

# INFORMATION REPORT

November 27, 2002

SECY-02-0210

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-02-0210 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING NOVEMBER 22, 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.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

North Anna Power Station

On November 18, 2002, North Anna Power Station terminated its Notification of Unusual Event (NOUE) for the lower water in the Lake Anna Reservoir. North Anna had declared a NOUE on August 9, 2002, when the lake level had dropped below 246 ft. due to the lack of rainfall. The recent weather conditions have increased the lake level to 246 ft.

Control Room Habitability Guidance

On November 14, 2002, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) transmitted a draft of NEI 99-03, "Control Room Habitability Guidance," (Revision 1) to the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB). NEI states that the guidance now defines a program for periodic retesting and assessment of the control room, methodologies for testing, and addresses the accuracy of the Control Room Emergency Filtration System technical specifications. The staff is currently evaluating this new revision.

Lower Reactor Vessel Head Inspections

On November 15-16, 2002, the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch (EMCB) staff supported Region I in evaluating observations from their inspection activities with two licensees regarding their boric acid corrosion control (BACC) inspections of the lower reactor vessel head. EMCB assisted the region in evaluating the BACC inspection observations and the licensees' assessments of the existing conditions, including whether there was a need to take additional actions. These interactions are helpful for ensuring a consistent understanding of BACC programs and in evaluating the responses to the Bulletin 2002-01 requests for additional information that are currently being sent to licensees.

Seabrook Tube Degradation

On November 14, 2002, a public meeting was held with the Seabrook licensee to discuss their root cause evaluation of the steam generator tube degradation found during their May 2002 outage. During that outage, 42 eddy current indications, classified as axial outside diameter cracks, were found in 15 tubes. All indications were located in one steam generator and all were found at tube-to-tube support plate intersections. These findings are important since cracks in thermally treated Alloy 600 tubes, such as those used at Seabrook, have never been observed in the U.S. To characterize the degradation and to identify its root cause, portions of two tubes were removed from the steam generator for destructive examination.

The destructive examination confirmed the indications were axially oriented outside diameter stress corrosion cracks. The examination also confirmed that the indications were found at an early enough stage such that the structural and leakage integrity of the tubes was not compromised. Based on their investigation, the licensee concluded that the root cause of the

degradation was high residual stress caused by inappropriate tube processing. The exact nature of the inappropriate tube processing could not be determined. A contributing factor to the degradation is the known concentration of contaminants at the tube-to-tube support plate intersections.

To determine the extent to which other tubes could be affected by the higher residual stresses, the licensee developed an eddy current technique which they used to review the eddy current data from the May 2002 outage. This evaluation resulted in the identification of 21 tubes with potentially higher residual stresses. The 21 tubes included the 15 tubes with cracks (all of which were removed from service in May 2002) and 6 additional tubes. All tubes were located in steam generator D. Of the 6 tubes remaining in service, none have indications of cracks.

The staff is evaluating the generic implications of the findings and will continue to follow the inspection results at Seabrook to ensure the extent of condition has been bounded.

#### Early Site Permit (ESP) Pre-application Public Meeting At Port Gibson, Mississippi

On November 14, 2002, the New Reactor Licensing Project Office (NRLPO) conducted a pre-application early site permit (ESP) public meeting in Port Gibson, Mississippi for the Grand Gulf site. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information regarding the NRC ESP review process, as well as to outline future opportunities for public involvement in that process. NRLPO held two public meetings at the Port Gibson City Hall. The meetings, one in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and one in the evening at 7:00 p.m. were preceded by an open house beginning one hour before each meeting. During the open house, individual NRC staff members were available to the public for informal discussions about the early site permit process. Representatives from Region IV, Region II, Region III, the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) and NRR personnel provided support to the subject meeting. There were approximately 40 attendees in the afternoon session and approximately 60 attendees in the evening session.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

State of Maine Petition for Hearing and Request for Commission Action

On November 15, 2002, the State of Maine filed a Petition for Hearing and a Request for Commission action pursuant to 10 CFR 2.202 and 2.206. The petition and request were in response to NRC's October 16, 2002, Order on the Interim Compensatory Measure (ICM) issued to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Symposium on Transportation

On November 14, 2002, a Spent Fuel Project Office staff member spoke at a symposium on transportation of spent nuclear fuel at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The session was part of a series -- the Yucca Mountain Education Project (YMEP) -- intended to inform students and the interested members of the public about key issues related to the proposed geological repository. The audience included students; faculty; the press; NRC staff (including members of the Division of Waste Management, the NRC site office in Las Vegas, and the Office of the General Counsel); members of focus groups; and interested citizens. Although the YMEP focuses on university students, all sessions are open to the public and are usually advertised in the local media.

