

# INFORMATION REPORT

August 1, 2002

SECY-02-0147

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-02-0147 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING JULY 26, 2002

## Contents

## Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	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 July 26, 2002

North Anna and Surry

At 12:00 p.m. on July 23, 2002, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) gave the Management at Dominion Virginia Power the required 72-hour notice before declaring a strike. In the event this strike occurs, it will impact North Anna and Surry Power Stations, and the fossil fuel units. The IBEW consists of the mechanics, electricians, welders, transmission line workers, and reactor operators. Region has a contingency plan to send extra inspection personnel to North Anna and Surry Nuclear Power Stations to provide 24 hour coverage in the control rooms during the early stages of the strike should it occur. Dominion has plans in place to have reactor operators at the stations work two 12 hour shifts each day. In addition, Dominion plans to staff the reactor operator positions with licensed operators from the corporate and management positions not impacted by the strike.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (ENVY), Entergy Nuclear Operations (ENO), and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) have notified the NRC by letter dated July 22, 2002, that the consummation of the license transfer of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) could become effective on July 31, 2002. This letter indicates that it is contingent upon the fulfillment of the conditions set forth in the purchase and sale agreement between the parties and subject to the receipt of all regulatory approvals. A letter stating that all approvals have been obtained is expected late Friday, July 26 or early Monday, July 29. VY and Entergy are still addressing a number of issues that they hope to work out between now and the closing date. The last approval needed is from the Security and Exchange Commission. On May 17, 2002, the NRC staff issued an Order approving the direct transfer of VY from VYNPC to ENVY as an owner and ENO as an owner and operator of the plant. The staff will issue the conforming amendment on the closing date upon notification by the licensee that the transfer has taken place.

Public Meetings to Discuss Draft Regulatory Guidance on Control Room Habitability

On July 16 and July 18, 2002, members of the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB) hosted public meetings in NRC Region II (Atlanta, GA) and Region IV (Dallas, TX) to discuss draft regulatory guidance on control room habitability. A similar meeting in NRC Region III (Columbus, OH) is scheduled to take place on August 6, 2002. A similar meeting was held in NRC Region I on July 1, 2002. The intent of these meetings is to solicit feedback from NRC stakeholders regarding the draft generic letter and regulatory guidance on control room habitability issues. The following key technical issues were discussed at the meetings: (1) establishment of technical specifications, (2) control room testing methods and test frequency, (3) design bases, and (4) impact of smoke and fire on control room habitability.

## Contention Related to the Duke License Renewal Application for McGuire Units 1 and 2 and Catawba Units 1 and 2

On January 24, 2002, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) admitted contentions filed by Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), petitioners in the Catawba and McGuire license renewal proceeding. The petitioners contended that the applicant's severe accident mitigation alternative (SAMA) analysis was incomplete because it (1) failed to include information from a recent study of direct containment heating by Sandia National Laboratory, and (2) failed to include a dedicated electrical line from hydroelectric generating dams adjacent to each site (McGuire and Catawba). The staff and Duke subsequently filed appeals to the Commission.

On July 23, 2002, the Commission issued an order (CLI 02-17), stating that the petitioners did not provide information related to costs and benefits to support their call for consideration of a dedicated line. However, the Commission concluded that the petitioners' contention is admissible to the extent that it raises the question of whether values from the Sandia study should have been utilized in the McGuire and Catawba analyses of mitigation alternatives for hydrogen control during station blackout. The Commission indicated that the merits of the issue would need to be considered in light of more recent consideration of information from the Sandia report in Duke's response to staff requests for additional information on this matter. An earlier Commission order reversed the ASLB's decision to admit a second contention pertaining to the potential use of mixed-oxide fuel in the McGuire and Catawba reactors. A certified question from the ASLB relating to the admissibility of a contention pertaining to terrorism is still under review by the Commission.

## Advanced CANDU Reactor-700 (ACR-700)

The NRC hosted a public meeting on July 24, 2002, at the NRC Headquarters with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) representatives to begin discussions of the pre-application review for the ACR-700 design. AECL provided a presentation on the evolution of the ACR-700 design as well as a proposed licensing plan and schedule. A more detailed technical presentation will be conducted at NRC headquarters by AECL representatives on September 25 and 26, 2002.

