

INFORMATION REPORT

November 29, 2001

SECY-01-0216

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0216 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 23, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on November 14-15, 2001, with industry's working group on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). During this meeting, the working group discussed and finalized Revision 2 of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline". NEI will be posting the guideline document on their web site on November 20, 2001. The new guidance will be effective on January 1, 2002. The working group also discussed the safety system unavailability (SSU) performance indicator (PI) pilot program that will start in April 2002. To support the pilot, a training workshop for pilot participants will be held in January 2002. A pilot program planning meeting with the industry and public is scheduled for December 12-13, 2001, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. Other key issues discussed included: changes and revisions to the emergency preparedness significance determination process; inspection manual chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program; IMC 0610*, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports; and frequently asked questions.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-20, Revisions to Staff Guidance for Implementing NRC Policy on Notices of Enforcement Discretion, dated November 14, 2001

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary to notify addressees that NRC Inspection Manual Part 9900, "Technical Guidance - Notices of Enforcement Discretion," (NOEDs) has been revised to clarify the staff's existing policy on allowable risk associated in granting "regular" NOEDs.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-21, Licensing Action Estimates for Operating Reactors, dated November 16, 2001

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary to ask licensees to provide estimates of the number of licensing actions that they will submit for NRC review in fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

Proposed Revised License Renewal Guidance on the Scope of Station Blackout Structures and Components

On November 14, 2001, the NRC proposed revised license renewal guidance on the scope of structures and components used to meet the Station Blackout Rule (10 CFR 50.63) that should be considered within a license renewal application. The proposed guidance represents a change in the structures and components within the scope of license renewal. In addition to structures and components that are used to cope during a station blackout event, the proposed guidance includes the structures and components used to recover from a station blackout. The letter forwarding the guidance to the Nuclear Energy Institute and the Union of Concerned Scientists requested comments within 30 days. Following review of any comments received, the staff will decide how to finalize and implement this guidance.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Sequoyah Fuels Meeting

On November 20, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff participated in a meeting with the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC), in Rockville, Maryland. The participants discussed SFC's responses to the February 2001 NRC request for information on environmental issues at the site. The discussion included ground water characterization and modeling and dose modeling. NRC's consultant, SFC, SFC's consultant, representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Protection Agency's contractor were present at the meeting. NRC is conducting an environmental review of the decommissioning and will develop an environmental impact statement to determine whether the licensee's proposed approach for remediation of the facility (on-site disposal) is acceptable. NRC is still reviewing the licensee's submittals and plans another technical exchange with SFC in January 2002.

Public Forum on Yucca Mountain

On November 14, 2001, the NRC's on-site representatives attended the public forum and panel discussion on "Judging Yucca Mountain: Nevada Speaks" in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of this forum, sponsored by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was to examine the scientific, legal, and risk aspects of the potential high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Brief presentations on nuclear waste risk perception, transportation considerations, socioeconomic impact assessment, legitimacy of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and consideration of State and local government issues formed the basis of the panel discussions. Public interaction was encouraged and remarks were recorded for transmittal to Nevada's Congressional Delegation and other officials.

Nevada Legislature's Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste Meeting

On November 15, 2001, the NRC's on-site representatives attended the public meeting of the Nevada Legislature's committee on high-level radioactive waste in Las Vegas, Nevada. This committee evaluates information and policies regarding the location, within the State, of a facility for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and any potentially adverse effects from the construction and operation of such a facility. The Department of Energy provided the committee with an update on the status of underground and surface studies; the findings of the site suitability evaluation report; the results of public hearings; and the schedule for possible recommendation by the Secretary of Energy to the President. The Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects presented the results of its Yucca Mountain monitoring activities; the findings of the State Impact Review; and the status of pending court actions regarding the potential high-level waste repository.