Staff Attends Meeting of Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee

On November 14, 2002, the On-Site Representatives attended a public meeting of the Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee. Items discussed at this meeting included updates on the status of Nevada's lawsuits against the Department of Energy, NRC, and the Environmental Protection Agency, and a briefing on the county's nuclear waste program activities. Additional topics discussed involved the status of Clark County's public outreach program, concerns related to the potential shipment of high-level waste, and the development of specific local and regional impact recommendations to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. The meeting provided an opportunity for an effective information exchange between the affected units of local government, community opinion leaders, Native American tribal representatives, and citizen groups.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

RASCAL Training

On November 21, 2002, the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO), in cooperation with Region II, provided training on Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis (RASCAL) in Chattanooga, TN, for State emergency response personnel in the Southeastern states. RASCAL is the code used by the NRC Operations Center for projecting doses during radiological emergencies. In the previous week, on November 13-14, 2002, DIRO provided similar training in Orlando, FL, for other State responders.

American Nuclear Society Meeting - Washington, D.C.

NRC Commissioners, managers and staff participated in the American Nuclear Society's (ANS's) 2002 Winter Meeting and the Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) Embedded Topical Meeting held November 17-21, 2002, in Washington, D.C. The ANS Meeting agenda included a spectrum of technical, programmatic, regulatory, and financial issues related to nuclear energy and radioactive materials. The EP&R Topical Meeting focused on issues related to integration of nuclear/radiological security and emergency preparedness. Meeting attendees numbered approximately 1500 and represented industry, academia, research, government and non-government organizations from the national and international communities. NRC participation included plenary session presentation by the Chairman and Commissioner Diaz, presentation of technical papers and participation in panel sessions.

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 Revision (Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the VSC-24 cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on November 20, 2002 (67 FR 69987). This action modifies the cask system design to permit the storage of different specific fuel control elements as integral components to fuel assemblies. The direct final rule becomes effective February 3, 2003.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on November 20, 2002 (67 FR 70029). The comment period closes December 20, 2002.

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of  
November 15 through November 21, 2002:

Number of staff in Grade 14 in 800 and 1300 series, age ranges 30-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 55-60, 60+ (FOIA/PA-2003-0068)

Diablo Canyon Power Plants, Unit 1 and 2, Pacific Gas and Electric, operating licenses including facility operating licenses DPR-80 and DPR-82; unit 1 operating license (without attachments) dated 11-2-84 and unit 2 operating license (without attachments) dated 8-26-85 (FOIA/PA-2003-0069)

Investigation of secret German Nazi infiltration of the U.S. Government; FOIA records on self (FOIA/PA-2003-0070)

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

<b>Arrivals</b>		
CROWLEY, Billy	CONSULTANT	RII
HONCHARIK, John	MATERIALS ENGINEER	NRR
HONCHARIK, Michelle	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LONGLEY, Barbara	SECRETARY	RII
<b>Departures</b>		
McDONALD, Melinda	PARALEGAL SPECIALIST	OGC
SCENNA, Richard	TEAM LEADER	OGC

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE I



Office of Enforcement  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Charter for Security and Safeguards Enforcement Review Group Issued

On November 13, 2002, the Director of the Office of Enforcement (OE), approved a charter for the Security and Safeguards Enforcement Review Group (SSERG). The SSERG includes a group of diverse individuals from multiple offices whose purpose is to (1) evaluate security and safeguards-related enforcement processes and sanctions, (2) determine if changes are necessary, and (3) propose recommendations for additional enforcement guidance or Enforcement Policy revisions. The SSERG plans on submitting a report to the Director, OE in March of next year.

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE K

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Media Interest

Reporters including those from the Cleveland Plain-Dealer, the Sandusky Register, the Toledo Blade, the Port Clinton News-Herald, and Ohio Public Radio covered the public meeting of the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force in Oak Harbor, Ohio. Some county officials, state agency representatives and Congressional staff also attended.

NRC's denial of a petition filed by an environmental group urging shutdown of Indian Point nuclear plant received media attention.

There was media interest in maintenance and repair problems at the Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear plants in Minnesota.

Other

On November, 22, 2002, the Office of Public Affairs participated in the Office of Homeland Security Working Group on Radiological Dispersal Devices

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
02-133	NRC Considers Amendment Request for Closed Oklahoma Plant; Offers Opportunity to Request a Hearing
02-134	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards To Meet December 5-7, 2002 in Rockville, Maryland
02-135	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-02-066	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector At Pilgrim
II-02-050	NRC Draft Report Finds St. Lucie License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable; Public Input Sought at December Meetings

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Visit of Louisa Zondo, South Africa

On November 20-22, 2002, Louisa Zondo, Chief Executive Officer, National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) of South Africa, and two staff members, visited NRC headquarters for an extensive series of meetings. In addition to meeting with the Commissioners, Ms. Zondo met with senior members of the staff to discuss the NRC research program, public participation processes, performance management, information management, and human resource issues. The delegation was briefed and toured the Operations Center also. This was the first visit to NRC by Ms. Zondo.

Australian Visit

On November 20-21, Allan Murray, Manager, Regulatory Policy and Coordination, and David Tredinnick, Legal and Policy Officer, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), accompanied by Matthew Quint, Science Office, Embassy of Australia, met with staff from OIP, NRR, NSIR and OGC to discuss the draft text of a possible Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and ARPANSA for the Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in the Regulation of Nuclear Safety. Other areas of discussion explored potential future collaborative projects between NRC and ARPANSA.

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-02-0194	10/30/02	Options for Addressing Part 35 Training and Experience Issues Associated with Recognition of Specialty Boards by NRC
2. COMEXM-01-0001	12/26/01	D.C. Cook Potential Red Finding, and the Implementation of the Significance Determination Process Within the Reactor Oversight Program
SRM on COMEXM-01-0001	02/05/02	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMEXM-01-0001	02/05/02	(same)
3. SECY-02-0084	05/15/02	Final Rule on Decommissioning Trust Provisions
Commission Voting Record on 02-0084	11/21/02	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-02-0201	11/14/02	SECY-02-0201 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 8, 2002
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M021121A	11/21/02	Affirmation Session: I. SECY-02-0084-Final Rule on Decommissioning Trust Provisions; II. SECY-02-0185-Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3; Facility Operating License NPF-49); III. SECY-02-0190-Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (Diablo Canyon Power Plant Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation); Petition to Suspend Proceeding Pending Comprehensive Review of Adequacy of Design and Operation Measures to Protect Against Terrorist Attack and Other Acts of Malice or Insanity

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Safety Research Program - Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee on Future Plant Designs - Notice of Meeting Cancellation.
4. 498<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting - December 5-7, 2002

November 22, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Millstone Site Visit and Safety System Design Inspection Exit Meeting

On November 21-22, 2002, the Region I Director, Division of Reactor Safety, met with licensee management and staff, toured Millstone Station, and attended the exit meeting of the Safety System Design Inspection.

Meeting of Haddam Neck Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee

On November 19, 2002, the Haddam Neck Community Decommissioning Advisory Committee (CDAC) met in Middletown, CT. Region I representatives provided a quarterly update of recent and planned decommissioning activities at Haddam Neck. Licensee representatives detailed accomplishments over the last three months, and identified focus areas for the next several months: reactor pressure vessel removal; completion of the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) and transfer of fuel; removal of several water storage tanks; and decontamination, including the reactor cavity. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

Three Mile Island

On November 21, 2002, the Region I State Liaison Officer attended a working level meeting between representatives of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and FEMA, Region III, to discuss a deficiency FEMA identified during the 2001 Three Mile Island graded exercise.