## NRC Participation at the NEI Annual Health Physics Information Forum

On July 15-17, 2002, staff participated in the annual Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Health Physics Forum, held in Clearwater Beach, FL. The Forum presents an opportunity to discuss regulatory issues and activities of interest to nuclear power plant health physicists. NRC staff and industry representatives made presentations on current and emerging issues, which was followed by questions from the general audience. Topics discussed at the meeting included: the Reactor Oversight Process; radioactive material control; effective dose equivalent dosimetry; radioactive effluents; and emergency preparedness issues related to terrorism. Radioactive material control issues generated the most discussion and interest.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

International Atomic Energy Agency Consultants' Meeting on Geologic Disposal

On July 15-19, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management attended an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Consultants' Meeting on Geologic Disposal in Vienna, Austria. Earlier this year (April 2002), IAEA held a technical meeting seeking comment on an initial draft of its Safety Requirements Document for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste. The purpose of this Consultants' Meeting was to consider revisions to the Safety Requirements Document, based on comments and recommendations from participants/attendees of the previous Technical Meeting. The Consultants' Meeting considered a wide range of geologic disposal issues, including: (1) common regulatory framework; (2) safety objectives; (3) safety assessments; (4) operational safety; (5) long-term safety (i.e., postclosure safety); (6) monitoring; and (7) institutional control. Later this year (December 2002), IAEA intends to seek approval from its Radioactive Waste Safety Standards Advisory Committee to send the document to the Member States for comment.

Staff Participates in 2002 Gordon Conference on Aqueous Corrosion

On July 14-17, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) participated in the 2002 Gordon Conference on Aqueous Corrosion in New London, New Hampshire. The conference addressed recent developments in the mechanistic understanding of aqueous corrosion, as well as advances in experimental techniques. The format of the conference promoted an environment that fostered interaction among the participants. This year's conference included presentations on: (1) passive corrosion; (2) initiation of localized corrosion; (3) environmentally-assisted fracture; (4) microbially-influenced corrosion; (5) advanced test methods based on the use of the Synchrotron radiation sources; (6) effects of magnetic fields on corrosion; and (7) use of magnetometry to detect corrosion. Staff from the Center presented information on the initiation and repassivation of stable pitting and crevice corrosion. Investigators from the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project presented recent data on: (1) stress corrosion cracking of Alloy 22 observed under applied potentials; (2) passive film analysis results of Alloy 22; (3) screening methods of microbially influenced corrosion; and (4) updated potentiostatic test results. Staff from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory presented evidence of lead accumulation at crack tips from failed Alloy 600 steam generator tubing of pressurized water reactors, as an indication of lead-induced stress corrosion cracking.

Supplemental Petition to Intervene on the Diablo Canyon Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

On July 18, 2002, the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (SLOMFP), et al., filed a Supplemental Hearing Request and Petition to Intervene regarding Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's) 10 CFR Part 72 license application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Diablo Canyon. Counsel for SLOMFP and 11 other parties submitted seven contentions supplementing their initial petitions for intervention (dated May 22, 2002), as directed by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) in its initial prehearing conference Order, dated June 6, 2002. The contentions fall

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE B

into the following areas: (1) PG&E's seismic analysis is inadequate; (2) PG&E is in bankruptcy; therefore financial qualification cannot be demonstrated; and (3) PG&E's Environmental Report is inadequate, because terrorist acts are not considered, the purpose of the facility is not fully described, and all impacts and/or alternatives are not fully considered and evaluated. The NRC staff and PG&E have until August 19, 2002, to file their responses to these contentions. The ASLB has scheduled a pre-hearing conference in San Luis Obispo, California, on September 10, 2002.

#### Louisiana Energy Services Announces New Partners and New President

On July 22, 2002, Louisiana Energy Services (LES) announced an agreement to add Cameco and Westinghouse as new partners to the LES Partnership. The other entities of the LES Partnership are Urenco, Fluor-Daniel, Exelon, Entergy, and Duke Energy. LES also announced that George Dials would become the President of the LES Partnership. LES plans to build a 3.0-million separative-work-unit gas-centrifuge enrichment facility in the U.S. The staff has held a series of pre-application meetings with LES and expects to receive a construction application by the end of this calendar year.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

International Cooperative Agreement on Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance between the USNRC and the Russian Research Centre "Kurchatov Institute" (RRC-KI)

On July 25, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) forwarded an international cooperative agreement to Russia for signature between the NRC and the RRC-KI Relating to Cooperation in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP).

