

INFORMATION REPORT

May 10, 2001

SECY-01-0085

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0085 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 4, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

Oconee Unit 3 returned to full power operation on April 24, 2001, following the completion of repairs of cracks in the reactor vessel head control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration welds and nozzles. Unit 2 was shutdown on April 26, 2001, for Refueling Outage 18. The top of the reactor vessel head has been visually inspected and a small amount of boron residue has been found surrounding four CRDM penetrations. The cause of the leakage has not yet been analyzed. This is similar to the residue found around one Unit 1 and nine Unit 3 CRDM penetrations. The licensee plans to use an automated repair method with remote tooling that will significantly reduce the radiation exposure to personnel.

Staff Issues ANO-1 Final Supplement 3 To The Generic Environmental Impact Statement On License Renewal

On April 5, 2001, the staff issued the Final Supplement 3 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 3, Regarding Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1." This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's final analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts.

EPA issued the Notice of Filing of the Final SEIS in the May 4, 2001, Federal Register. The NRC can then proceed with the renewal action after a 30-day period expires (June 4, 2001), should no Federal agency refer matters in dispute in Final SEIS to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Demonstration Project Using Improved Renewal Guidance Documents

On May 1, 2001, the staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) license renewal task force to discuss an industry demonstration project in which NEI will submit sample license renewal application sections using the improved license renewal guidance documents. The improved guidance documents consist of: Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report, Standard Review Plan for License Renewal (SRP-LR), and Regulatory Guide for License Renewal (endorsing NEI document 95-10, Rev. 3). The NEI license renewal task force presented three samples. The staff requested that NEI provide additional samples that so that the broadest range of staff experts could participate in the demonstration.

The staff and NEI task force agreed that the expectations from the demonstration project are: (1) to identify ways in which GALL can be referenced in renewal applications to achieve the desired effectiveness and efficiency in the review process and (2) develop documentation guidance to minimize the need for requests for additional information (RAI) and enhance the transparency of the review process. The demonstration project should be completed by the end of September 2001, assuming NEI can provide the additional sample sections by May 11, 2001.

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NRC Information Notice 2001-05: Through-Wall Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Control Rod Drive Mechanism Penetration Nozzles at Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, dated April 30, 2001

The NRC issued this information notice to alert addressees to the recent detection of through-wall circumferential cracks in two of the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration nozzles and weldments at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3 (ONS3).

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
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Meeting with Portland General Electric and Holtec International

On April 26, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Portland General Electric (PGE) and Holtec regarding a planned amendment request for the Trojan Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. In 1999, spent fuel loading activities at the Trojan reactor site were stopped due to coatings issues associated with the BFS Fuel Solutions TRANSTOR spent fuel storage canister. PGE has selected Holtec to provide new spent fuel storage canisters that are compatible with the existing BFS Fuel Solutions TRANSTOR concrete overpacks that are already fabricated. The amendment request is scheduled to be submitted in October 2001, with a desired approval by July 2002 to support the Trojan loading and decommissioning schedule.

Meeting with Packaging Technology Regarding Transport Package for Low-Enriched Uranium Oxide

On April 26, 2001, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Packaging Technology, Inc., regarding the Model No. TNF-XI transport package. The package is being designed to transport low-enriched uranium oxide powder. The discussion centered on the design details and the physical testing that will be performed to demonstrate that the package meets the performance standards in 10 CFR Part 71. Packaging Technology expects to submit an application for package approval to the NRC in July 2001.

Staff Meets with Portland General Electric Regarding Partial Site Release for the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant

On April 26, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff supported a meeting with representatives of the Trojan nuclear power plant hosted by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Trojan's plans to release a portion of its site prior to license termination. Because Trojan has an approved license termination plan, radiological criteria for license termination have been established. Trojan plans to submit a letter of intent in May which will describe the property to be released and its schedule for completing radiological surveys of this property. A notification of completion would be submitted at a later date which would include: (1) a statement that the property meets the release criteria; (2) a commitment to maintain control over the exclusion area until the 10 CFR Part 50 license is terminated; (3) the final survey report; and (4) the date for the release. Trojan asked if the NRC approval for the release would be required and, if required, what form that approval would take. Various approaches were discussed but no decision was made. NRC staff agreed to research this further.

