

INFORMATION REPORT

December 21, 2004

SECY-04-0232

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0232 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING DECEMBER 10, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Meeting with Exelon Regarding Dresden Repairs and Future Operation

On December 2, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Region III held a public meeting with Exelon Nuclear at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station in Morris, IL, to discuss the return to operation of Dresden, Units 2 and 3, to extended power uprate (EPU) levels. Specific topics included the cause of electric generator rotor cracking, corrective action, and monitoring plans. In addition, steam dryer inspections, modifications, and causal factor analysis for Dresden, Units 2 and 3, were discussed.

Public Meeting Regarding the Construction Inspection Program Information Management System (CIPIMS)

On December 7, 2004, Division of Inspection Program Management staff met with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute to discuss issues related to the CIPIMS. Topics included the content of applicant's inspection, test, analysis, and acceptance criterion/criteria (ITAAC) determination packages and the process for the NRC's review and closure of an ITAAC.

Public Meeting with Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group on Power Uprate Flow Effect Activities

On December 8, 2004, a senior management meeting with the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group (BWROG) was held at NRC headquarters to discuss, among other topics, the status of BWROG activities to address potential adverse flow effects from power uprate operation. During this meeting, the BWROG reported that, on November 23, 2004, it had completed a lessons learned report providing recommendations for BWR licensees preparing to operate, or currently operating, at power uprate conditions. The BWROG also reported that General Electric (GE) completed a revision to Services Information Letter (SIL) 644, on November 9, 2004, that provided guidance for inspections of steam dryers in BWR plants to identify adverse flow effects from power uprate operation. The BWROG is continuing its efforts to validate an improved methodology to predict the loads on the steam dryer during power uprate operation, including use of data from an instrumented steam dryer to be installed in Quad Cities, Unit 1, in early 2005 and information obtained from scale model testing of a steam dryer at the GE facility in San Jose, CA. The staff will continue to monitor the BWROG activities to resolve adverse flow effects from power uprate operation.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Completion of Draft Final Safety Evaluation Report for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On November 26, 2004, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) staff sent the draft Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) on the Construction Authorization Request for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), requesting final endorsement. The draft FSER was provided in advance of a meeting between the ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels and FCSS staff to be held on December 15-16, 2004. The draft FSER documents closure of all remaining open items in the staff's April 30, 2003, Draft Safety Evaluation Report. On December 2, 2004, FCSS staff sent the draft FSER to Duke Cogema Stone & Webster, the facility applicant, who will review the FSER for technical accuracy.

Meetings of Committees of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine

On November 30-December 1, 2004, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety represented NRC, as Liaison, at meetings of several committees of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. These meetings were held in conjunction with the annual meeting and scientific assembly of the Radiological Society of North America in Chicago, Illinois. The committee meetings where NRC was represented included Government and Regulatory Affairs, Nuclear Medicine, and Radiation Protection. The principal topic discussed by NRC at all of the committee meetings was NRC's revision of the training and experience requirements in 10 CFR Part 35.

Meeting of Southern States Energy Board in Miami, Florida

During November 30-December 2, 2004, a management representative from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) participated in a meeting of the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) in Miami, Florida. The SSEB, which is comprised of members from several southern states, deals with safety and operational issues related to shipment of radioactive materials, spent nuclear fuel, and high-level waste. The major topics discussed at the meeting included the status and plans for the shipping program for the Waste Isolation Project Plant, transportation routing, federal agencies updates, continuing federal support for training, radiological emergency response, training exercises, and security issues. The SFPO representative provided an update on topical issues of interest to the SSEB, and provided a presentation on the recently-completed, full-scale drop tests conducted in Germany. In addition to the SSEB representatives, meeting attendees included representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration, several organizations within the Department of Energy, and representatives from various police organizations.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Research Information Letter (RIL-0402) on Air Oxidation of Cladding

On November 29, 2004, RES published a research information letter (RIL-0402) titled, "Kinetics of Cladding Oxidation in an Air Environment." The RIL summarizes the results of a recently completed RES-sponsored experimental research program at the Argonne National Laboratory. The objectives of the program were to provide data on the kinetics of cladding oxidation in air, and to develop correlations for best estimate analysis of fuel and cladding heatup in an air environment. Such data and correlations are useful in determining the margin for cladding integrity in spent fuel pool accidents arising from a loss of water inventory and failure of spent fuel dry casks during storage and transportation. The results confirm the adequacy of correlations used in support of regulatory decisions.