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the USNRC and the RRC-KI of Russia will continue cooperation in CAMP on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. For their participation in the program, RRC-KI will provide in-kind technical information in the form of code assessment reports for three thermal-hydraulic system experiments and/or separate effects tests per year for each year of this Agreement. This Agreement will become effective on August 31, 2002, upon signature and will remain in force for a period of five years.

Cooperative Nuclear Safety Research Meeting with Korean Ministry of Science

The first cooperative nuclear safety research meeting between the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Of The Republic of Korea, was held on July 23-24, 2002, in Rockville, Maryland, for the purpose of facilitating bilateral cooperation in the area of nuclear safety research. The U.S. delegation was headed the Director of NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. The Korean delegation was headed by Mr. Hang Sik Park, Director-General for Nuclear Safety, MOST. The MOST delegation included representatives from the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS), the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), the Korea Electric Power Research Institute (KEPRI), and KEPCO Nuclear Fuel Co., Ltd. (KNFC). MOST and RES have existing cooperative research agreements in the area of thermal-hydraulic code applications and maintenance, severe accident research, probabilistic risk assessment, steam generator tube integrity, and human factors research. However, a number of additional cooperative activities were agreed upon during this meeting. A Summary of Record was issued. Both sides agreed that the next NRC - MOST cooperative nuclear safety research meeting would be held in Korea in 2003 at a mutually convenient time (yet to be determined).

Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Yucca Mountain Classification Guide

On July 11, 2002, staff from the Division of Nuclear Security attended the kick-off meeting of the Department of Energy (DOE) working group to discuss the scope, breadth, and parameters of the classification guide for the Yucca Mountain Guide. There may be limited information that is classified at Yucca Mountain. However, numerous sensitive unclassified (i.e., Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information, Safeguards Information, and Sensitive Homeland Security Information) aspects of Yucca Mountain will be addressed in the guide.

Meeting with Worldcom

The Division of Incident Response Operations staff participated in a Chief Information Officer sponsored meeting with the General Services Administration (GSA) and Worldcom on July 24, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues relating to the Worldcom bankruptcy filing. GSA, represented by the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Service Delivery, assured the staff that Worldcom was still a partner in good standing in the FTS 2001 contract and that NRC should expect the same level of service from them. Worldcom, represented by the Vice President, Government Markets, informed the agencies that since Worldcom had been granted bankruptcy protection, it was able to secure funding to cover its operating costs and therefore, NRC can expect "business as usual." Worldcom also reassured the staff that the personnel cuts reported in the press left the FTS support personnel virtually untouched. The unique design of the NRC Emergency Telecommunications System was discussed and the staff was assured that numerous technicians knowledgeable in this technology will remain to support NRC requirements.

National Response Team Meeting

The Division of Incident Response Operations staff attended the National Response Team (NRT) meeting at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Operations Center on July 25, 2002. The new EPA Chair for the team was introduced. Items of interest included the formation of a joint NRT/Office of Homeland Security working group for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Weapons of Mass Destruction. The current area of discussion is clean-up criteria for recovery at re-entry (i.e., "How clean is clean enough?"). The current focus is on chemical and biological contamination. However, NRC, the Department of Energy, and other Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan agencies should be contacted soon concerning nuclear and radiological criteria and other Weapons of Mass Destruction issues.

Disaster Management eGov Meeting

The Division of Incident Response Operations staff participated in a July 25, 2002, meeting at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters to discuss progress on the Disaster Management eGov initiative. The main emphasis of the meeting was to solicit support for the Content Team to coordinate the collection of agency information that will be made available via the disasterhelp.gov portal, which is being developed under this initiative. Funding for the initiative was also discussed. The Office of Management and Budget representative indicated

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE D

that this would be a topic of discussion at the July 31, 2002, Project Management Corporation meeting.

#### Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan Revision Meeting

The Division of Incident Response Operations staff participated with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in a working group meeting of the Federal Response Subcommittee of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) on July 24, 2002. The meeting was one of a series of FRPCC working group sessions to update the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) to reflect current Federal planning/preparedness and Office of Homeland Security initiatives. The meeting involved participant review of the current draft revision of the FRERP and resolution of comments from the respective agencies. It was decided that selected issues would be referred to the full FRPCC for discussion and decision at the meeting on July 30, 2002.

