

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 22, 2001

SECY-01-0048

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-01-0048 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING MARCH 16, 2001

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
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Oconee Nuclear Station

The licensee continues their evaluation and repair of crack indications found in the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration welds and nozzles attached to the reactor vessel head on Oconee Unit 3. The licensee expanded the examination to nine additional CRDM penetrations after all nine of the original CRDM penetrations examined were found to have abnormal indications. The licensee has determined that the root cause of the crack indications is primary water stress corrosion cracking, which is the same cause previously found for similar problems on Unit 1. Ultrasonic and eddy-current test results of these additional nine CRDMs are being evaluated, but the results are not yet available. Limiting the radiation dose accumulated by the personnel and designing shielding that does not interfere with the work has been a significant problem. Approximately 300 rem total personnel dose are projected for this outage. NRR, Region II, and the resident inspectors are actively involved with the licensee to resolve the abnormal indications and address the generic implications. The licensee is considering replacement of the reactor vessel head for each unit when the steam generators are replaced in 2003 (Unit 1) and 2004 (Units 2 and 3).

Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

On March 13, 2001, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) approved Wisconsin Electric's request to build and load additional dry storage casks used at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP).

Currently 12 casks are loaded at PBNP. The PSCW approved an additional 36 casks to allow both PBNP Units 1 and 2 to continue operating through the end of their licenses, which expire in 2010 and 2013, respectively. The total capacity of the PBNP interim spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) is 48 casks.

South Texas Project (STP) Unit 2

On March 8, 2001, NRC issued Amendment No. 114 to STP, Unit 2 Technical Specifications. The Amendment authorizes the application of 3-volt alternate repair criteria for evaluation of intersections of tube hot-legs and selected tube support plates for current Operating Cycle 9. The licensee intends to replace the currently installed Westinghouse Model E steam generators in the Fall of 2002.

The NRC guidance in GL 95-05 set the voltage-based repair limits for Westinghouse steam generators, (0.75-inch outside diameter tubes) with outside diameter stress corrosion cracking indications, of bobbin voltage of 1-volt. The guidance of GL 95-05 ensures that structural and leakage integrity will continue to be maintained at an acceptable level, consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 and 10 CFR 100. Considering the likelihood of axial flaws, GL 95-05 provides for augmented tube inspections, conservative tube burst probability limit, and restrictive operational leakage limits. The licensee requested that the voltage-based repair limit of GL 95-05 be increased to 3-volts. The request was supported by a unique bounding analysis.

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The NRC staff evaluation concluded that 3-volt alternate repair criteria sought by the licensee for STP Unit 2 Operating Cycle 9 ensured adequate structural and leakage integrity of the steam generator tubes. The conclusion was based on the licensee's demonstration that the conditional tube burst probability and primary-to-secondary leakage during a postulated main steam line break accident is acceptable for Operating Cycle 9.

The staff noted that approval of 3-volt alternate repair criteria for more than one operating cycle will require licensee submittal of more extensive analyses than accepted for STP Unit 2 Operating Cycle 9.

#### Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3 and Fitzpatrick

On March 13 and 14, 2001, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) held a hearing on the transfer of the Indian Point Unit 3 and Fitzpatrick operating licenses to Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 3 (ENIP3) and Entergy Nuclear Fitzpatrick (ENF), respectively. The hearing was held in White Plains, New York and the intervener is the Citizens Awareness Network.

The subjects of the hearing were the adequacy of ENIP3's and ENF's decommissioning plan (especially the disposition of the decommissioning trust fund) and the financial qualification of ENIP3 and ENF to operate and maintain the plants safely. The ASLBP has allowed 20 days for the parties to submit final statements of positions. The ASLBP is then scheduled to transmit the record to the Commission.

#### Reactor Oversight Process

On March 6-8, 2001, the Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff conducted a Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) internal lessons learned workshop. The workshop included participation by regional Division of Reactor Projects and Division of Reactor Safety Directors to discuss 11 key issues raised during the first year of ROP implementation. At this workshop, regional SES sponsors and lead staff members led discussion on the specific ROP-related issues, proposed recommendations to address these issues, and decided which issues to be discussed in the external lessons learned workshop. The focus group issues included: unavailability PI, fire protection, maintenance effectiveness, P&IR approach, cross-cutting issues, safety system design inspection approach, assessment and enforcement, occupational radiation safety cornerstone issues, physical protection cornerstone issues, inspection program resources and flexibility, and communicating inspection results. The results of the internal review efforts concluded that all focus group issues except for the safety system design inspection approach and inspection program resources and flexibility issues will be discussed during the external workshop scheduled on March 26-28, 2001 to obtain external stakeholder feedback.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
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High Assay Upgrade Project Amendment for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On March 14, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a letter from Congressmen Strickland and Dingell urging Chairman Meserve to postpone issuance of the Paducah High Assay Upgrade Project (HAUP) amendment. The letters expressed a concern that NRC may be abrogating its responsibilities in assuring a reliable and economic domestic supply of enrichment services as outlined in the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Privatization Act. The staff has also received numerous phone calls this week from Congressional staff; representatives of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, Energy International Union; and the press concerning the HAUP amendment and the Portsmouth cascade shut down.