Staff Attends Pre-Hearing Conference Regarding Connecticut Yankee's License Termination Plan

On April 24, 2001, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held a Pre-Hearing Conference in Cromwell, Connecticut, to evaluate the contentions raised by the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (CDPUC). In support of the Pre-Hearing Conference, both the NRC and Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCO) filed responses to the contentions raised by CAN and CDPUC. The NRC noted to the Board that

the staff had identified over 200 requests for additional information (RAIs) on the License Termination Plan (LTP), and was waiting for a response from the licensee. Many of the issues raised by the staff were similar to the contentions raised by both CAN and CDPUC, and it would be advisable for the Board to wait until the RAIs were addressed to determine if the contentions remained once the RAIs were resolved to the staff's satisfaction. The staff noted that the Board took a similar approach with the Maine Yankee LTP. CAN and CDPUC supported that approach. CYAPCO voiced objection to the staff's recommendation. The staff indicated that it would submit, in writing, a motion to support this approach.

Most of the contentions were based on missing technical information needed to make an evaluation on the adequacy of several key areas in the LTP. CYAPCO's rejection of the contentions was based on the position that the contentions did not provide sufficient information to show the dispute existed (10 CFR 2.714(b)(2)(iii)). This was also the position taken by NRC regarding most of the contentions.

The conference attracted some media interest (articles published in the Hartford Courant, Middletown Press, and the New London Day) and was attended by several local residents.

Staff Attendance at Devil's Hole Workshop

On April 24-27, 2001, the NRC staff attended and presented a paper at the 2001 Devil's Hole Workshop. Both Devil's Hole and the potential high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, lie within the Death Valley groundwater flow system. The annual workshop, hosted by the National Park Service, provides the opportunity for members of the scientific and research community, affected agencies, and all others interested in this flow system and regional water resource issues to meet, exchange information, and discuss pertinent issues. Understanding this flow system, and Yucca Mountain's role within the regional flow system, helps to assess the suitability of the potential repository. Workshop presentations addressed the various water budget components of the flow system. The latest results from the Nye County, Nevada, and Inyo County, California, drilling programs were presented, as were future planned activities. Nye County's Alluvial Testing Complex, which is part of the Nye County drilling program in the valley-fill aquifer, will help quantify flow and transport parameters. The Department of Energy will be relying on results from this testing facility to support its total system performance assessment.

Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Meeting with Duke Cogema Stone & Webster

On April 25, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) staff to discuss technical matters associated with the Mixed Oxide fuel fabrication facility Construction Authorization Request (CAR), submitted by DCS by letter dated February 28, 2001. The NRC accepted the CAR for detailed technical review by letter dated March 28, 2001. During this meeting, NRC staff discussed the status of its review to date and information needed to complete its review. Technical areas discussed included hazards analysis, nuclear criticality safety, fire protection, chemical safety, radiation protection, electrical distribution, instrumentation and control/software, human factors, material handling equipment, seismic response, and quality assurance. Future meetings will be held in specific technical disciplines.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Final Report, "Regulatory Effectiveness of the Anticipated Transient Without Scram Rule"

RES issued "Regulatory Effectiveness of the Anticipated Transient Without Scram Rule" on April 27, 2001. This report evaluates the effectiveness of the anticipated transient without scram (ATWS) rule and the Commission's recommendations associated with the ATWS rule; it compares rule expectations to outcomes in the areas of system modifications and operating limitations, risk, and value-impact. The report concluded that the ATWS rule was effective in reducing ATWS risk and that the cost of implementing the rule was reasonable.

RES will use the information in this report in FY 2002 in a self-initiated study of the synergistic effects of power uprates and other plant design and operational changes. As more data are accumulated, RES will re-evaluate the uncertainties in reactor protection system (RPS) reliability to ensure that fuel cycle changes and power upgrades that could affect ATWS risk remain low.

Division of Risk Analysis and Applications/Operating Experience Risk Analysis Branch

Operating Experience Risk Analysis Branch (OERAB) staff met with the ACRS Subcommittee on PRA on April 17, 2001, to present the results of Phase-1 Risk-Based Performance Indicator (RBPI) development. In addition, a public meeting was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2001, to discuss external stakeholder comments on the draft Phase-1 RBPI development report.

The ACRS Subcommittee members generally had favorable comments and complimented the technical quality of the draft Phase-1 RBPI development report. They also identified a number of areas for further discussion at the ACRS full committee meeting in May 2001. They will issue their formal comments in a letter following the full committee meeting in May 2001.

At the public meeting on April 24, 2001, the industry representatives discussed their preliminary comments on the draft Phase-1 report. Key issues/comments were:

- ! Industry supports more risk-informed, performance-based initiatives such as RBPIs. However, the following issues need to be addressed before RBPIs can be implemented:
 - Impact of additional RBPIs on the Action Matrix
 - Appropriate reduction in inspection activities if additional RBPIs are used
 - Any change or addition to the existing performance indicators must add value to the inspection, assessment, and enforcement process

- ! Industry expressed concerns about moving forward with additional NRC risk-informed initiatives, including the RBPI program, without consideration of a more integrated agency-wide approach that includes:
 - Resolving conflicts between risk-informed and deterministic mind-sets within the NRC staff.