#### Federal Response Plan - Emergency Support Function Leaders Group Meeting

The Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) staff participated in a Federal Response Plan (FRP) strategic planning meeting on July 25, 2002, at Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters. Attendees included representatives from most of the FRP signatory federal agencies. The meeting was a follow-on to the May 10, 2002, meeting and focused on issues relative to the FRP Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes in view of lessons learned from September 11 and the proposed establishment of the Department of Homeland Security. The meeting included a status report on each of the twelve ESF Annexes by the respective lead agency and a general discussion of current issues. It was reconfirmed that federal agencies consider the FRP to be sound as the overall federal plan, but refinements in ESF Annexes are necessary. The NRC will participate in the planned revision process, as an agency with responsibilities under several of the ESF Annexes. The next Emergency Support Function Leaders Group meeting is planned for late September 2002.

#### RASCAL Training

The Division of Incident Response Operations provided training to the New England area State emergency response responders on RASCAL, the computer software that the NRC Operations Center uses to predict projected doses from radiological accidents. The training was conducted in Worcester, Massachusetts on July 23 and 24, 2002.

#### Visit by Major Goddard of North American Aerospace Defense Command

On July 25, 2002, Major Paul Goddard, Canadian Forces, currently assigned to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), visited with the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) personnel and toured the NRC Headquarters Operations Center at the invitation of the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO). Major Goddard met with the Director of NSIR to discuss issues of mutual interest to NRC and NORAD. Major Goddard also met with representatives of the NSIR Threat Assessment Team regarding the coordination of activities during airborne threats. NSIR and NORAD plan to have additional interactions, including participation in additional live-fly exercises.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE D



DIRO and NRC Region IV personnel will be attending the NORAD Amalgam Virgo 02 Exercise debriefing at Peterson Air Force Base on August 6, 2002, and the kickoff meeting for the Amalgam Virgo 03 Exercise on August 7, 2002.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-01-012A, Florida Testing and Environmental, RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE-UPDATE.
2. PNO-II-02-024, North Anna/Surry, POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE STRIKE AT NORTH ANNA AND SURRY NUCLEAR STATIONS.
3. PNO-II-02-025, Burns, Cooley, Dennis, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-II-02-026, Atlantic Drilling Supply, GAUGE LOST DURING TRANSPORT.
5. PNO-II-02-027, Federal Express, AIRLINE CRASH CARRYING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Geological and Seismological Characteristics for Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations (Part 72)

A proposed rule that would amend the licensing requirements for dry cask modes of storage of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and power reactor-related Greater than Class C waste on an independent spent fuel storage installation or in a monitored retrievable storage installation was published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2002 (67 FR 47745). The proposed amendments would update the seismic siting and design criteria including geologic, seismic, and earthquake considerations. The comment period on this action closes October 7, 2002.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of July 19, 2002 through July 25, 2002:

OI 3-2001-011 and related records prepared by the NRC (FOIA/PA-2002-0340)

Allegation, RIII-01-A-0100, all documents (FOIA/AP-2002-0341)

Robinson Plant, reported violations of regulatory rules and procedures from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001 (FOIA/PA-2002-0342)

Resident Inspector training materials (FOIA/PA-2002-0343)

Contracts, status of specific, as listed in NRC Forecasts of Contract Opportunities - FY01 (FOIA/PA-2002-0344)

Davis Besse and D. C. Cook nuclear generating stations, communications between Commission and OEDO, NRR, Commission TA, and U.S. Congress, October 1, 2001 and November 28, 2001, all correspondence and documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0345)

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Leadership Conference Attended

On July 26, 2002, two representatives from the Office of Human Resources attended the 2002 CFC Campaign Leadership Conference held at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. The conference included useful presentations on such topics as Campaign Planning and Tracking; Keyworker Selection, Training, and Management; Having Fun with Special Events; and Marketing the CFC Message. In addition, there was a CFC Charity Fair, where qualified charities disseminated information about their organizations.

Leadership Potential Program Class 2 Project: Map & Compass

The NRC Leadership Potential Program (LPP) Class 2 has developed the "Map and Compass" project to help new employees function more effectively and efficiently. A web site, the "Map," provides quick, easy-to-lookup information about many of the common NRC processes, services, or activities. A recommendation for a buddy system, the "Compass," provides another tool that offices/regions can consider implementing to help acclimate new employees. With the buddy system, an organizational component can choose to assign a staff member to assist a new employee.

A survey conducted by the LPP Class 2 of employees hired within the past two years endorsed the development of the "Map & Compass" as a useful tool to help them function more effectively and efficiently. It is also expected that this project will be useful to all employees.

<b>Arrivals</b>		
BASILE, Margaret Kim	CONSULTANT	OCIO
BERRYMAN, Robert	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
DUVIGNEAUD, DyLanne	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
HIXON, Jeffrey	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RES
NETZEL, Ivy	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
SCHROEDER, Daniel	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
WILLIAMS, Julian*	CONSULTANT	RI

<b>Departures</b>		
BAUER, Zeena	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	RIV/OI
CRIGGER, Marlene	INFORMATION SERVICES ASSISTANT	OCIO
GALLAGHER, Kenneth**	SENIOR LICENSEE FINANCIAL POLICY ADVISOR	NRR
TOKUHIRO, Akira***	SUMMER FACULTY	RES
TORRES, Betty	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS

\*Effective 7/25/02

\*\*Effective 7/15/02

\*\*\*Effective 7/19/02

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Media Interest

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
02-084	NRC Names Dr. Michael T. Ryan to Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
<b>Regions:</b>	
II-02-037	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss Inspection of McGuire and Catawba Plants' License Renewal Programs
II-02-038	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Virginia Firm for Violation of NRC Radioactive Material Safety Requirements
II-02-039	Bobby Holbrook Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector At Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
III-02-044	NRC Staff to Meet with American Electric Power Co. To Discuss Safety Significance of Equipment Cooling Issue at D.C. Cook
III-02-045	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Northern Engraving for the Loss of Control over Static Eliminators
III-02-046	NRC Cites Braidwood Nuclear Power Station for Violation of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
IV-02-033	NRC to Discuss Apparent Violations With Framatome ANP, Inc.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Chinese utility Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Corporation (GNPJVC)

On July 23, 2002, a team from the Chinese utility Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Corporation (GNPJVC), owners of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), and the China Guangdong Nuclear Power Holding Company, owners of the Ling Ao NPP, met with staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of the General Counsel to discuss licensing matters including: the Price-Anderson Act, insurance, indemnity.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-02-0132	07/15/02	Proposed Rule: Revision of 10 CFR 50.48 to Permit Light-Water Reactors to Voluntarily Adopt National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805, "Performance- Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light-Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants, 2001 Edition" (NFPA 805) as an Alternative Set of Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection Requirements (WITS 199900032)
2. SECY-02-0096	6/4/02	Direct Final Rule on Electronic Maintenance and Submission of Information
Commission Voting Record on 02-0096	7/23/02	(same)
3. SECY-02-0095	6/4/02	Applicability of Section 11e.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act to Material at the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation Uranium Conversion Facility
SRM on 02-0095	7/25/02	(same)
Voting Record on 02-0095	7/25/02	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-02-0125	7/8/02	Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes -- Results of the October 29, 2001, and the February 20, 2002, Meetings
2. SECY-02-0134	7/18/02	SECY-02-0134 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 12, 2002
3. SECY-02-0141	07/24/02	SECY-02-0141 Weekly Information Report- Week Ending July 19, 2002



<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M020723	7/23/02	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-02-0096-Direct Final Rule on Electronic Maintenance and Submission of Information; II. Duke Energy Corporation (McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2, Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2) Appeal of LBP-02-04: SAMA Contention

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated July 23, 2002 concerns legislation that would strengthen security at NRC-licensed facilities.
2. Letter to Senator Schumer dated July 23, 2002 concerns legislation that would strengthen security over radioactive materials that could be used in a radiological dispersal device.
3. Letter to Congress (Senators Jeffords and Smith) dated July 22, 2002 concerns legislation that would strengthen security at NRC-licensed facilities.
4. Letter to David Lochbaum, UCS, dated July 19, 2002, concerns the re-introduction of public input to the NRC on nuclear plant security issues.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Geological and Seismological Characteristics for Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations - Proposed rule.
2. Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel - Notice of Public Meeting.
3. Decisive Testing, Inc. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Indian Point Unit 2

For the past several weeks, Westinghouse fuel handlers, under contract with Entergy, have been making spent fuel assembly moves following receipt of a Technical Specification change regarding the crediting of soluble boron in the spent fuel pool (SFP). An aspect of this work is inspections performed as follow-up to Information Notice 2002-09, "Potential for Top Nozzle Separation and Dropping of a Certain Type of Westinghouse Fuel Assembly", dated February 13, 2002.

On July 23, 2002, in the process of relocating a fuel assembly in the SFP, it was found that another fuel assembly (G28) was already occupying the intended location. A review of fuel handling records showed that assembly G28 was incorrectly marked as having already been moved from that location; steps were then taken to move G28 to its intended destination. The next day, a further review of fuel assembly records revealed that assembly G28 was one of the assemblies identified at IP2 as having indications of the type of intergranular stress corrosion cracking identified on some North Anna fuel assemblies. These assemblies require the use of a special assembly handling device for lifting and moving these assemblies. However, this precaution was not performed for this assembly.

Entergy placed a hold on the movement of fuel assemblies in the SFP while they completed a review of this occurrence for appropriate corrective actions. Their actions included completion of an extent-of-condition review; revised steps for verification that future assembly lifts are done with the proper handling equipment; enhanced communications to Entergy management when off-normal conditions are encountered; and thorough reviews of off-normal conditions before proceeding with fuel movement activities.

NRC inspectors verified Entergy actions. Regional and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation management received a briefing on the corrective actions from Entergy management prior to the resumption of fuel handling.

Meeting with US Dept. of Agriculture

On July 17, 2002, the Region I Project Manager and responsible Branch Chief met with the management and staff of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) radiation safety program and USDA contractor representatives. The meeting was held to discuss the decommissioning of radioactive burial sites at Beltsville, MD and Ames, IA. USDA representatives agreed to a schedule for submitting information on the decommissioning.

New York IMPEP Review

From July 16-26, an eight member team comprised of NRC Regional staff and Agreement State personnel from the States of California and Texas conducted the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review for the State of New York. The Agreement State program in New York is unique in that four different agencies have responsibility. The

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

responsible agencies include the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the State Departments of Labor, Health and Environmental Conservation. Previous IMPEP reviews focused on each individual agency and typically took three months to complete the on-site portion of the review. This IMPEP review took an integrated approach to the eight performance indicators, which resulted in a comparable level of review, but required fewer resources and less on-site time. The indicator review included inspections, licensing, staffing, incidents and allegations, regulations, sealed source and device evaluations, and low-level radioactive waste. The team will prepare a draft report for New York's review by the end of August. The Management Review Board will review the team report and make final decisions on the State's adequacy to protect public health and safety and compatibility with NRC regulations.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba and McGuire Nuclear Plants

On July 25, 2002, the Regional Administrator was at the Catawba Nuclear Station, in South Carolina, to meet with licensee management, resident inspectors and toured the facility. On July 26, 2002, the Regional Administrator participated in the public exit meeting to discuss the findings from the NRC, license renewal inspection team's review of Duke Energy's aging management programs. This inspection is part of the NRC's review in conjunction with the license renewal applications for the Catawba and McGuire nuclear power stations.

Federal Express Airline Crash Involving Radioactive Materials

On July 26, 2002, a Federal Express cargo aircraft carrying radioactive materials crashed upon approach to the runway to the Tallahassee, Florida, airport. The aircraft was carrying four packages of materials, containing millicurie quantities of thallium-201 and phosphorus-32, which were consumed in the aircraft fire. The State of Florida Bureau of Radiation Control dispatched inspectors to the scene of the crash to evaluate the impact from the burning of the radioactive materials. The crew on the aircraft were injured and taken to a local hospital.

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Regulatory Conference on Preliminary Yellow Finding at D. C. Cook

The Regional Administrator and members of the regional staff met July 25, 2002, in the Region III Office with representatives of American Electric Power Company to discuss the safety significance and vulnerabilities revealed as a result of the partial clogging of equipment cooling systems at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station during August 2001. Office of NRC personnel participated in the meeting by videoconference. The staff's preliminary assessment determined that the problem was a "yellow" finding, i.e. one of substantial safety significance.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 26, 2002

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Framatome ANP Richland, Inc.

The Regional Administrator and other members of the NRC staff conducted an open pre-decisional enforcement conference on July 26, 2002, with Framatome ANP. The conference addressed five apparent violations of NRC requirements involving controls to prevent an inadvertent criticality. The apparent violations are described in NRC Inspection Report 70-1257/02-03.

July 26, 2002

ENCLOSURE P