Meeting with Babcock and Wilcox Technologies, Inc. on Integrated Safety Analysis

On March 13, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff and a member of the Risk Task Group met with Babcock and Wilcox Technologies, Inc. (BWXT) regarding their Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) Plan. BWXT primarily fabricates nuclear fuel for the Department of the Navy at its facility in Lynchburg, Virginia, under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) license SNM-42. Subpart H of 10 CFR Part 70 requires fuel fabricators to submit a plan for conducting an ISA for their facilities to NRC by April 18, 2001, and a summary of the ISA by October 18, 2004. Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives from Framatome-Siemens, Nuclear Energy Institute, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 16, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-005, St. Vincent's Medical Center, APPARENT LEAKS IN I-125 RADIOACTIVE BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS.
2. PNO-I-01-006, Jameson Memorial Hospital, POSSIBLE RADIATION EXPOSURE ABOVE THE NRC REGULATORY LIMIT.
3. PNO-III-01-009, Loyola University Medical Center, INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION.

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Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 16, 2001

Acquisition Training

The Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted five mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program modules during the week of March 12–15, 2001:

–On March 12, 2001, conducted module entitled “Overview” with 48 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.

–On March 13, 2001, conducted module entitled “Preparing Statements of Work (SOW)” with 45 attendees. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete SOWs that ensure contractors and DOE laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost.

–On March 14, 2001, conducted module entitled “Contract Administration” with 42 attendees. This all-day module focuses on monitoring contractor performance, spending controls, modifying contracts and agreements and remedying contractual problems. Each participant receives a course manual that serves as a reference tool for project managers in performing their day-to-day responsibilities.

–On March 15, 2001, conducted module entitled “Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate” with 47 attendees. This half-day (a.m.) module focuses on the importance of establishing an independent Government cost estimate, the mechanics of the process, and components which can be used in its development.

–Also, on March 15, 2001, conducted module entitled “Organizational Conflicts of Interest” with 44 attendees. This half-day (p.m.) module includes a discussion of what constitutes a conflict of interest (COI) and how the Agency regulations treat COI. Lectures also include the process for identifying and resolving COI situations for contract awards to both the private sector and DOE Laboratory agreements. Class participants work in groups to analyze situations to determine if COI exists and, if so, how to resolve the COI.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 16, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of  
March 9, 2001 through March 15, 2001:

Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility, all documents between 01/1999 and 3/8/2001.  
(FOIA/PA-2001-0168)

Radioactively contaminated materials, types of contaminated materials and quantities released,  
reused, or recycled. (FOIA/PA-2001-0169)

Point Beach plant, Wisconsin Electric Power Co., EG&G of Idaho Technical Evaluation Report  
EGG-NTA-7391, regarding GL 83-28, Item 2.2, Part 1. (FOIA/PA-2001-0170)

MOU between NRC & EPA, letters from NRC to House Subcommittee on Veteran Affairs, HUD, &  
Independent Agencies re decommissioning. (FOIA/PA-2001-0171)

Contracts, Andersen Worldwide, and Societe Co., awarded in 1999. (FOIA/PA-2001-0172)

Site assessment, Cross River at 890 Route 35, Lewisboro, Westchester County, NY 10518.  
(FOIA/PA-2001-0173)

OI report 4-2000-029, "NRC Concerns About Chilling Effect at the Univ. of Missouri-Columbia  
Research Reactor. (FOIA/PA-2001-0174)

Site assessment, Cross Westchester at 707 Westchester Ave., White Plains, Westchester County,  
NY 10601. (FOIA/PA-2001-0175)

FOIA processing records related to requests FOIA/PA-2000-014A; -2000-0366; -2001-003A; -  
2001-0053; -2001-005A; -2001-0107 and its appeal. (FOIA/PA-2001-0176)

Duke Cogema Stone & Webster, construction authorization request re proposed Mixed-Oxide Fuel  
Fabrication Facility at DOE's Savannah River site. (FOIA/PA-2001-0177)