Forum on Stakeholder Confidence Workshop on Finnish Decision-Making Process

On November 13-16, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff attended the Nuclear Energy Agency-sponsored forum on stakeholder confidence workshop in Turku, Finland. On May 18, 2001, the Finnish Parliament ratified the Decision in Principle on the final disposal facility for

spent nuclear fuel at Olkiluoto in the Eurajoki municipality. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss stakeholder involvement and confidence in the process of decision-making for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel in Finland. The workshop included a visit to Olkiluoto, the site of one of Finland's two nuclear power plants, where an operating underground repository for low-level and intermediate waste is located. Workshop participants met with members of the Eurajoki Municipality Council in their council chambers to discuss the factors that led to the municipality's acceptance of the proposed facility. Once the background to the Decision in Principle was described, presentations and roundtable discussions focused on the process of step-wise decision-making, stakeholder involvement, and confidence building.

American Nuclear Society Winter Meeting

On November 13-15, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff attended the 2001 American Nuclear Society Winter Meeting, in Reno, Nevada. Staff participated on two panels that addressed current decommissioning-related issues. In the first panel, "Hot Topics and Emerging Issues," brief presentations were made on conditions of license termination and standardization, the entombment decommissioning option, and groundwater monitoring and characterization. In the second panel, "Industry Update on Material and Site Clearance," staff provided a briefing on the current status of Commission activities regarding the clearance of solid materials.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Briefing on MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility

On November 16, 2001, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels on technical areas associated with the MOX (mixed-oxide) Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) review. Areas discussed included fire protection, confinement, safety analysis, chemical safety, electrical aspects, instrumentation and control, seismic aspects, material control and accounting, and physical security. The Subcommittee heard a brief statement from Ed Lyman of the Nuclear Control Institute, after the staff's presentations. The Subcommittee is planning to: (1) bring in an instrumentation and control consultant to support the ACRS review; (2) refer fire protection aspects to the Fire Protection Subcommittee; and (3) identify areas of the MFFF review that should be brought before the Full Committee in March 2002.

Meeting with U.S. Enrichment Corporation to Discuss Proposed Modifications at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On November 20, 2001, the staff held a public meeting with the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss a proposed certificate amendment request that would ultimately allow sampling and transfer operations to be performed at Paducah instead of Portsmouth. Staffers for Senator Voinovich, Senator DeWine, Congressman Strickland, and Governor Taft's office attended the meeting. In the afternoon of November 20, 2001, the Paducah Project Manager and Chairman Meserve met with Congressman Strickland, to discuss the proposed USEC actions. On November 19, 2001, the Chairman also received a letter from Senators DeWine and Voinovich concerning USEC's plans to move shipping and transfer operations to the Paducah facility.

Meeting Regarding Big Rock Point Reactor Vessel Transport Package

On November 16, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with BNFL, Inc., regarding the certification of the Big Rock Point reactor vessel transport package. BNFL has submitted an application for approval of the package under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 71. The package consists of the decommissioned reactor vessel, some reactor internals, and a steel outer packaging. The reactor vessel and outer packaging are filled with low-density concrete. The meeting was held to discuss the NRC's request for additional information needed to complete the review of the application. The licensee plans to ship the reactor vessel for disposal in the Summer of 2003.

Meeting with NAC International Regarding Standard Technical Specification Application

On November 19, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with NAC International regarding NAC's application, submitted July 27, 2001, for Amendment 3 to Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, for the NAC-UMS spent fuel storage cask design. The application was to implement Standard Technical Specifications and enhanced design features. The meeting was held to discuss NAC's recent withdrawal of the amendment request, and initial staff findings during the acceptance review, as well as staff expectations for Standard Technical Specification submittals. The licensee plans to resubmit the application as two separate requests, with the enhanced design features separated from the Standard Technical Specification portion of the request. No planned submittal date was provided at the meeting.

Submittal of 10 CFR Part 72 License Application for Idaho Spent Fuel Facility

On November 19, 2001, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) submitted a license application for a second interim spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. FWENC will construct, operate, and hold the 10 CFR Part 72 license for this facility, as part of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) privatization program. DOE plans to transfer spent fuel from the Peach Bottom 1 high-temperature gas-cooled reactor and the Shippingport light-water breeder reactor currently in wet (pool) storage to the proposed dry storage facility, as part of the implementation of its agreement with the State of Idaho. The proposed facility will be adjacent to the existing DOE ISFSI for TMI-2 fuel debris, and very close to the pool facility currently housing the fuel to be moved to dry storage. The facility will incorporate a dry transfer system for fuel handling and will employ a modular storage vault concept similar to that used at the Fort St. Vrain ISFSI. The NRC will establish a review schedule on completion of the application acceptance review.