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- Resolving the use of design/licensing-basis versus risk-informed approaches.
- Obtaining consistency among performance thresholds used in various programs such as the Maintenance Rule, World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) indicators, reactor oversight process (ROP), and RBPIs.
- Establishing a common understanding of definitions (such as unavailability and unreliability definitions) across various regulatory programs.
- Resolving the issue of additional burden associated with data gathering and reporting under 10 CFR 50.9 requirements, which they view as excessive and unnecessary to support ROP needs.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Rascal 3.0 Participates in International Exercise

On May 1, 2000, Incident Response Operations participated in a World Meteorological Organization exercise using RASCAL 3.0, its new dose assessment code for nuclear emergencies. The other participants were National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Air Resources Laboratory, the Canadian Meteorological Center, and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. RASCAL 3.0 performed well. The code ran without any significant problems and its results were reasonably close to the results from NOAA's HYSPLIT code.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-11, Hamot Medical Center, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION
2. PNO-II-01-015, Freedom Lincoln Mercury, GENERAL LICENSED SEALED SOURCE FOUND IN A VACANT RESIDENTIAL AREA

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

CISSCO-II Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Awards

On April 27, 2001, twelve BPAs were awarded under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) program as a follow-on to the Comprehensive Information Systems Support Consolidation (CISSCO) contract which expires on August 29, 2001. Awards were made to multiple contractors in each of the following four functional areas to provide services to the Office of the Chief Information Officer: (1) software development, operation, and maintenance; (2) planning, architecture, standards, and business process re-engineering; (3) document processing; and (4) computer security. Individual orders for services in a particular functional area will be competed among the contractors holding BPAs for that particular functional area. The period of performance for placing orders under the BPAs is eight years, consistent with renewal of the contractors' GSA FSS contracts. The total estimated aggregate cost for orders placed under the BPAs is \$100 million over the eight-year period of performance.

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Chief Information Officer
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
April 27, 2001 through May 3, 2001:

Vacancy announcement 0147003, Management Asst., OCIO, rating criteria, candidates evaluation, & complete application for named individual. (FOIA/PA-2001-0238)

Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at DOE's Savannah River site, South Carolina, docket 070-03098 records related to Argonne Nat'l Lab's role and conflict of interest in the project, and the MOU between DOE & NRC. (FOIA/PA-2001-0239)

Trip report, monthly technical meeting with Gosatomnadzor (GAN) held in Russia 1/27/01-2/1/01, attended by Andrew Persinko, NMSS, to discuss licensing issues pertaining to joint efforts in plutonium disposition. (FOIA/PA-2001-0240)

Materials License Tracking System (MLTS) database, active and inactive licensees. (FOIA/PA-2001-0241)

Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel and plutonium disposition in the United States and Russia. (FOIA/PA-2001-0242)

OIP Weekly Former Soviet Union (FSU) Status Meeting summaries for the period 12/1/00 through 4/27/01. (FOIA/PA-2001-0243)

Russian Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Authority delegation visit to NRC in 12/2000, review of the NRC program for safety assistance to GAN (Gosatomnadzor). (FOIA/PA-2001-0244)

OI report 2-1998-014. (FOIA/PA-2001-0245)

Site assessment, Superior Steel Castings, 309 Graham St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, 1900 - 1985 license nos. 21-01273-01, -02, & -03. (FOIA/PA-2001-0246)

Site assessment, St. Charles & St. John the Baptist Parishes, LA, zip codes 70068 & 70084. (FOIA/PA-2001-0247)

Univ. of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor, all communications between NRC and Univ. of Missouri for the period 01/2000 through 04/2001. (FOIA/PA-2001-0248)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Arrivals		
COBEY, Eugene*	SENIOR RESIDENT INSPECTOR	NRR
MCGUIRE, Suzanne	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST	OIP
Retirements		
ESTEP, Charlotte	SECRETARY (STENO/OA)	NMSS
HOPENFELD, Joram	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	RES
LEFEVRE, Harold	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
Departures		
LEMONCELLI, Mauri	LEGAL INTERN	OGC

*TRANSFERRING FROM REGION III

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Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Southeast Missouri State University

Preliminary Notification PNO-III-00-035, dated September 1, 2000, stated that Englehardt and Associates had notified the NRC of the potential for one of its employees to have received a committed effective dose equivalent (CEDE) between 8 and 9 rem. The regulatory limit is 5 rem. The individual would have received the potential overexposure while doing work involving americium-241 contamination at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, during the week of June 12, 2000. The work was being performed under the University's license.