NRC legislative accomplishment reports, annual reports for past 10 years and quarterly reports for  
past 2 years (1999-2000). (FOIA/PA-2001-0178)

Split Rock Mill, Jeffrey City, WY, application and correspondence regarding establishment of the  
uranium recovery mill & Jeffrey City. (FOIA/PA-2001-0179)

OIG report file related to allegation of wrongdoing by named individual. (FOIA/PA-2001-0180)

UCAR Carbon Co., Inc., formerly Union Carbide Corp., all records 1963 - 1975, including AEC  
Staff Paper 74/47 dated 12/8/64. (FOIA/PA-2001-0181)

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Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
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U.S. Savings Bond Campaign Kick-off Attended

On March 14, 2001, Henry Rubin and Reinaldo Picón-Colón, from the Office of Human Resources, attended the U.S. Savings Bond Campaign Kick-Off at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was presided over by Robert C. Roane, Executive Vice President, Riggs National Bank, who is this year's Chairman of the Washington area U.S. Savings Bonds campaign. The keynote speaker for the kick-off was the Honorable Anthony Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia. A training session was held afterwards for agency coordinators to discuss campaign goals and strategies.

One-Day Workers' Compensation Seminar Attended

On March 15, 2001, Henry Rubin and Reinaldo Picon-Colon, from the Office of Human Resources, attended a one-day Workers' Compensation Seminar held at the Department of Interior. The seminar included several pertinent topics including "How to Perform Jobs with a Lower Risk of Injury," "How to Return Employees to the Workforce (Vocational Rehab)," "What Constitutes Performance of Duty in the Workplace," and "How to Develop Better Relations with the Department of Labor."

<b>Arrivals</b>		
GERARDI, Craig	STUDENT TRAINEE(ENGINEERING)	RES
JONES, Susan	STAFF ACCOUNTANT	OCFO
NAVARRO, Carlos	GENERAL SCIENTIST	RES

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 16, 2001

Media Interest

NBC Nightly News is preparing a report on the future of nuclear power.

There was media interest in an ASLB hearing held in White Plains, N.Y. regarding Indian Point 3 and the Fitzpatrick nuclear power plants.

There was media interest in a letter sent to University of Missouri officials regarding a possible "chilling effect" at the research reactor in Columbia, Mo.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
01-030	NRC Advisory Committee on the Medical Use of Isotopes to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, on April 18
01-029	Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, on April 5-7
01-028	Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels to Meet in Maryland on April 4
01-027	NRC Authorizes USEC To Increase Uranium Enrichment at Paducah, Kentucky, Plant
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-01-17	NRC To Meet With New Jersey Company To Discuss Site Remediation Plans
I-01-16	NRC Special Inspection At Seabrook Station to Look into Last Week's "Unusual Event"
IV-01-011	NRC To Meet With SONGS Officials To Discuss Results of Special Inspection

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-01-0035	03/02/01	Proposed Rule for Revising 10 CFR Part 71 for Compatibility with IAEA Transportation Safety Standards [TS-R-1], and for Making Other NRC-Initiated Changes
2. SECY-01-0040	3/12/01	Proposed License Amendment to Adjust Shipping Schedule of the HEU to the Netherlands for Use as Fuel in the High Flux Reactor in Petten (License No. XSNM02611-Amendment No. 1)
SRM on 01-0040	3/14/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0040	3/14/01	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-01-0034	3/1/01	Status Report on Accident Sequence Precursor Program and Related Initiatives
2. SECY-01-0041	3/15/01	SECY-01-0041 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 9, 2001
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M010312A	3/12/01	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0029 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22; Certified review of LBP-01-03
2. M010220	3/13/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Spent Fuel Pool Accident Risk at Decommissioning Plants and Rulemaking Activities

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congresswoman Sue Kelly dated March 8, 2001 provides response to concerns raised by a constituent to Consolidated Edison (ConEd) at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power station.

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2. Letter to Congressman Jim Matheson dated March 7, 2001, provides response to concerns about the proposed Private Fuel Storage facility to be constructed at the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation.
3. Letter to Congress dated March 5, 2001 provides information on the NRC's relationship with the new Administration in terms of its regulatory review plan.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting
3. Application for a License to Export Radioactive Waste (Westinghouse)
4. Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel; Meeting Notice

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Region I  
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Millstone 1

On March 12 the staff of the Millstone Fuel Rod Accountability Project, which is investigating the two fuel rods unaccounted-for at Millstone 1, implemented a stand-down due to concerns regarding adherence to project guidelines. Licensee procedures requiring management review of project plans had not been completely followed in several actions, and the stand-down was used to reinforce the necessity for project staff to carefully and fully comply with the guidelines. The stand-down included document review as well as physical inspections. Corrective actions were completed and stand-down was terminated on March 13.

