

INFORMATION REPORT

August 23, 2001

SECY-01-0159

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0159 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 17, 2001

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G*
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R*

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Turkey Point

On August 14, 2001, Florida Power and Light (FPL) announced that John P. McElwain has been named Site Vice-President of Turkey Point effective September 4, 2001. He replaces Bob Hovey, who recently resigned to take a position as Vice-President, Nuclear Operations, Exelon Corporation.

Mr. McElwain previously served as a Senior Vice-President for the Northeast Regional Operating Group of Exelon Generation and, prior to that, was Vice-President of Nuclear Operations for PECO Energy Company.

Peach Bottom License Renewal Application

On August 14, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with representatives from Exelon Generation Company to discuss the Peach Bottom License Renewal Application. Exelon demonstrated how information can be found on the CD-ROM version of the application. They discussed the scoping and screening methodology, and showed examples of system boundary drawings. The meeting included a discussion on existing aging management programs and activities, enhanced aging management programs and activities, and new aging management programs and activities. The applicant also discussed time-limited aging analyses such as environmental qualification and fatigue management. This introduction will facilitate the NRC's review of the application.

Meeting with Exelon

On August 9, 2001, the staff held a public meeting with Exelon and other interested stakeholders regarding licensing approaches for the pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR). This meeting was a working level meeting and was a supplement to the monthly public meetings being held with Exelon to discuss the pre-application review of the PBMR. Representatives from Exelon discussed several aspects of their proposed licensing approach including the use of information from previous NRC pre-application reviews and a methodology for screening existing NRC regulations for applicability to the PBMR. The meeting was held to support the staff's development of a Commission paper to be issued in November 2001 on Exelon's proposed licensing approach.

Meeting Summary for NRC Future Licensing Public Workshop

On August 10, 2001, the New Reactor Licensing Project Office issued the meeting summary for the public workshop held on July 25-26, 2001. The meeting summary contains a discussion of the issues raised in the workshop as well as a transcript of the meeting. The meeting summary and attachments are publicly available in ADAMS under Accession Number ML012220280 and have been posted on the New Reactor Licensing Activities web site.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Meeting with Everclean Environmental Engineering Corporation

On August 13, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives from the Department of Transportation, NAC International, and Everclean Environmental Engineering Corporation (EEEC). EEEEC is a subsidiary of the China National Nuclear Corporation, and is engaged in the final disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste and in handling, disposal, and transport of spent nuclear fuel (SNF). EEEEC stated that it has no experience in handling and transporting SNF, which was the focus of the meeting. EEEEC's first shipment will be from Daya Bay reactor to its SNF Pilot reprocessing plant and repository about 4000 kilometers from the reactor. EEEEC will use the NAC STC transportation package and a heavy haul truck, and estimates it will take about 1 month to make the trip. EEEEC plans to use the rail system once upgrades to the line have been completed.

Public Hearings Regarding Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

Pursuant to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel's (ASLPB's) July 17, 2001, Order, NRC staff filed its response, on August 10, 2001, to supplemental filings on the issue of standing to participate in the mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility public hearing. In its filing, the staff put forth its conclusions regarding standing in the MOX public hearing. Based on filings by the parties, ASLPB will determine what parties have standing in the MOX hearing. According to the schedule established by ASLPB's Order, NRC staff must file its responses to contentions by September 12, 2001.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Energy Technical Exchange on the Total System Performance Assessment and Integration Key Technical Issue

On August 6-10, 2001, staffs of the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) participated in a technical exchange with the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the technical exchange was to discuss the status of the four sub-issues within the Total System Performance Assessment and Integration Key Technical Issue. Resolution of the four sub-issues involved DOE addressing the NRC staff comments and questions in the areas of multiple barriers, scenario analysis, model abstraction, and the overall performance objective. After reaching a total of 58 separate agreements, the staff was able to classify the sub-issues pertaining to multiple barriers, scenario analysis, and the overall performance objective as closed-pending. The sub-issue on model abstraction remained open because questions that were posed during an earlier technical exchange on the Igneous Activity Key Technical Issue remain open. Once these questions have been answered satisfactorily, the model abstraction sub-issue will be designated as closed-pending. The discussions on the multiple barrier and the overall performance objective sub-issues only addressed the methods used by DOE and other information that NRC would need to conduct a licensing review, and was not an evaluation of DOE's ability to meet the regulatory requirements in these areas. The meeting was observed by the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board; Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye Counties (Nevada); State of Nevada; Electric Power Research Institute;

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Nuclear Energy Institute; and the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force. In addition, during this meeting, preliminary agreements from an earlier technical exchange on features, events, and processes were made final, and modifications to agreements on the Unsaturated and Saturated Flow Under Isothermal Conditions Key Technical Issue were agreed on.