International Atomic Energy Agency Coordinated Research Project on the Radiological Aspects of Package and Conveyance Non-fixed Contamination

On November 7-9, 2001, the first Research Coordination Meeting (RCM) for this Coordinated Research Project was held at the London offices of the United Kingdom's (U.K.'s) Department for Transport, Local Government, and the Regions. The meeting was preceded by a site visit to the Dungeness Power Station and its spent fuel shipment inter-modal transfer facility, on November 6, 2001. The U.S. was represented by staff from the NRC Spent Fuel Project Office, the Department of Energy, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratory.

Other participants included representatives of France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, the U.K., and an industry group -- the World Nuclear Transport Institute.

The discussions focused on three major topics: critiques of the previous contamination dose-assessment model (the Fairbairn Model); development of new assessment models; and approaches for improving contamination inhibition and decontamination practices. The next (second of the three) RCMs was scheduled for June 2002.

International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Committee Meeting to Revise the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material

On November 12-16, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff participated in the second Revision Panel for the 2003 Edition of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (TS-R-1). Most, but not all, U.S. comments on the proposed changes for the 2003 Editions were accommodated during the meeting. There appears to be consensus that the changes for the 2003 Edition of TS-R-1 do not warrant a Revised Edition, but should be issued as an Amendment to the 1996 Edition. The proposed changes will be issued for a 90-day comment period in advance of the Transportation Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) meeting scheduled for March 4-8, 2002.

TRANSSC is to be reconstituted before the March meeting to increase transparency. All member states will be invited to join either as participating or corresponding members.

At the request of the Secretariat, SFPO staff chaired an Ad Hoc discussion on security aspects of radioactive material in transport.

Inspection of J. L Shepherd Facility in San Leandro, California

From November 13-15, 2001, a Spent Fuel Project Office inspector assisted in a Region-IV-led inspection at the J.L. Shepherd and Associates (JLS&A) facility in San Leandro, California. An inspector from the Department of Transportation (DOT) also assisted in the inspection. The inspection was performed to determine whether JLS&A had complied with provisions of a September 19, 2001, Confirmatory Order that revised certain provisions of the original July 3, 2001, Order, which withdrew NRC approval of JLS&A's Quality Assurance program. The revisions specified preconditions that would allow JLS&A to resume limited shipments using DOT 20WC specification packagings. The team determined that JLS&A had met the Order's preconditions and that JLS&A could resume limited shipment.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-MPC Revision; Confirmation of Effective Date (Part 72)

A document confirming the effective date of November 13, 2001, for a direct final rule that revised the NAC-MPC cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on November 20, 2001 (66 FR 58056).

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ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
November 16, 2001 through November 22, 2001:

NRC Bulletins 79-02 (Pipe Support Base Plate Designs Using Concrete Expansion Anchor Bolts) and 79-14 (Seismic Analyses for As-Built Safety-Related Piping Systems).
(FOIA/PA-2002-0049)

Intermediate Milestone 1402-771-120, "Conforming 10 CFR Part 63 to 10 CFR Part 197" and related documents. (FOIA/PA-2002-0050)

University of Idaho, NRC archive documents related to various licenses, 1958 through 1973.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0051)

November 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Arrivals		
MEHLING, Terri*	CONSULTANT	OCFO
Departures		
HORN, David	SENIOR AUDITOR	OIG

*Effective 11/19/01

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Media Interest

There was interest in a proposal by several New York lawmakers, including Senator Hillary Clinton, in creating a federal security force within NRC to protect the nation's nuclear plants from terrorist attack.