Technical Meeting with AECL on ACR-700 Physics Codes and Validation

On December 2, 2004, staff held a public meeting at NRC Headquarters with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) on core physics codes and their validation for the Advanced CANDU (Canadian Deuterium Uranium) Reactor 700 (ACR-700). AECL described its current progress and evolving work plans concerning ACR-700 physics, including physics code development and model assessment, experimental measurements at the Zero Energy Deuterium 2 (ZED-2) critical facility, and physics code validation. The meeting concluded with a discussion of AECL's proposed activities in this technical area for Phase 3 of the ACR-700 pre-application review. The staff discussed requests for engineering details on the past and planned validation experiments and measurement techniques for ACR-700. AECL outlined its near term plans for providing additional ACR-700 physics documents for staff review and suggested holding quarterly update meetings throughout 2005.

Meeting with representatives from Science Council of Japan

On December 6, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), with support from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, met with representatives from the Science Council of Japan. The meeting was coordinated by the Office of International Programs to discuss the NRC's External Risk Communication efforts. The representatives from Japan discussed the recent pipe rupture incident at the Japanese Mihama Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant and the subsequent Risk Communication efforts of the Japanese Institute of Nuclear Safety System.

Meetings to Discuss Nuclear Power Plant and Transmission Operator Interfaces

On December 7, 2004, representatives from RES, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and Region III met with the Commonwealth Edison Transmission Operator and Exelon in Lombard, Illinois to discuss the interfaces between the Exelon nuclear power plants and their transmission operator. The NRC has been meeting with the grid operating entities to learn about their organization, responsibilities, transmission system control and monitoring, and

communication with nuclear power plants. Additional visits to transmission operators will be held in the future.

Quality Assurance Evaluation of Integrated Chemical Effects Testing

On December 6 - 9, 2004, staff from RES and NRR conducted a quality assurance (QA) evaluation of the Integrated Chemical Effects Testing (ICE-T) being conducted by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) at the University of New Mexico (UNM). This testing is being conducted to address concerns about gel formation during hypothetical loss-of-coolant (LOCA) accidents that could lead to pressure drop across recirculation pump sump screens. Results from this testing will be used to assess licensee actions taken to address chemical effects as part of GSI-191 resolution. The staff concluded that while the UNM/LANL test facility is well constructed and staffed, there are several issues associated with the test controls, and with measurement and test equipment calibration that need to be addressed before testing continues.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
December 3 through December 9, 2004:

"Safety Analysis Report for F-294 Transport Package," copy of index ii, iv, vi, vii, sections 2.6, 2.7, (docket 71-9258)	FOIA/PA-2005-0062
Guidebook for the Treatment of Accidental Internal Radionuclide Contamination of Workers," Treatment of Incorporated Trans-uranium Elements, records siting reproductive toxicology, health physics, Journal of Toxicology & Environmental Health, & Radiation Protection Dosimetry	FOIA/PA-2005-0063
Ion Track or G. E. Ion Track Corp., copies of device registration sheets for all exempt distribution devices	FOIA/PA-2005-0064
Radioactive material missing, stolen or lost from medical & industrial licensees in the State of Minnesota over the past 5 years	FOIA/PA-2005-0065
Differing Professional Views re: 10 CFR 50.69 rulemaking affecting agency's treatment of structures, systems & components in nuclear power stations, all communications	FOIA/PA-2005-0066
Construction Authorization Request of a mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility to NRC, February 2001, from Duke, Cogema, Stone & Webster	FOIA/PA-2005-0067
FOIA exemptions 1 and 3 used during period of 1/1/2000 to date, list request and reason for denial	FOIA/PA-2005-0068
NRC system of records listed containing information on named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0069

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Media Interest

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

Vermont Yankee's uprate application and the upcoming public meeting to discuss the NRC's engineering assessment of the plant.