Exit Meeting for Rhode Island Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program

On November 22, 2002, the Region I Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, attended the exit for the Rhode Island Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP). This IMPEP is being monitored by the General Accounting Office (GAO) as part of an audit.

Senior Management Organization Changes at Oyster Creek

On November 19, 2002, AmerGen LLC announced the following changes to the Oyster Creek senior management team: 1) Ron Degregorio, the current Vice President of Oyster Creek, is being promoted to a position in Exelon's Kennett Square office as the Vice President, Operations Support; 2) Ron Harkness, the current plant manager, is being promoted to the VP position; and, 3) Mike Massaro, the Director of Work Management, is being promoted to the Plant Manager position. These organizational changes will be effective within the next two weeks.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Meeting

On November 19, 2002, the Regional Administrator participated in the Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group meeting in Headquarters. The Group continued to review the Agency's Strategic Plan and discuss potential areas for revision.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - Visit to the V. C. Summer Nuclear Plant

On November 22, 2002, the Regional Administrator visited the V. C. Summer Plant in Jenkinsville, SC, to tour the facility, to meet with resident inspectors and licensee management. The Regional Administrator also presented operator license certificates and spoke to recently licensed operators at the V. C. Summer operators certification presentation ceremony.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Chairman Meserve Visit to the Harris Nuclear Plant

On November 19, 2002, the Deputy Regional Administrator accompanied the Chairman and his Chief of Staff on a visit to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant to tour the facility and to meet with licensee staff and managers and NRC resident inspectors. The visit also included a town meeting type question and answer session with licensee employees. The tour included discussions with members of the security organization and observations of the security equipment and processes in place at the site.

Carolina Power and Light Company - FEMA/RAC Observation and Evaluation of the Brunswick/North Carolina Full Scale Exercise

On November 18-22, 2002, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale nuclear exercise, involving officials of the State of North Carolina and the applicable local governments. The participation also included exercising interactions during an ingestion pathway scenario.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Decommissioning Meeting

On November 19, 2002, representatives from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Research Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, attended a meeting open to the public (Category 1) in the Region II office. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the schedule for decommissioning of the current facility and the schedule for NRC actions.

State of Mississippi Periodic Meeting

On November 19, 2002, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and the Agreement States Officer conducted a periodic meeting with the State of Mississippi in Jackson, MS. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the State's implementation of the materials licensing and inspection programs.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - Visit to the Surry Nuclear Plant

On November 19, 2002, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, visited the Surry Nuclear Plant to meet with the resident inspectors and to tour the plant in Surry, Virginia.

Testing Technology, Inc. - Predecisional Enforcement Conferences

On November 20, 2002, Region II held an announced closed Predecisional Enforcement Conferences with Testing Technology, Inc. and two individuals in the Region II office. The discussion included the licensee's perspective on the apparent violations and the licensee's corrective actions for the root causes.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. Management Meeting

On November 21, 2002, representatives from Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., in Tennessee, were in the Region II office to attend an announced closed management meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the licensee's changes and upgrades to their material control and accountability program.



Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 22, 2002

Public Meeting with Nebraska Public Power District

On November 18, 2002, Region IV conducted a meeting with Nebraska Public Power District in Arlington, Texas. Topics discussed during the meeting included the development status of Nebraska Public Power District's Strategic Improvement Plan (TIP) Revision 2, the types of commitments that NPPD plans to make with the submission of TIP Revision 2, and the types of commitments that the NRC will include in a confirmatory action letter.

ANO Management Change

Craig Anderson, the ANO Site Vice President, announced that Bob Bement, General Manager at ANO, has been selected as the Entergy-South Training Director. Mr. Bement will move to the Jackson office and be responsible for oversight of the training facilities at all EOI-South sites. James Hoffpauir will replace Mr. Bement as the Acting General Manager - ANO until a permanent replacement is selected.

Regional Administrator Visits Waterford-3

On November 18, 2002, the Regional Administrator visited Waterford 3. During the visit, he received a security briefing and toured the plant with the senior resident inspector. The tour included a review of plant security, safety systems which have experienced void formations, and the leading edge flow monitoring system. Following the tour the Regional Administrator met with the site Vice President, Station Manager, and Security Manager.