Training Workshop on Probabilistic RESRAD

On August 7-9, 2001, staff of the Division of Waste Management (DWM) and the Technical Training Center (TTC) coordinated the first training workshop on the newly developed risk/dose assessment probabilistic codes RESRAD 6.1 and RESRAD-BUILD 3.1. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), the codes' developer, provided hands-on training at this workshop. Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff also participated in a brief demonstration of the NRC's probabilistic D and D 2.1 screening code. The workshop included discussions of regulatory and policy issues associated with implementation of the radiological dose criteria for license termination. Over 20 participants from different NRC Offices, including the Regions, attended this training workshop. DWM, TTC, and ANL plan to conduct this training workshop twice a year for the next 5 years. One of the annual offerings would be held at NRC Headquarters, whereas the other would be held at one of the Regional Offices.

Draft Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols Manual for Public Comment

NRC staff participated with staff from other Federal agencies in developing a Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) manual. The Federal agencies that participated with the NRC in developing the MARLAP manual included: the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Institute for Standards and Technology. MARLAP provides guidance for the planning, implementation, and assessment phases of those projects requiring laboratory analysis of radionuclides. The public comment version of the MARLAP document recently was finalized, based on completion of an internal inter/intra-agency review of the document. On August 10, 2001, key managers representing each participating Federal agency concurred on a Federal Register notice announcing availability of the MARLAP draft document for public comment. Comments on the MARLAP document may be submitted through the website <http://eml.doe.gov/marlap/>. MARLAP is considered a milestone in fostering collective Federal agencies efforts regarding radiological cleanup and risk analysis activities.

Proposed Rule Signed by EDO

On August 20, 2001, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that amends 10 CFR Part 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," revising the NAC International, Inc., NAC MPC cask system listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment will modify the present cask system design to permit a licensee to: (1) use an alternate fuel basket design with enlarged fuel tubes in corner locations; (2) increase the operational time limits provided in the Technical Specifications for canister loading, closure, and transfer when canister heat loads are lower than design basis heat loads; (3) revise the canister surface contamination limits in technical specifications to maintain worker dose as low as is reasonably achievable; and (4) revise some drawings to reflect changes identified during cask and component fabrication under a general license.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Training Workshop on Hydrogeologic Modeling and Conceptual Model Uncertainty

On August 14-15, the Office of Research (RES) conducted a training workshop on hydrogeologic conceptual model uncertainty. The workshop focused on insights gained from RES-funded work to develop a "Strategy of Hydrogeologic Modeling and Uncertainty Analysis for Nuclear Facilities and Sites." The workshop was developed and presented by Professors Shlomo Neuman and Peter Wierenga, the University of Arizona (UAZ) Principal Investigators. The workshop attendees included: NMSS licensing staff, RES staff, and CNWRA, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory scientists and engineers. The UAZ strategy provides a systematic and comprehensive approach to hydrogeologic model development and uncertainty analysis with particular emphasis on conceptual model uncertainty arising from alternative interpretations of available data. The strategy is generic and is designed to be of practical use to NRC licensing staff in reviews of decommissioning sites, high-level and low-level radioactive waste disposal sites, and uranium recovery facilities. An important component of the final strategy will be systematic guidelines and criteria for application within performance assessment reviews. The strategy will be revised based in part on the workshop participants' comments and through more extensive reviews by Federal cooperating parties involved in the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research into multimedia environmental models. It will also be an important NRC contribution to the MOU efforts to seek a common approach amongst the participating federal agencies to deal with issues of uncertainty in model predictions. The strategy will be published as a NUREG/CR report next year.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE C

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

PN-I-01-019, McMinn's Asphalt Company, Inc., DAMAGED TROXLER PORTABLE DENSITY GAUGE.

PN-III-01-028, Mallinckrodt, Inc., EXTREMITY OVEREXPOSURE AT MALLINCKRODT, INC., MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MISSOURI FACILITY.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Acquisition Training

On August 14, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate" with 42 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.

On August 16, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Organizational Conflicts of Interest" with 38 attendees. This half-day (a.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.

Contract Award

On August 13, 2001, a cost-plus-fixed fee, task ordering, indefinite quantity contract was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc. (ISL) for providing technical assistance to the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in assessing and improving regulatory effectiveness. The period of performance is from August 13, 2001, through December 31, 2003.

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Arrivals		
MAXIM, Susan	SECRETARY (OA)	HR/SPAC
MILLER, Mark*	TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAM SPECIALIST	HR
NEURAUTER, James	REACTOR ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)	RIII
RIVERA, Nilda	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RII
SNYDER, Peter	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
Retirements		
None		
Departures		
ALI, Iffith	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
ANDERSON, Angel	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
BAKHSK, Sarah	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
BELOKIN, Matthew	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
CLEMENT, Richard	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
CORNELY, Kieran	STUDENT ENGINEER	RI
DZIEDZIC, Magdalena	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
FONG, Tony	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
GAMBLE, David	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
HALL, Jocelyn	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
JONES, Jamil	STUDENT ENGINEER	ADM
KENNEDY, Brandon	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
KENNING, Brendan	STUDENT LAW CLERK	RI
KIM, Yoon Young	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
LARE, Megan	STUDENT CLERK	RI
LEWIS, Doris	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

LYONS, Christopher	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
MARTIN, David	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
MILLER, Glenn	SUMMER INTERN	NRR
MORENO, Jeffrey	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
NEUBERGER, Brett	ENGINEERING AIDE (COOP)	NMSS
NGUYEN, Nathalie	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	RI
O'KELLY, Kevin	OFFICE ASSISTANT	RIII
PALCO, Michael	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PALCO, Roger	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PRUETT, Timothy	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	OCIO
RAY, Sheila	SUMMER INTERN	NRR
RINI, Brett	SUMMER INTERN	NRR
ROBERTS, Thomas	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
ROJAKOVICK, Joseph	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
SAENGRAYIB, Charles	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
SCOTT, William	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIII
SHPAK, Anna	STUDENT TRAINEE (COMPUTER)	OCIO
SMITH, Brian	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
SNELL, Michelle	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR
TINDELL, Brian	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
VERONA, Aida	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR
YARSKY, Peter	SUMMER INTERN	NRR

*TRANSFERRING FROM REGION II on 8/12/01

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve was interviewed for a report to air on the PBS Jim Lehrer News Hour about possible new plant orders.

There was media interest in the South Texas Project exemptions.

New Times, an alternative weekly newspaper, is preparing a story on emergency preparedness at Diablo Canyon.

There was media interest in the sale of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant to Entergy.

Copley News Service is working on a story about generally-licensed devices.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-102	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Elects Chairman and Vice Chairman
01-103	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing for License Renewal Applications for McGuire, Catawba Nuclear Power Plants
01-104	NRC Invites Public to Submit Nominations for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
Regions:	
II-01-034	NRC Schedules Conference to Discuss Summer Nuclear Plant
IV-01-045	NRC Plans Additional Inspection at Cooper Due to Failure to Correct Exercise Errors

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Presentations on the NRC Inspection Program for Russian Officials

On August 13, NRR and NMSS made one-hour presentations to two officials from the Russian nuclear regulator, Gosatomnadzor, on the NRC inspection program. This completed a trip sponsored by DOE to acquaint the officials with the evolving program for employing mixed oxide fuels in the U.S. In the preceding two weeks, the officials had accompanied inspections at the Allied Chemical plant in Paducah, Kentucky, and at WNP2 in Washington State, and attended an inspection training course at NRC's Technical Training Center. This training mission was approved at the last annual planning meeting with GAN (December 2000).

Chinese Visit to the NRC

On August 13, Mr. Qu, Zhimin, General Manager of China's Everclean Corporation, accompanied by William McConaghy, Vice President of NAC International, met with Kevin Burke, OIP, and Steve Baggett, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, to discuss NRC's rules and regulations governing the handling and storage of spent fuel. In 2003, the spent fuel pool at China's Daya Bay NPP will reach capacity. Instead of re-racking the pools, the utility has contracted with Everclean to haul the spent fuel by truck to a national spent fuel pool repository in Lanzhou.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
SECY-01-0097	6/1/01	Final Rule: Interim Storage for Greater than Class C Waste
SRM on 01-0097	08/15/01	same
Voting Record on 01-0097	08/15/01	same
Negative Consent Documents		
Information Papers		
SECY-01-0139	07/27/01	Summary of Activities Related to Generic Safety Issues
SECY-01-0141	07/27/01	Proposed Bulletin: "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressue Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles"
SECY-01-0142	07/27/01	Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determinations for Amendments to Increase Rated Thermal Power for Nuclear Power Reactors
SECY-01-0151	08/10/01	Weekly Information Report Week Ending August 3, 2001
SECY-01-0154	08/15/01	Weekly Information Report Week Ending August 10, 2001
Memoranda		

Commission Correspondence

Letter to Congress dated August 10, 2001 provides the June monthly report on the status of licensing and regulatory duties.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Seeks Qualified Candidates for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Revisions.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Vermont Yankee Announces Sale to Entergy

On August 16, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation announced its contractual agreement with Entergy Corporation to sell the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. The sale agreement was reached via an auction process, and the transfer of assets is expected to occur in the spring of 2002, pending regulatory approvals. Vermont Yankee will represent the tenth nuclear power plant for Entergy overall and the fifth in the Northeast. The purchase price is \$180 million, including \$35 million for the nuclear fuel.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Commission Meeting

On August 15, the Regional Administrator was in Headquarters to attend the EEO Commission Meeting.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River Management Meeting

On August 13, representatives from Florida Power Corporation attended a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current Crystal River Unit 3 plant status and plans for an upcoming scheduled refueling outage.

Regional Assistance Committee - McGuire Full Scale Exercise

On August 13-16, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the McGuire full scale exercise, involving officials of the State of North Carolina and the applicable local governments.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference

On August 17, Region II held an open pre-decisional Enforcement Conference with South Carolina Electric and Gas Company. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the past practice of disabling steam propagation barriers. An apparent violation associated with this issue is discussed in NRC Special Inspection Report No. 50-395/01-08.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2001

Region IV Administrator Visits Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

The Region IV Regional Administrator was on site Friday, August 17, 2001, at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station to meet with licensee senior management and the resident inspector staff. The Regional Administrator also presented Operator Licenses at an evening ceremony.

August 17, 2001

ENCLOSURE P