

INFORMATION REPORT

November 8, 2004

SECY-04-0206

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0206 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 29, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-15: Emergency Preparedness Issues - Post 9/11

On October 18, 2004, the NRC issued the subject RIS to inform nuclear power plant licensees of emergency preparedness (EP) issues identified based on an evaluation of the post-9/11 threat environment and NRC staff observations of EP activities related to recent force-on-force exercise activities. This RIS contains sensitive information and it is categorized as "official use only," and therefore, it is not publicly available.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Licensing Forum

On October 20, 2004, management and staff representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) participated in the NEI Licensing Forum held in Baltimore, Maryland. Various aspects of the NRC's licensing activities, including routine technical specification amendments, exemptions, code reliefs, generic communications, topical reports, license renewals, and power uprate amendments were discussed. Participants shared ideas to enhance the efficiency of the NRC's licensing process as well as to further improve the quality of licensee's applications.

Meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

On October 26, 2004, staff from Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), and NRR met with representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff at the FERC offices in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementation of the recently signed Memorandum of Agreement between the NRC and FERC, including communication during an emergency, information sharing, grid modeling, cyber security, and physical security.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

Meeting of the American National Standards Institute N14 Committee on Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials

On October 20-21, 2004, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office participated in the Annual Meeting of the American National Standards Institute N14 Committee on Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials. The Committee is the sponsor of existing industry standards that address packaging and transportation of uranium hexafluoride, leakage testing of transportation packages, and various other topics related to radioactive materials transport. Additional standards under development include storage and transport of damaged spent nuclear fuel; fabrication, testing, and inspection of spent fuel casks; control and measurement of external contamination and radiation; and design and use of Type A packages. Membership on the Committee includes government organizations, contract carriers, nuclear fuel cycle industry representatives, packaging manufacturers, and transport logistics providers. The Annual Meeting is held to discuss the status of standards development activities and recent transportation issues or events.

Louisiana Energy Services Quarterly Management Meeting

On October 21, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with management from Louisiana Energy Services (LES). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico. Issues discussed included status of the licensing review and environmental impact statement preparation, and open technical issues. LES management indicated that it is pleased with the progress of the project, and committed to being responsive to the open technical issues.

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Ruling on Hydro Resources, Inc., Hearing

On October 22, 2004, the Presiding Officer for the ongoing Atomic Safety and Licensing Board adjudicatory hearing in the matter of Hydro Resources, Inc., issued his ruling on the motions of the intervenors (Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining and Southwest Research and Information Center) to supplement the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Crownpoint Uranium Project (CUP) and to re-open a portion of the CUP hearing record. The CUP is a planned in-situ leach uranium recovery facility located in McKinley County, New Mexico. Uranium recovery activities would be conducted at Crownpoint, Unit 1, and the contiguous Church Rock Section 8 and 17 sites. The intervenors had filed motions to have the FEIS supplemented to consider potential impacts from operations at the Church Rock sites on a planned new housing development (Springstead Estates) located two miles to the southwest of the Church Rock sites. The intervenors also filed a motion to re-open and supplement the hearing record relating to Church Rock Section 8. The Presiding Officer denied the intervenors' motions to supplement the FEIS, and dismissed the motion to re-open and supplement the record pertaining to Church Rock Section 8. The hearing will now continue on remaining CUP issues before the Board.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Meeting of International Steam Generator-Tube Integrity Program-3

During the week of October 18-21, 2004, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in the semi-annual meeting of the International Steam Generator-Tube Integrity Program-3 (ISG-TIP-3) at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) offices in Palo Alto, California. Of particular interest during the meeting was the research results and progress reported from Canada on the development of materials environmental degradation susceptibility zones for tubing materials, and the progress from the EPRI research to improve water chemistry guidelines. The purpose of these semi-annual meetings is to share with the participants experimental data and predictive correlations and models needed to evaluate the integrity of steam generator tubes as plants age and degradation proceeds. The participants, included Argonne National Laboratory, the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, EPRI, Westinghouse Electric Company, the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute, the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety, and B&W (Babcock & Wilcox) Canada.

NRC-KAERI Meeting on Severe Accident Research Program

On October 26, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and RES attended a meeting with representatives of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute's (KAERI) to discuss KAERI's near and longer term severe accident research plan. This meeting was held in conjunction with the NRC sponsored Nuclear Safety Research Conference. The KAERI staff affirmed that ex-vessel core coolability and ex-vessel energetic fuel-coolant interactions, or steam explosions, are two remaining issues pertinent to severe accident prevention and mitigation in nuclear power plants.

Implementing Agreement between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization in the Area of Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance

On October 27, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed the international agreement between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES).

This Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the JNES will cooperate in the code applications and maintenance program. The research conducted, the in-kind information exchanged, and the participation fee provided by JNES under this Implementing Agreement will contribute to verifying the accuracy of the NRC's thermal-hydraulic codes through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent applications and feedback. The Implementing Agreement will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect for five years.

Agreement between the NRC and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited in the Area of Severe Accident Research

On October 27, 2004, the EDO signed the international agreement between the NRC and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited/L'Energie Atomique du Canada Limitee.

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and AECL will continue cooperation in the area of severe accident research. The research conducted and in-kind information exchanged under this Agreement will contribute to verifying the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code. The work performed and exchanged under this Agreement also enhances the quality assurance of our reactor safety codes through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent code assessments and feedback. The NRC uses this code to evaluate potential risk and vulnerability scenarios for severe accidents, to address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants, and to review new designs. This Agreement will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Management Directive 8.4, "Management of Facility-specific Backfitting and Information Collection"

On October 28, 2004, the EDO signed Management Directive (MD) 8.4, "Management of Facility-Specific Backfitting and Information Collection," for publication. This MD replaces Manual Chapter 0514. In August 2003, the Committee To Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) had submitted to the EDO various recommendations to enhance NRC's administrative controls for backfitting. In December of that year, the EDO approved the backfit action plan, which RES had developed to address the CRGR recommendations. One of the key staff activities described in the action plan was to develop MD 8.4. This MD (1) delineates the office responsibilities and authorities; (2) describes the necessary inter-office coordination for backfit identification and justification; (3) provides guidance for developing the combined backfit and regulatory analysis; and (4) articulates staff guidance for handling the licensee backfit claims and appeals. The NRC offices directly involved in backfitting and the regional offices will develop or revise, as appropriate, backfit procedures that are consistent with this MD. Implementation of those procedures, after the required CRGR review and endorsement, will ensure uniform application of the provisions of the NRC's backfit rules, as specified in 10 CFR Part 50.109, Part 70.76, Part 72.62 and Part 76.76.

Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC)

RES sponsored its final Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC) on October 25-27, 2004 at the Marriott at Metro Center in Washington, DC. This year's conference was attended by over 400 persons, with representation from 17 countries. Guest speakers and panelists included NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz, Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield, as well as representatives from various organizations, industries, government, the research community and public interest groups in the United States and abroad. Technical sessions were held on materials aging and degradation research, new reactors, materials fuel research, probabilistic risk assessment infrastructure development, radiation protection, codes, and operating experience.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

Preliminary Notification

1. PNO-IV-04-029, Nebraska Public Power District (COOPER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT)
- REACTOR SHUTDOWN BECAUSE OF MAIN TURBINE HIGH VIBRATION.

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) Quarterly Meeting

On October 20, 2004, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response management and staff participated in a FRPCC meeting. Other participants included representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Department of Defense; the Department of State; Department of Energy; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Transportation; and the Food and Drug Administration. The FRPCC was established to coordinate Federal responsibilities for assisting State and local governments in emergency planning and preparedness for peacetime nuclear emergencies and to enhance Federal response planning. Topics of discussion included: draft Federal guidelines for requesting potassium iodide from the Strategic National Stockpile; the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Plan; the Radiological Emergency Analytical Laboratory; and radiological training offered by the Emergency Management Institute.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation (Part 2 - AH55)

On October 26, 2004, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (69 FR 62393) that adjusted the maximum civil monetary penalties it can assess under statutes within its jurisdiction. The changes are mandated by Congress in the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Act of 1996. The amendment raises the maximum civil monetary penalty for violation of the Atomic Energy Act or any regulation or order issued under the Act from \$120,000 to \$130,000. The final rule becomes effective November 26, 2004.

Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking From the Organization of Agreement States (PRM-35-17)

On October 28, 2004, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (69 FR 62831) that announced the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Organization of Agreement States. The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations to specify the minimum number of didactic hours required to meet the requirement for training and experience to qualify as an authorized nuclear pharmacist and an authorized user identified in the regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
October 22 through October 28, 2004:

Licenses, specific, broad scope, general, issued state by state; number of compliance violations	FOIA/PA-2005-0024
Requests from NRC to third-party web operators to remove archived or "mirrored" material from www.nrc.gov , all correspondence	FOIA/PA-2005-0025
Indian Island NAVMAG Seal Beach, Port Hadlock, WA, license for depleted uranium	FOIA/PA-2005-0026
Security advisories issued in October 2001 (Referral by the Dept. of Health & Human Services)	FOIA/PA-2005-0027
Contract NRC3304349 awarded to Modern Micro Imaging, all exhibits & attachments, amendments/modifications, cost estimates, bidders lists & winning proposal	FOIA/PA-2005-0028
Seabrook nuclear power plant, 9-15-04 incident involving helicopter too close to plant, investigations, interviews, all communications	FOIA/PA-2005-0029
Northeast Church Rock Mine, Gallup, NM, United Nuclear Corp., notices of violations, requests requiring reclamation, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0030
Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, all correspondence from 3-1-04 to present on relicensing & uprate; documents removed from ADAMS after 1-1-02; inspections & violations from 1995-present	FOIA/PA-2005-0031

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
Lee R. Abramson	Consultant	RES
Brian C. Anderson	Project Engineer	R-II
Bruce Baval	Emergency Response Coordinator	NSIR
Francis S. Echols	Sr. Project Manager	NMSS
Andrea Gabossy	Management Analyst	NSIR
Don Johnson	Emergency Preparedness Specialist	NSIR
Tonya Johnson-Harris	Office Automation Assistant	NSIR
Kevin R. O'Sullivan	Project Manager (Financial)	NMSS
Mariana Pitiriciu	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRR
George Smith	Physical Security Inspector	R-I
Ryan Treadway	Reactor Inspector	R-I
Retirements		
John Greeves	Division Director	NMSS
Kim Lee	IT Assistant	R-I
Saba N. Saba	Electircal Engineer	NRR
Pauline Thompson	Investigations Assistant	OI
Guy Wright, III	Sr. Program Analyst	OCIO
Departures		
Lee Licata	Project Manager	NRR
Dane Woodard	Security Specialist	ADM

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
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Media Interest

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

The Commission's decision to remove ADAMS documents from the Web site pending a security review.

The October 29 deadline for nuclear power plants to implement tougher security requirements.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-134	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 (10/25)
04-135	NRC Initiates Additional Security Review of Publicly Available Documents; Temporarily Suspends Agency's On-line Library (10/25)
04-136	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet Nov. 4-6 in Rockville, Maryland (10/26)
04-137	Cornell University to Provide Neutral Mediators for NRC's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (10/28)
04-138	NRC Renews Licenses for Dresden and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plants for an Additional 20 Years (10/28)
04-139	NRC Approves Stretch Power Uprate for Indian Point Unit 2 (10/28)
Regions:	
I-04-049	NRC Proposes \$44,400 Civil Penalty for Baxter Healthcare Corp. Over Irradiator Event at Puerto Rico Facility (10/26)
I-04-050	Nuclear Gauge Reported Stolen in Virginia; Recovery of Device is Sought (10/28)
II-04-054	NRC Staff Schedules Public Meeting for November 4 to Discuss License Renewal Process for Brunswick Nuclear Plant (10/27)
III-04-048	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal (10/28)
IV-04-044	NRC to Conduct Special Inspection at Humboldt Bay (10/27)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

NRC Operations Center Hosts Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Visitors

Messrs André Règimbald and Bernard Beaudin of CNSC staff visited the NRC offices at headquarters on October 27, 2004, to discuss design and implementation processes associated with emergency management and preparedness programs. The CNSC representatives suggested that both sides establish a semiannual exchange, beginning in May 2005.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM on COMSECY-04-0059	10/21/04	Status of Decommissioning Program - 2004 Annual Report
2. Commissioner Votes on COMSECY-04-0059	10/22/04	(same)
3. SECY-04-0187	10/14/04	Proposed Revision to the Enforcement Policy to Address Responsibilities for Granting a Power Reactor Notice of Enforcement Discretion
SRM on 04-0187	10/28/04	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0187	10/28/04	(same)
4. SRM on SECY-04-0176	10/29/04	Exemption Requests to Reduce Liability Insurance Coverage for Decommissioning Reactors After Transfer of All Spent Fuel From a Spent Fuel Pool to Dry Cask Storage
Commission Voting Record on 04-0176	10/29/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0193	10/22/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 15, 2004
Memoranda		
3. M041013A	10/22/04	SRM - Briefing on Decommissioning Activities and Status

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Petition for Rulemaking; notice of receipt - 10 CFR Part 35 [Docket No. PRM-35-17], Organization of Agreement States; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (11/16/04).

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3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Regulatory Policies and Practices, notice of meeting (11/16/04).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (11/16/04).
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy and on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena and on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (11/30/04 - 12/1/04).

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Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 29, 2004

Columbia Generating Station - Public Meeting

On October 28, 2004, the Regional Administrator and other members of the Region IV staff conducted a public meeting with Energy Northwest management in Richland, Washington, to discuss operational issues at the Columbia Generating Station. Among the issues discussed were three reactor scrams that occurred in a period of two months (July - August), which involved operator performance issues. One of the scrams resulted in an Alert declaration.

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