Statements by Commissioner Diaz that the nation's nuclear plants are protected by multiple layers of defense against terrorist attack were widely reported.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-131	NRC Invites Nominations for Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes
01-132	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards To Meet December 5 - 8 in Rockville, Maryland
Regions:	
III-01-052	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine For Construction Engineering Labs
III-01-053	NRC Names New Resident Inspector At Byron Power Plant
III-01-054	NRC Staff to Meet With Nuclear Management Co. Nov. 27 To Discuss Safety Significance of Diesel Problem at Minnesota Plant
IV-01-048	NRC Names Grant F. Larkin Resident Inspector at Waterford 3
IV-01-049	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine For Construction Engineering Labs
IV-01-050	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference With Energy Northwest

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-01-0178	11/19/01	Modified Rulemaking Plan: 10 CFR Part 72 -- "Geological and Seismological Characteristics for Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations"
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0196	11/1/01	Status of the NRC Program on Human Performance in Nuclear Power Plant Safety
2. SECY-01-0197	11/5/01	Summary of Decommissioning Trust Funding Status Reports for Power Reactors
3. SECY-01-0203	11/16/01	SECY-01-0203 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 9, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Thomas W. Ortciger, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and Michael Chamness, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, dated November 9, 2001, concerns the Federal Emergency Management Agency's proposed revision to the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise Manual (REP-14).
2. Letter to Representative George W. Gekas, dated November 13, 2001, concerns security at nuclear power plants.
3. Letter to Representative Edward J. Markey, dated November 13, 2001, concerns the temporary shutdown of NRC's website.
4. Letter to Hugh Jackson, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program, dated November 13, 2001, concerns the temporary shutdown of NRC's website.
5. Letter to Congress, dated November 15, 2001, provides the September report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Notice of Meeting.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Students from the University of Puerto Rico Visits Region II

On November 19, 2001, two students from the University of Puerto Rico visited the Region II office to receive a basic orientation to the Agency.

Management Training

On November 20, 2001, a video seminar, entitled, "Managing Outrage in Nuclear Controversies," was presented to the regional staff. This video was developed for the NRC for those unable to attend the previous presentation, by Dr. Peter Sandman.

Differing Professional View - North Anna

On November 23, 2001, Region II completed a decision and response to a Differing Professional View (DPV). The DPV was submitted to the Regional Administrator on September 28, 2001, and was in response to a previous management decision. The decision was to not have an inspector, with expertise in non-destructive examination techniques, observe certain ultrasonic testing (UT) performed on the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetrations for the North Anna Unit 1 facility. In summary, the DPV requested that the decision be changed and that the Region send an inspector with this expertise to North Anna Unit 1 to observe the UT of the CRDM penetrations. (An inspector had observed some non-destructive examinations, other than UT, on a previous inspection.)

Region II convened an *ad hoc* review panel (Panel) to review the DPV issues in accordance with Management Directive 10.159, on October 3, 2001. The Panel completed the review and issued a report with conclusions and a recommendation to the Regional Administrator on October 26, 2001. The conclusions were: (1) the decision in the specific North Anna case was in keeping with the Temporary Instruction for these inspections and did not adversely impact the Agency's evaluation of non-destructive examinations at North Anna; and (2) the Region should dispatch an inspector with NDE experience to observe licensee CRDM penetration examinations in future instances, but only to the extent needed to ascertain the adequacy of the licensee's methodology and results. The Regional Administrator accepted the conclusions and conveyed this to the DPV submitter on November 21, 2001. On November 23, 2001, the Regional Administrator completed actions in response to the conclusions.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2001

Entergy Operations, Inc. Management Personnel Changes

Mr. Paul Hinnenkamp will become Vice President, Operations at the River Bend Station on December 3. Mr. Hinnenkamp joined Entergy Nuclear South in January 2001 as Vice President, Operations Support. Mr. Joe Venable, the current General Manager at the Grand Gulf Station, will succeed Mr. Hinnenkamp as Vice President, Operations Support. Entergy has not announced a permanent replacement for Mr. Venable at Grand Gulf.

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ENCLOSURE P