George Washington University Hospital Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference

A predecisional enforcement conference, open to public observation, was held with management representatives from District Hospital Partners, Inc. c/o The George Washington University Hospital. The conference was held on March 12, 2001 in Region I to discuss a misadministration that occurred during a cesium-137 brachytherapy procedure in June 2000. The licensee representatives acknowledged the violation and provided their corrective actions to prevent recurrence. The Region I staff discussed with the licensee the NRC's enforcement policy and enforcement options.

Meeting with Connecticut State Officials

On March 13, 2001, the Chief, of the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, met with Dr. Edward Wilds, Director, Division of Radiation, and Michael Firsick, State Inspector, at the Haddam Neck plant. Topics discussed included Agreement State status, Connecticut decommissioning criteria, and sampling plans for partial site release at Haddam Neck. Dr. Wilds indicated that the legislation for Connecticut to become an Agreement State is moving forward, yet a question remains as to how the funding for the program will fit under existing state laws for overall limits on an annual state budget. With respect to decommissioning criteria, Connecticut staff is still evaluating technically appropriate limits for release for unrestricted use. Both Dr. Wilds and Mr. Firsick indicated the State's desire to closely coordinate sampling plans with the NRC to maximize efficient use of resources and eliminate redundant effort by the State and NRC, particularly for partial site release at Haddam Neck. Dr. Wilds expressed general satisfaction with the interaction of his staff with Region I and the level of cooperation for decommissioning activities at Haddam Neck, Millstone 1, and other major remediation projects in Connecticut.

Region II  
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Regulatory Information Conference

On March 13-15, 2001, the Regional Administrator and Deputy Director, Reactor of Projects participated the Regulatory Information Conference in Washington, D.C.

Southern Nuclear Operation Company - Hatch

Emergency Exercise -- Region II participated in the Hatch Emergency Exercise. The Region II participation included a Base Team and a Site Team. The Deputy Regional Administrator was the Base Team Manager and the Director, Division of Reactor Projects was the Director of Site Operations for the Site Team. The State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Hatch exercise, involving officials of the state of Georgia and the applicable local governments

License Renewal Inspection -- This week a Region II team of inspectors with NRR participation completed the second license renewal inspection at Plant Hatch. The inspection was two weeks in length and the subject was the Aging Management Programs being put in place to support license renewal. The inspection results on license renewal topics were positive. However, some unsatisfactory plant material conditions were identified by the NRC. An exit meeting, open to public observation, was held at the Hatch visitors center on March 16, 2001.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V.C. Summer

On March 15, 2001, the inspection report for the V.C. Summer Special Inspection Team was issued. The Special Inspection Team, chartered to review the reactor coolant system hot leg weld crack, identified no performance deficiencies by the licensee that contributed to the crack. The team found that the primary water stress corrosion cracking was caused by high residual tensile stresses resulting from extensive weld repairs done during construction. The team found that the inspection history of the weld met ASME code requirements. The report documented that operating the plant with pressure boundary leakage constituted a violation of the Technical Specifications; however, per the Enforcement Policy discretion was exercised in not citing this violation because it was considered an equipment failure not avoidable by reasonable licensee quality assurance or management controls.

Region III  
Items of Interest  
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Portable Gauge Informational Seminar Held

On March, 13, 2001, Region III sponsored an informational seminar for portable gauge licensees in the regional office. About 50 people attended the seminar, including representatives from the states of Illinois and Wisconsin.

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Region IV  
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Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Alaska Industrial X-Ray, Inc.

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region IV, along with RIV staff members, conducted a closed predecisional enforcement conference with the President of Alaska Industrial X-Ray, Inc. , and his staff members on March 13, 2001. The conference was conducted to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements for conducting radiographic operations in NRC jurisdiction as outlined in NRC Inspection Report 030-10346/00-02.

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Office of Congressional Affairs  
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 7

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	03/21/01 SD-406	9:00	TBA	Clean Air Act and Energy Policy	Senators Voinovich/Lieberman Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Gerke	03/21/01 SD-106	9:30	TBA	U.S. Energy Trends	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	03/27/01 <b>POSTPONED</b>	10:30	DOE	Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Storage Facility—FY02 Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/27/01 2123 RHOB	1:00	NRC (Dr. Travers), DOE (Mr. Magwood), others TBA	How Nuclear Energy Fits into U.S. National Energy Policy	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Keeling	05/08/01 TBA	1:30	NRC	Federal Government's Capabilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks	Senate Appropriations, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees