code cases provide alternatives that were developed and approved by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to existing requirements in the ASME Code. Regulatory Guide 1.84 lists Section III Code cases acceptable to the NRC for application in the design and construction of components and their supports for water-cooled nuclear power plants. Regulatory Guide 1.147 lists Section XI Code cases acceptable to the NRC for use in licensee's inservice inspection programs. Regulatory Guide 1.193 is published to provide to the industry the basis for the NRC disapproval of such Code cases. This information has been used by licensee's to address NRC staff concerns and by the NRC staff in the consideration of relief requests. The information has also been used by ASME technical committees when considering revisions to Code cases. The comment period on these draft guides closes on October 18, 2004.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

NRC Participation in the Amalgam Virgo 04 and Determined Promise 04 Exercises

From August 5-7, 2004, the NRC participated in the Amalgam Virgo 04 and Determined Promise 04 exercises. These exercises are part of large scale interagency exercises coordinated by the North American Aerospace Command (NORAD) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). Staff from Headquarters and Region II took part in the exercise. Two Region II licensees (Surry and Farley) also participated.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements (AH29-Part 50)

On August 2, 2004 (69 FR 46110), the NRC published a document in the Federal Register concerning the availability of the conceptual basis and draft language for a contemplated amendment to the loss-of-coolant accident requirements. The amended regulations would permit power reactor licensees to implement a voluntary risk-informed alternative to the current requirements for analysis of loss-of-coolant accidents and for emergency core cooling systems. The document also announces a public meeting at which stakeholders are invited to inform the NRC of possible nuclear power plant modifications that might be sought under the contemplated rule. The public meeting will be held on August 17, 2004.

Contract Award

On July 30, 2004, a contract was awarded under the 8(a) program to SPS Consulting, LLC of Bethesda, MD for the On-site Administrative/Secretarial Support Services for NRC Headquarters. The period of performance is one year with a one year option period at a total estimated cost of \$2,961,395.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Windows XP Roll-out Status

The official agency wide rollout of Windows XP continues. With the successful initiation started on July 19, 2004, Windows XP upgrades have been completed in the Office of Investigation, Office of Public Affairs, Office of State and Tribal Programs, Office of International Programs, and the Office of Human Resources. The total number of agency workstations migrated to Windows XP is now over 300.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Implementation of Regulatory Task Force Improvement Program Recommendation

By memorandum to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) rulemaking groups and to all agency Information Management Coordinators, OCIO implemented a recommendation contained in the Regulatory Task Force Improvement Program to eliminate the separate Federal Register notice published for the Office of Management and Budget clearance package prepared for proposed rules. Instead, the information previously included in the separate Federal Register notice will be included in the Paperwork Reduction Act Statement in the Statement of Considerations of the rule. This will decrease the cost to publish in the Federal Register and will make the summary information on the rule's burden implications immediately available to the public without the need to reference a separate document. The detailed burden information contained in the supporting statement will continue to be contained in a separate document that will be made available to the public on NRC's Web site.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of July 30 through August 5, 2004:

Three Mile Island Unit 2 Pressure Vessel Investigation Project, findings & conclusions	FOIA/PA-2004-0313
Salem/Hope Creek, work environment issues, all transcripts, notes, summaries, interviews, 10-2003 to 6-2004; allegation review board records, 1-1-1998 to 6-30-2004	FOIA/PA-2004-0314
Computer virus or intrusions at TMI and Peach Bottom, all documents detailing instances	FOIA/PA-2004-0315
Baltimore tunnel fire, all reports, correspondence & communications from 5-8-2003 to present	FOIA/PA-2004-0316
Haddam Neck Plant, decommissioning records, license termination plan, hydrology, decommissioning contract with Bechtel, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0317
ADM-04-423, current contract for janitorial services	FOIA/PA-2004-0318

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ENCLOSURE G

Maine Yankee license amendment request for release of non-Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) land submitted 3-15-04, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0319
Solicitation ADM-04-423, incumbent contractor, abstract of bid & schedule B line item pricing	FOIA/PA-2004-0320
OI Case 3-2001-055, draft & final reports, correspondence, testimony, press releases, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0321
Burnham City Hospital, 407 So. Fourth St., Champaign, IL, licenses, decommissioning reports, inspection reports, etc.	FOIA/PA-2004-0322
Vermont Yankee, William Sherman's letter of 12-8-2003 and NRC response of 6-29-2004, re: power uprate, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0323

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Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 6, 2004

Arrivals		
Michael Chembars	Program Analyst	OCIO
Donald Higgs	Branch Chief	OCIO
Joda Holt	Records Management Analyst	OCIO
Barry W. Miller	Reactor Inspector (NSPDP)	R-II
Joylynn M. Quinones-Navarro	Reactor Inspector (NSPDP)	R-II
John Robbins	Reactor Engineer	R-III
Anne Silk	Secretary (OA)	NRR
Gina Vayavananda	Student IT Specialist (Co-Op)	OCIO
Retirements		
Donald F. Hassell	Assistant GC for Administration	OGC
Marcel R. Harper	Reliability and Risk Engineer	RES
Hubert J. Miller	Regional Administrator	R-I
Departures		
Joseph Adams	Law Clerk	OGC
Gnanasigam Bellarmine	Summer Faculty	NRR
Anna Buseman-Williams	Student Engineer	R-I
Shane Cameron	Student Clerk	R-III
Matthew L. Dennis	Student Engineer	OIG
Christine Noelke	Student Engineer	R-II
Gabriel Taylor	Student Engineer	NRR
Adam Wichman	Student Engineer	R-III

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Media Interest

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

The NRC's announcement that security information would no longer be made public through the Reactor Oversight Process.

The Nuclear Energy Institute's decision to hire Wackenhut to train and operate an "adversary force" for security drills at power plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA provided assistance to NSIR's public meeting on security at NRC headquarters.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-090	NRC to Hold Public Meeting August 17 on Issues Associated with Large Loss-of-Coolant Accidents (8/2)
04-091	NRC Modifies Availability of Security Information for All Nuclear Plants (8/4)
04-092	NRC Announces Team, Schedule for Engineering Inspection at Vermont Yankee (8/6)
Regions:	
II-04-042	Garrett Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Surry Nuclear Station (8/6)
II-04-043	McCoy Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Vogtle Nuclear Plant (8/6)
II-04-044	Zeiler Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Summer Nuclear Plant (8/6)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0127	7/20/04	Final Rule: Medical Use of Byproduct Material - Minor Amendments: Extending Expiration Date for Subpart J of Part 35
2. SRM-SECY-04-0115	8/6/04	Rulemaking Plan to Incorporate First Revised Order EA-03-009 Requirements into 10 CFR 50.55a
Commission Voting Record on 04-0115	8/6/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0139	8/2/04	SECY-04-0139 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 23, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator George V. Voinovich, dated July 27, 2004, concerns human capital management in the Federal Government.
2. Letter to Tim Pawlenty, Governor of Minnesota, dated July 27, 2004, responds to request for NRC and the State of Minnesota establish an Agreement.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Baxter Healthcare Corporation Enforcement Conference

On August 2, 2004, Region I management and staff met with representatives of Baxter Healthcare Corporation (Baxter) for a Predecisional Enforcement Conference. The conference focused on corrective actions taken in response to the April 21, 2004 stuck source coat at Baxter's irradiator in Aibonit, Puerto Rico. The NRC investigation of the event determined that Baxter employees who bypassed interlocks to enter the irradiator room could have received doses greater than 450 rad, which are potentially lethal. Baxter representatives presented a summary of the results of their investigation into the event, the corrective actions taken, and changes planned for the irradiator program in the future. Baxter representatives also discussed their evaluation of the apparent violations and the corrective actions taken or planned for each. Baxter plans to submit additional information to the staff in three weeks, at which time a final enforcement decision will be made. An Information Notice on this event and its implications for other irradiator licensees is being prepared by Region I in concert with NMSS.

Presentation to the Millstone 1 Decommissioning Advisory Committee

On August 5, 2004, Region I Division of Nuclear Material Safety staff made a presentation before the Millstone 1 Decommissioning Advisory Committee (MIDAC) at the Waterford Town Hall, Waterford, Connecticut. Topics in the presentation included a summary of NRC inspection activities for the last two inspection periods, highlights of major decommissioning activities completed since the last meeting held in May 2003, and identification of the remaining project activities to be completed before Unit 1 enters SAFSTOR within the next several weeks. The staff provided an overview of the status of Millstone's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) facility, and those areas covered by the NRC inspection programs for SAFSTOR and ISFSI facilities. In addition to NRC and licensee representatives, there were five MIDAC members and one member of the public in attendance.

Vermont Yankee Pilot Engineering Inspection

During the week of August 2, 2004, the engineering team prepared for the Vermont Yankee pilot engineering inspection. The team will start its three week on-site inspection at Vermont Yankee on August 9, 2004. The team leader is Jeff Jacobson of NRR. Region I inspectors Fred Bower, Steve Dennis, Greg Bowman, and Michelle Snell plus three contractors will participate in this engineering inspection. The inspection will sample systems and components important to safety as well as those impacted by the proposed power uprate. A public meeting to discuss the inspection results is planned for September 2004.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Dominion - Surry Power Station

On August 6, 2004, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety attended the Operator Licensing certificate presentation at the Surry Site in Virginia.

Duke Energy - Oconee Nuclear Plant

On August 5, 2004, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects accompanied the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, Office of the Executive Director for Operations, on a site tour of the Oconee Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina.

Duke Energy - State and Local Government Agency Training

From August 4-5, 2004, the State Liaison Officer participated in the State and local Government Agency Training program, sponsored by Duke Energy, which was conducted at Gaston College, Gastonia, North Carolina.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 6, 2004

Public Meeting with Region IV Licensees

On August 4, 2004, Region IV and the Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), conducted a public meeting with all Region IV licensee training representatives on various operator licensing topics. Topics included licensed operator requalification program lessons learned, the NRC's human performance and requalification program significance determination process, examination practices and quality issues, simulator fidelity and testing issues, and other recent lessons learned.

Meeting with Missouri and Nebraska State Officials

From August 5-6, 2004, the Regional Administrator and the Regional State Liaison Officer met informally with state officials in Missouri and Nebraska to discuss upcoming interactions during the Cooper Nuclear Station exercise scheduled for September 21, 2004. They met with the State Liaison Officers and emergency management officials expected to participate in the exercise.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 68

Portner	TBA SD-124	TBA	Markup	FY2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	TBA 345 CHOB	TBA	Markup	Homeland Security Authorization	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security

Note: The Senate and the House of Representatives are in recess until September 7.

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ENCLOSURE R