Safety issues at Hope Creek and Salem.

Early Site Permit applications at North Anna and Grand Gulf.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-152	NRC Seeks Public Input on North Anna Early Site Permit Application; Meeting to Be Held Jan. 19 (12/7)
04-153	NRC Restores Online Availability of Large Number of Reactor-Related Documents (12/7)
04-154	NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference on Duke Amendment Request for Catawba Nuclear Station (12/7)
04-155	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet Dec. 13-14 in Rockville, Maryland (12/8)
04-156	NRC Approves 40-Year License Renewal for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Surry Nuclear Plant (12/8)
04-157	NRC Approves Evaluation Method for Analyzing Reactor Containment Sump Performance (12/9)
Regions:	
I-04-055	NRC to Hold Public Meetings Regarding Draft Environmental Report for Millstone Nuclear Plant License Renewal Application (12/9)
II-04-057	NRC Staff to Meet with TVA to Discuss Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant License Renewal Inspection (12/9)
IV-04-045	NRC Staff to Meet with Entergy Operations, Inc., to Discuss Arkansas Nuclear One License Renewal Inspections (12/7)
IV-04-046	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (12/9)

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending December 10, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-04-0068 - Attachment 2	10/26/04	Proposed Final Supplement Standard Review Plan: Decommissioning Funding Insurance for Power Reactors
2. SECY-04-0217	11/18/04	Distribution of Exempt Material - Database, Dose Limits/Criteria, and Security Issues Related to Risk-Informing 10 CFR Parts 30, 31, and 32
3. SECY-04-0221	11/23/04	Memorandum of Agreement on the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0219	11/23/04	Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Briefing
2. SECY-04-0224	12/1/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 19, 2004
3. SECY-04-0227	12/7/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 26, 2004

Memorandum		
1. M041208A	12/08/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: a. SECY-04-0192 - Motion to Quash OI Subpoena; b. SECY-04-0216 - Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2); Intervenor's Motion for Reconsideration of CLI-04-29; c. SECY-04-0180 - Hydro Resources, Inc. (Rio Rancho, New Mexico) Review of LBP-04-3 (Financial Assurance); d. SECY-04-0190 - Final Rule: Security Requirements for Portable Gauges Containing Byproduct Material (RIN 3150-AH06); e. SECY-04-0208 - Louisiana Energy Services, L.P. (National Enrichment Facility); f. SECY-04-0212 - Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3), Docket Nos. 50-336-LR & 50-423-LR; LBP-04-15, 60 NRC 81, LBP-04-22

Commission Correspondences

1. Letter to Congress, dated November 30, 2004, provides the regulatory enforcement reports for Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004.
2. Letter to Congress, dated December 1, 2004, provides the October 2004 monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.
3. Letter to Senator James M. Jeffords, Senator Patrick Leahy, and Congressman Bernard Sanders, dated December 1, 2004, regarding two inspections the NRC recently conducted at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.
4. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated December 3, 2004, responds to letter concerning the temporary suspension of public access to the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) database.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Management Meeting With Florida Power and Light Company

On December 6, 2004, Region II management held a management meeting with representatives from Florida Power and Light Company in the regional office to discuss engineering initiatives at St. Lucie and Turkey Point.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 10, 2004

Senior NRC Management Visit to Diablo Canyon Power Plant

On December 6, 2004, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations and the Region IV Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. They toured the facility with the resident inspectors and licensee representatives and met with licensee management representatives. Discussions included the general areas of security and plant performance.

Armenian and Ukrainian Visitors

On December 7, 2004, three physical security specialists from Armenia and one physical security specialist from Ukraine visited the Region IV office. The purpose of the visit was to share non-safeguards information related to physical security inspection procedures and practices.