

INFORMATION REPORT

June 13, 2003

SECY-03-0097

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0097 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JUNE 6, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Public Meeting to Discuss the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force Action Plan

On June 4, 2003, representatives from NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and Electric Power Research Institute to discuss the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force Action Plan. The industry identified areas of interest for further interaction with the staff in the areas that include operating experience, boric acid control programs, and inspection programs. Attendees at this public meeting included representatives from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Greenpeace, and the news media.

Bottom Mounted Instrumentation Penetration Leakage

On June 5, 2003 the staff met with South Texas Project (STP) to discuss the current status of the bottom mounted instrumentation penetration leakage issue. STP discussed that volumetric (ultrasonic) examinations have been completed on 57 of 58 penetrations. Those examinations detected axial cracks in 2 penetration tubes which provide leakage paths in the penetrations where boron deposits had been observed. No cracks were found in the other 55 penetrations. STP plans to perform additional tests and analysis to gather more information to help identify the potential root cause of the cracks. STP plans to have a preliminary root cause report available by mid-July. STP continues to make preparations to perform half-nozzle repairs on the 2 penetrations which are cracked.

Draft 10 CFR Part 52 Construction Inspection Program

The NRC issued the "Draft 10 CFR Part 52 Construction Inspection Program Framework Document" dated May 30, 2003. This document describes the proposed inspection process for facilities constructed under the 10 CFR Part 52 process.

Early Site Permits

On June 2, 2003, the New Reactor Licensing Project Office (NRLPO) issued letters to Exelon Generating Company, Entergy Operations, Incorporated, and Dominion Generation related to guidance on the evaluation of alternative energy sources in preparation of their early site permit (ESP) applications. The Commission has determined that an ESP applicant need not include an assessment of alternative energy sources in its environmental report. The NRC's position will be articulated in the upcoming proposed rulemaking on 10 CFR Part 52, expected to be published in the *Federal Register* later this summer. NRLPO issued the letters to inform the applicants of this development so that they could make an informed decision as to whether to include consideration of alternate energy sources in their ESP applications.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Meetings with Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor

On May 19-23, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) staff sponsored a meeting in Moscow attended by the Department of Energy (DOE), the European Union, and the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN). The purpose of the meeting was to review GAN's proposed resolution of comments on Federal draft regulatory documents being developed to support the Russian Federation plutonium disposition program. GAN representatives presented the technical and licensing basis for the proposed resolution of technical comments previously received from other participants. The discussion resulted in agreement on changes in Federal GAN regulatory documents. A consensus on future actions, including ways to improve the Russian Federation regulatory document development process, was also accomplished. DOE provides funding for the development of the Russian Federal regulations.

On May 26-30, 2003, NMSS staff conducted a seminar for GAN in Moscow on nuclear criticality safety as it relates to the U.S. Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF). Criticality-related regulations and guidance documents, results of technical discussions with the MFFF applicant, and the staff's criticality safety conclusions contained in the staff's draft Safety Evaluation Reports were discussed in detail with GAN. This seminar was the first in a series that the staff intends to conduct for GAN on MFFF-related subjects. DOE requested that NRC conduct these seminars to convey information about the staff's review of the domestic MFFF to GAN, since GAN has adopted the design of the domestic MFFF for the Russian MFFF. DOE paid for all costs associated with the review of the Russian regulations and the criticality safety seminar, through a reimbursable agreement with NRC.

Meeting with Westinghouse Regarding Transport Package for Fresh Fuel Assemblies

On June 3, 2003, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Westinghouse Electric Company to discuss the design of the Model No. Traveller transport package. The Traveller is being designed to transport unirradiated pressurized water reactor fuel assemblies. The meeting was held to discuss the criticality analysis performed for the package and the full-scale drop and fire tests that will be performed. Westinghouse plans to submit an application for package approval to NRC in September 2003.

Staff Attends Meeting of Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects

On June 2, 2003, an NRC onsite representative for the Yucca Mountain Project attended a public meeting of the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects held in Las Vegas. This is a quarterly meeting whereby the staff of the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects provides an update on its activities to the Commission. Topics covered included a review of the State's legal actions against the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and NRC; a review of the State's comments on the Spent Fuel Project Office's proposed package performance study; and an update on the status of the State's sponsored technical research

and technical review of repository issues. Representatives from the affected units of Government and the public were also invited to provide updates and comments.

French Official Completes Rotation to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses

Antoine Claisse, a member of the staff of the Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) recently completed a 1-year staff exchange at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (hereafter, the Center). Although the proposed repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and the Bure site being investigated in France are quite different, similarities in the conduct of pre-licensing consultations with the repository implementer (ANDRA in France) allowed both the U.S. and French programs to garner significant benefits from the exchange.

Meeting of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Protective Action Guide (PAG) Working Group

On June 5, 2003, an NMSS representative attended a meeting of the PAG Working Group at EPA's offices in Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by representatives of different Federal Agencies and state entities. The majority of the meeting was focused upon a review of the comments received on a draft chapter on water PAG's, and the acceptance, modification, and rejection of the comments for the next draft. Modifications included efforts to simplify the presentation, make the document more useable for responders, clarifying the relationship of the derived recovery levels to the PAG dose criteria, and removal of inflammatory statements regarding radiation risk. There was also a brief discussion of the current efforts within EPA for the long term recovery chapter of PAG's.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Orders for Panoramic and Underwater Irradiators

On June 5, 2003, the staff issued Orders to licensees who currently possess, or have plans in the near term to possess, greater than 10,000 Curies of byproduct material in the form of sealed sources in either panoramic irradiators that have dry or wet storage of sealed sources, or in underwater irradiators in which both the source and the product being irradiated are under water. These Orders implement the Commission's direction for Compensatory Measures, which provide reasonable assurance that public health and safety and the common defense and security will be adequately protected in the current threat environment. These requirements will remain in effect until the Commission determines otherwise.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-03-029, Phoenix Baptist Hospital & Medical Center - MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION.
2. PNO-I-03-017, Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, MD - DRIVE MECHANISM MALFUNCTION OF AN INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY DEVICE DURING PATIENT TREATMENT.
3. PNO-I-03-018, St. Barnabas Medical Center - POTENTIAL MEDICAL EVENT AT ST. BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Event Notification Requirements (Parts 72 and 73)

A final rule that amends the event notification requirements applicable to an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and to a Monitored Retrievable Storage Installation, and safeguards event notification requirements for certain facilities of these types was published in the Federal Register on June 5, 2003 (68 FR 33611). The changes conform these requirements with recent changes to power reactor event notification requirements. The final rule becomes effective October 3, 2003.

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ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of May 30 through June 5, 2003:

Diversified Scientific Services, Kingston, TN, license records and inspection reports, 1999-2003	FOIA/PA-2003-0299
Davis Besse inspection plan for safety culture assessment, press release No. III-03-029, dated 4-7-03	FOIA/PA-2003-0300
Correspondence and related documents from 1-1997 through 5-2003, between NRC and named U.S. Senators	FOIA/PA-2003-0301
Nuclear facilities in Orange and Seminole Counties, FL, near specific named sites (LYNX Light Rail Project)	FOIA/PA-2003-0302
Diamond Match Co. (Diamond Brands, Inc.), West Peru, Maine, use of radioactive materials, license	FOIA/PA-2003-0303
NRC response to 4-24-03 memorandum for HR Directors from OPM, re: Collection of Information Regarding Employees with Law Enforcement Duties	FOIA/PA-2003-0304
OIG Case 03-30B, report only	FOIA/PA-2003-0305
Salem Nuclear Power Plant, drawings, photographs, maintenance manuals and/or descriptions of airlock door and hand wheel leading to containment unit	FOIA/PA-2003-0306
Amchitka Island, Alaska, radiation exposure on named individual, 1960's and 1970's, studies and analysis	FOIA/PA-2003-0307
OI Report 1-2002-005, RI-2002-A-0006, exhibits and transcripts	FOIA/PA-2003-0308

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Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 6, 2003

Arrivals		
CONSAUL, Ryan	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer)	NRR
GHOSH, Suchandra T.	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer)	ACRS
HEATH, Maurice	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
HENRY, Patricia A.	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer)	NRR
KERSKE, David	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer)	NMSS
NGUYEN, Kim-Lien	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST (Summer)	OCIO
PAIGE, Jason C.	STUDENT ENGINEER (Summer)	NRR
PICHUMANI, Raman	*CONSULTANT	NRR
Retirements		
KENNEALLY, Roger SR.	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	RES

*Actual EOD date was 06/03/03 and not 05/27/03 as reported.

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Media Interest

Commissioner Merrifield taped an interview with the CBS Sunday Morning program on nuclear security, with an emphasis on the Indian Point facility in New York. The piece is scheduled to air on the morning of June 8th.

Several Ohio newspapers, including *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *Akron Beacon Journal*, reported that FirstEnergy officials believe the idled Davis-Besse nuclear power plant will be ready to start making electricity by early to mid-August.

Brian Sheron of NRR was interviewed by the British journal *New Scientist* about safety issues facing the aging nuclear reactor industry, including the Davis-Besse and South Texas Project facilities.

A number of media outlets, including *The New York Times* and *Reuters*, covered an NRC meeting on leaks at the bottom of the reactor vessel at the South Texas Project.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-073	NRC Staff Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses For Diablo Canyon (6/3)
03-074	NRC To Hold Public Meetings On Updating Generic Environmental Impact Statement For License Renewal (6/3)
03-075	NRC Amends Event Notification Regulations (6/5)
Regions:	
II-03-033	NRC Staff Seeks Public Input On Robinson Draft Environmental Report For License Renewal (6/6)
III-03-042	NRC To Discuss Significance Of Safety System Issue At Point Beach (6/4)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0072	4/25/01	Draft Rulemaking Plan: Distribution of Source Material to Exempt Persons and to General Licensees and Revision of 10 CFR 40.22 General License
SRM on SECY-01-0072	6/5/03	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-01-0072	6/5/03	(same)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman James C. Greenwood, dated May 30, 2003, concerns lessons learned following the discovery of degradation of the reactor pressure vessel head at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.
2. Letter to Senator Harry Reid, dated May 30, 2003, concerns the State of Nevada's recent "Petition to Establish Procedures" for the Yucca Mountain licensing hearing.
3. Letter to Lauren Whitley, NC WARN, dated May 30, 2003, responds to an invitation for NRC to participate in the meeting "A Citizen's Hearing on Nuclear Risk Reduction."
4. Letter to Leo Bobek, TRTR, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, dated May 28, 2003, responds to invitation to speak at the TRTR annual conference.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Notice of Meeting on Planning and Procedures.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Site Visit to Maine Yankee by Commissioner Merrifield

On May 30, 2003, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by members of his staff, and the Region I Deputy Regional Administrator and other Region I staff, visited the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (Maine Yankee) site. The Commissioner toured the decommissioning reactor facility and the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and met with a number of Maine Yankee senior managers. Following the site tour, the Commissioner and his staff met separately with the Governor's State Nuclear Safety Advisor and the Director of Friends of the Coast, a concerned citizens' group, to discuss issues regarding spent fuel storage.

Region I Senior Management Site Visit to Seabrook Station

On June 4 - 5, 2003, the Region I Regional Administrator and members of the Region I staff toured Seabrook Station and met with the resident inspectors and selected FPL Energy managers. The visit was part of the Region's program of site visits.

Region I Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee

The Philadelphia Federal Executive Board recognized the Region I EEO Advisory Committee with an award for outstanding achievements, contributions, and effectiveness in promoting equal employment opportunity and diversity programs.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS)

On June 6, 2003, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, attended the inspection exit meeting, open to the public, for the readiness review inspection of the new NFS Uranyl Nitrate Storage Building. This building is the first of three new facilities for the downblending of high enriched uranium to low enriched uranium and conversion to uranium powder.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel Public Meetings

On June 3, 2003, the NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel held two meetings at the Camp Perry Ohio National Guard facility in Oak Harbor, Ohio. The first meeting was between the panel and FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. officials to discuss the status of activities at the Davis-Besse plant in response to the reactor vessel head degradation. The second meeting was an evening public session to review NRC activities involving Davis-Besse and to respond to questions and concerns from the public.

Regulatory Conference on Preliminary Red Finding at Point Beach

On June 6, 2003, members of the Region III staff met with Nuclear Management Company officials in the Region III Office for a regulatory conference on a preliminary determination of high safety significance ("red") for an inspection finding at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station. NRC inspectors determined that the auxiliary feedwater system might fail to function under certain abnormal conditions. Normal plant operations were not affected by the problem, which was initially discovered by plant personnel in October 2002. The licensee intends to submit supplemental information in about two weeks to be used by the NRC staff in reaching its final safety significance determination.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

Chairman Diaz Visit to the San Onofre Generating Station

On June 4, 2003, the Chairman Diaz visited the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, at the licensee's invitation, and met with licensee management. During the visit, the Chairman heard a licensee presentation on plant security, emergency planning, and the use of risk, and toured the facility.

South Texas Project

On June 3, 2003, Region IV held a public meeting with the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. The purpose was to discuss the most recent comprehensive cultural assessment performed at the South Texas Project as required by the Confirmatory Order of June 9, 1998. An inspection will be conducted on site next week to confirm the completion of the requirements of the Order.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 6, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 17

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	06/10/03 2318 RHOB	10:00	DOE (Gail Marcus), NEI, Universities	University Nuclear Science and Engineering Programs	Reps. Biggert/Lampson Energy Science Committee
Gerke	06/12/03 TBA Postponed	A.M.	NRC Commission and Others	Davis-Besse	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce

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ENCLOSURE R