From the summer 2000 through April 2001, the University provided bioassay services to all workers and University staff who entered the contaminated area. As a result, the University reported that the Englehardt and Associates' employee actually received a committed dose equivalent (bone surfaces) of 263 rems, greater than 5 times the limit of 50 rems to an organ, and a CEDE of 15 rems (total effective dose equivalent is 15 rems). Supplement IV to the Enforcement Policy states that an exposure greater than 250 rems to any organ is an example of a Severity Level I violation. The staff has scheduled a Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Southeast Missouri State University for June 12, 2001, to discuss several apparent violations, including the apparent overexposure of a contract employee.

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Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

The Boston-Herald is working on a story about possible future plant orders.

The Sarasota (FL) Herald-Tribune is working on a story about stolen moisture density gauges.

Dateline NBC-TV is preparing a one-hour report to air later this month on TMI.

Time Magazine is working on a story about the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-051	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Rule on Decommissioning Trust Provisions & Draft Regulatory Guide
01-052	NRC Names Dr. F. Peter Ford to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
01-053	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, on May 15-17
Regions:	
III-01-017	Kewaunee Nuclear Plant May 3 Regulatory Conference Postponed
III-01-018	NRC Staff to Meet with Consumers Energy on Apparent Violation at Palisades Nuclear Plant
IV-01-016	NRC to Discuss Inspection Program with Radiography Industry at Public Forum in Lafayette

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0030	2/26/01	Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences for Fiscal Year 2000
SRM on 01-0030	4/3/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0030	4/3/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0074	4/26/01	Approval to Publish Generic License Renewal Guidance Documents
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0073	4/26/01	SECY-01-0073 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 20, 2001
2. SECY-01-0064	4/16/01	Interaction with Tribal Governments and Entities Near Yucca Mountain on High-Level Waste Repository Issues
3. SECY-01-0079	5/2/01	SECY-01-0079 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 27, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Brien B. Walters dated April 25, 2001 provides response to concerns that the formal hearing process that is used in all other NRC plant licensing should be the same for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain.
2. Letter to Harley W. Shaver, Esq., dated April 25, 2001, provides response concerning the status of the NRC's review of the site closure plan for Western Nuclear, Inc.'s Split Rock Site.
3. Letter to The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert dated April 24, 2001 provides the "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences Fiscal Year 2000" for events at nuclear facilities.
4. Letter to James Riccio, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy & Environmental Program, dated April 23, 2001, responds to request for a meeting regarding the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2).
5. Letter to The Honorable Jane Swift, Governor of Massachusetts, dated April 23, 2001, concerns the NRC State Liaison Officer program.

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Revised Meeting Notice.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy, Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena and Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting.

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Region I
Items of Interest
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Millstone

On May 3, 2001, a public meeting of the Millstone I Decommissioning Advisory Committee was held in Waterford, CT. This Committee is a subcommittee of the Connecticut State Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee, and provides the public the opportunity to keep apprised of the status of the decommissioning at Millstone 1. The Chief, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, Region I, gave an update on NRC regulatory activities at Millstone. In addition, presentations were given by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut on the status of onsite activities, by Northeast Utilities on the status of the investigation of the two missing fuel pins, and by the Independent Review Team overseeing the fuel pin investigation. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the meeting.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 4, 2001

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Operator's Certification Banquet and Tour of Plant

On April 30-May 1, 2001, the Regional Administrator attended the Sequoyah Operator's Certification banquet in Chattanooga, TN., met with the resident inspectors and toured the plant.

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Region III
Items of Interest
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End-of-Cycle Reviews Completed

On May 1-2, 2001, Region III managers completed the end-of-cycle reviews for the region's 16 nuclear power plants. An end-of-cycle summary meeting was held via videoconference on May 4, 2001, between the region and the Director of NRR.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 14

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	05/08/01 SD-628	9:30	NRC, NEI, Exelon, Financial Analyst, GAO, UCS	Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Lieberman Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Keeling	05/08/01 SH-216	1:30	NRC, DOD, NNSA	Federal Government's Capabilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks	Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Senate Appropriations Emerging Threats & Capabilities Senate Armed Services Senate Intelligence Committee
Combs	05/09/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	05/10/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE (Mr. Magwood)	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Energy	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	05/10/01 SD-608	2:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations