

INFORMATION REPORT

November 1, 2004

SECY-04-0202

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0202 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 22, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Mitchell, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Public Meeting on Fire Protection in Region II Office

On October 13-15, 2004, the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) held a public meeting at the Region II office in Atlanta, Georgia. The topics discussed were 10 CFR 50.48(c), the risk-informed fire protection rule that uses National Fire Protection Association Standard 805, the closure path for post-fire safe-shutdown circuit analysis and regulatory tools. Public attendees participated in the discussions and provided feedback on the staff's presentations. The staff has allowed 30 days from the date of the meeting for the participants to provide written feedback on the meeting topics.

Regulatory Issue Summary 2004-16: Use of Later Editions and Addenda to American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Section XI for Repair/Replacement Activities

On October 19, 2004, the staff issued the subject Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) to all nuclear power reactors. This RIS is intended to clarify the requirements in 10 CFR 55a(g) and the use of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Case -389-1, "Alternative Rules for Repairs, Replacements, or Modifications- Section XI, Division 1," when applying the rules of later editions and addenda of ASME Code Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Plant Components." Licensees who wish to use provisions of subsequent editions and addenda of the ASME Code Section XI for activities, including repair/replacement activities (e.g., Code Case -389-1), must obtain prior NRC review and approval as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). This RIS requires obtained no actions or written response.

Meeting on Quad Cities Replacement Steam Dryer Instrumentation

On October 19, 2004, representatives from the Division of Engineering, its consultants from the Argonne National Laboratory, and Region III staff met with representatives from Exelon to discuss the design of the replacement steam dryer for Quad Cities Unit 1 and the instrumentation testing planned after installation of the replacement dryer. The replacement dryer incorporates several enhanced design features to improve steam flow around the dryer, which are expected to significantly reduce its susceptibility to flow induced vibration loadings. The Quad Cities Unit 1 replacement dryer completely replaces the existing dryer and is scheduled to be installed in March 2005. The Unit 2 steam dryer is scheduled to be replaced in May 2005. Data obtained from instrumentation installed on the new dryers will be used to benchmark an analytical model being developed by Exelon and the scale model testing being performed by General Electric. Exelon is planning to replace the steam dryers in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Public Meeting on Louisiana Energy Services Draft Environmental Impact Statement

On October 14, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards conducted a public meeting in Eunice, New Mexico, to receive comments on the NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed National Enrichment Facility. Approximately 150 people attended the public meeting, many of whom provided comments in support of the project. Public comments included: the need to consider Lea County's 40-year water resources plan; disposition of depleted uranium tails; decommissioning funding, and positive socioeconomic impacts. The Final EIS is scheduled to be released in June 2005.

Meeting with Russian Federation on Mixed-Oxide Fuel (MOX) Program

On October 11-14, 2004, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated in a U.S./Russian Federation bilateral meeting at the headquarters of the Nuclear, Industrial, and Environmental Regulatory Authority (Rostekhnadzor) in Moscow, Russia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the surplus weapons-grade plutonium disposition program. During the meeting, representatives of Rostekhnadzor briefed the U.S. representatives (from the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)) on the status of their development of a regulatory infrastructure for the project. They also provided a status report on the construction of their MOX fuel fabrication facility. The NRC representatives provided an update on the status of licensing the U.S. facility. All participants agreed on the need to continue the meetings and began planning for workshops, requested by the Russian Federation, on construction inspection/quality assurance, media training, and inspector communications training.

Observing First DOE Expert Elicitation Workshop on the Probability of Volcanism

On October 12-14, 2004, staff of the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) attended the first of four expert elicitation workshops held by the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractor, Geomatrix, as part of its Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Assessment Update. The purpose of this new expert elicitation is to update an earlier Yucca Mountain Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Assessment (PVHA) conducted in 1995-96. The goals of the first workshop were to review the project ground rules, expert roles, and expert elicitation process; identify key issues that will need to be addressed by the experts during the course of the project; review available data and identify datasets that will be used by the experts in their assessments; and to train all the experts in elicitation processes for expressing uncertainties. Because DOE elected to close this workshop to public observation, NRC and CNWRA staff attended as observers only and did not participate.

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Meeting

On October 13-14, 2004, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff participated in a meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The major topics of the

meeting were the status of DOE's Yucca Mountain Transportation activities, including security, routing, and state funding under Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. NRC staff gave presentations on the NRC's role in shipments to Yucca Mountain, and on the physical testing of spent fuel casks (which included videos of two recent drop tests conducted in Horstwalde, Germany). Other participants in the meeting were DOE, Sandia National Laboratory, the Western Interstate Energy Board, the Council of Government's Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, the Indiana Emergency Management Agency, Private Fuel Storage LLC, and Governor Olene Walker of Utah.

Nuclear Fuel Services Part 71 Application for Champion Transport Package Design

On October 19, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., to discuss significant technical issues identified by the staff during the review of the Safety Analysis Report for the Champion transportation package, which was submitted to NRC in August 2004. The staff presented its primary concerns regarding the design, and responded to a number of questions from the applicant. Based on these concerns, the staff has stopped technical review of the application. The applicant indicated that they will inform NRC, in approximately two weeks, whether they will withdraw the application.

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes

On October 13-14, 2004, the Fall Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) was held at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The agenda for the Fall Meeting included presentations and discussion on topics including: radioimmunotherapy and microsphere therapy; radiation safety aspects of I-125 therapeutic seeds used as markers in breast cancer tumors; staff findings and followup to the ACMUI Report on NRC Method of Dose Reconstruction; and update to medical event criteria definition. In addition, the ACMUI discussed proposed changes to the draft final 10 CFR Part 35 training and experience rulemaking in order to develop the Committee's consensus comments on the proposed rule for the NRC staff. The NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research proposed changes to the Abnormal Occurrences criteria for medical events for ACMUI discussion and comment. The Spring meeting of the ACMUI was tentatively scheduled for April 11-13, 2005.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

NRC-DOE Workshop on the Graphite Reactor Severe Accident Code (GRSAC)

On October 14-15, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducted activities to complete the NRC's final commitments under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy by holding a user training workshop on the Graphite Reactor Severe Accident Code. The workshop supported transfer and preservation of technology-specific knowledge and analysis capabilities for future high temperature gas reactor (HTGR) designs.

National Academy of Science (NAS) Meeting on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering

On October 19, 2004, RES staff participated in a meeting of the Committee on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering of the National Academies of Science (NAS). The meeting focused on the formation of a new NAS Panel to address the performance of surface and subsurface engineered barriers for waste management and decommissioning facilities. The NAS study will provide technical information and recommendations that may assist in the licensing reviews of engineered systems including environmental and dose assessments within a risk-informed context. Federal Government sponsors include the NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Science Foundation.

International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange Project

On October 12-14, 2004, RES staff participated in the 20th International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange (ICDE) Steering Group Meeting. The Steering Group discussed future activities for the upcoming three year agreement period including updating the common-cause failure (CCF) event data for the six components currently in the ICDE database, updating CCF analyses and insights for several components with emphasis on inspection and maintenance applications, and adding several new components for data collection. Data and information collected from this project is used to improve the NRC's Simplified Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) models and support the agency's CCF database which provides failure data to the staff and other stakeholders. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21-23, 2005.

Release of Joint Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)/NRC Fire Risk Methodology Report

On October 18, 2004, NUREG/CR-6850, "EPRI/NRC-RES Fire PRA Methodology for Nuclear Power Facilities," was publically released for a 60-day comment period. This report, which was a cooperative effort between RES and EPRI, describes state-of-the-art-methods, tools, and data for assessing the risk of nuclear power plant fires. This work supports a revision to the fire protection significance determination process, development of the American Nuclear Society fire risk probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) quality standard, and implementation of the risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule that endorses NFPA standard NFPA-805. While the primary objective of this joint program was to consolidate existing information from EPRI and RES fire research programs, the newly documented methods represent a significant advancement over previously documented methods.

Earthquake Strong-Motion Arrays

On October 14-15, 2004, RES staff participated in an international workshop on site selection, installation, and operation of geotechnical strong-motion arrays. Strong-motion arrays are used to collect seismic data that are useful for siting decisions for nuclear facilities. The workshop was convened to inventory the current strong-motion geotechnical arrays and to identify gaps in strong-motion geotechnical monitoring needed to address the broad issues of geotechnical design and to set priorities for addressing them. At the workshop, sponsored by the Consortium of Organization for Strong-Motion Observation Systems, an RES staff member presented an invited technical paper describing NRC's involvement in the Hualien [Taiwan] large-scale seismic test program from 1993-2002. Other participants from Japan, Taiwan, and Europe presented papers on seismic recording stations and strong-motion arrays and recent work in their perspective countries. The goal of the workshop was to make strong-motion array data and networks known and easily accessible to all parties, which will be useful to NRC staff and contractors.

October 22, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC, Amendment 4, Revision: Confirmation of Effective Date (AH50 - Part 72)

On October 20, 2004 (69 FR 61592), a document was published in the Federal Register that confirms the October 27, 2004, effective date of a direct final rule. This direct final rule revises the NAC International Universal Multi-Purpose Canister (NAC-MPC) (Amendment 4) cask system entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks.

October 22, 2004

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
October 15 through October 21, 2004:

Three Mile Island security alert 10-17-01, all records since previous request (2002-0023)	FOIA/PA-2005-0020
Florida Power and Light, 10 CFR 2.206 petition, copy of transcript record during the intervention with NRC Performance Review Board (PRB)	FOIA/PA-2005-0021
Contract proposal to conduct training, "Safety Aspects of Industrial Radiography"; and Solicitation HR-01-285	FOIA/PA-2005-0022
Office of Investigation (OI) Report of allegation RIII-01-A-0193	FOIA/PA-2005-0023

October 22, 2004

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Departures		
B. John Garrick	Member	ACRS/ACNW
George M. Hornberger	Member	ACRS/ACNW

October 22, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Media Interest

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

Information on the agency Web site that could conceivably be of use to terrorists.

Oral arguments in a pre-hearing session for the Vermont Yankee uprate request.

Other Public Affairs Items of Interest:

OPA staff provided support at the oral arguments in the Vermont Yankee uprate petition.

Press Releases	
Regions:	
I-04-048	New Location Announced for Oral Arguments on Petitions Seeking Hearings on Proposed Vermont Yankee Power Uprate (10/19)
II-04-053	NRC to Meet with Framatome Nuclear Fuel Plant Officials October 28 to Discuss Facility Safety Performance (10/18)
III-04-047	NRC Staff to Meet Oct. 28 with FirstEnergy Officials to Review Performance Improvement Activities at Perry Nuclear Plant (10/19)
IV-04-043	NRC Staff to Meet with Energy Northwest to Discuss Columbia Generating Station Issues (10/21)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Visits NRC to Discuss Force-on-Force Exercises

On October 18, 2004, Office of Nuclear Safety and Incident Response (NSIR) staff briefed three members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding the development and conduct of NRC's force-on-force exercise program. The CNSC plans to begin conducting force-on-force exercises at their licensee sites in 2005.

Office of International Programs (OIP) Public Meeting

On October 19, 2004, OIP held a public meeting at NRC Headquarters, in Rockville, Maryland, to provide information on the Proposed Rule, "Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Radioactive Materials: Security Policies." The meeting was attended by representatives of the industry, the press and was open for participation by audioteleconference phone-in lines.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
SECY-04-0178	10/01/04	Regulatory Solution for 10 CFR Part 71 Change Authority for Dual-Purpose Package Certificate Holders
Information Papers		
SECY-04-0188	10/18/04	SECY-04-0188 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 8, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Representative Christopher Shays, dated October 14, 2004, concerns the September 14, 2004, oversight hearing to examine the NRC's security enhancements for nuclear power facilities.
2. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated October 8, 2004, responds to letter concerning the Indian Point Energy Center.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (11/03/04).
2. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to preside over proceeding: Yankee Atomic Electric Company, Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Franklin County, MA (Operating License Amendment) - Docket No. 50-29-OLA, ASLBP No. 04-831-01-OLA.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Safeguards and Security, notice of meeting (11/03/04).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (11/03/04).
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, meeting notice (11/4-6/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Management Changes in Exelon Mid-Atlantic Operations

On October 19, 2004, the following personnel changes were announced by Exelon: (1) Ed Eilola, the current Operations Director at Peach Bottom, has been selected as the Site Engineering Director at Three Mile Island, (2) Dave Lewis, the Director of Work Management at Limerick, has been selected to replace Mr. Eilola, and (3) Tom Dougherty, the Manager of Nuclear Oversight at Limerick, has been selected to replace Mr. Lewis. The vacant Site Engineering Director position at Three Mile Island was created when Len Clewett was selected as the Operations Director at Three Mile Island.

Mid-Atlantic States Radiation Program Meeting

On October 20-21, 2004, Region I Regional State Agreements Officers attended the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic States in Port Deposit, Maryland. The meeting was attended by representatives from nearly all local Agreement and non-Agreement States as well as several federal agencies. Topics of discussion, among others, included pool irradiator source replenishment, site decommissioning, domestic preparedness, and a radiography accident case-study.

Commissioner Merrifield's visit to Troxler Electronics Laboratories

On October 20, 2004, Commissioner Merrifield visited the Troxler Electronics Laboratory located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Troxler is the largest manufacturer of portable nuclear density gauges in the country and is licensed by the North Carolina Department of Environmental & Natural Resources' Radiation Protection Section. The Commissioner toured the licensee's manufacturing, research and service operations and discussed security and licensing issues with the Company President and Radiation Safety Officer. The Regional State Agreements Officer and the Radioactive Materials Supervisor for North Carolina' Agreement State Program also accompanied the Commissioner during his visit.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 22, 2004

Westinghouse Electric Company - Management Meeting

On October 21, 2004, the Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, visited the Westinghouse Electric Company for a site tour and a management meeting.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Brunswick and Harris Nuclear Plants

On October 18-20, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator accompanied Commissioner Merrifield to the Brunswick Nuclear Plant and Shearon B. Harris Nuclear Plant for site tours and meetings with licensee management, licensee staff and the resident inspectors.