

INFORMATION REPORT

August 14, 2003

SECY-03-0138

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-03-0138 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 8, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
L. Roche, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2003

NRC Information Notice 2003-10, Criticality Monitoring System Degradation at BWX Technologies, Inc., Nuclear Products Division, Lynchburg, VA, dated August 4, 2003

NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of a safety concern in EC1-X and EC2-X Thermo Electron (formerly Eberline) analog monitors. The safety concern arises when these systems, used as either in-line monitors or criticality monitors, are exposed to power surges, such as in a lightning storm, causing a failure of the alarm function of the EC1-X and EC2-X monitors without indication. It is expected that licensees will review this information, and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Meeting Regarding Material Degradation Issues

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff met with NEI representatives on August 4, 2003, to discuss a new industry approach to the management of materials degradation (i.e., corrosion) issues. NEI established a new guideline, NEI 03-08, "Guideline for the Management of Materials Issues," which will become effective January 2, 2004. This guideline establishes two standing committees (one with executive oversight, the other with technical oversight); establishes policy; defines roles, responsibilities, and expectations; and provides for an integrated approach to the management of materials issues. The actions required by this initiative include a commitment of executive leadership and technical personnel, a commitment of funds for materials issues, and a commitment to implement applicable guidance documents. This initiative was unanimously approved by the Chief Nuclear Officers in May 2003. Over the next few months, the details of this approach (e.g., establishment of a strategic plan, project control, regulatory interface, etc.) will be developed. At the meeting, the staff voiced support of the initiative, stressed the importance of proactive management of materials degradation issues, and reiterated the regulatory role of the agency.

Meeting with Framatome on Fuel Issues

On July 30-31, 2003, the staff met with representatives from Framatome in the Framatome facilities in Lynchburg, Virginia to exchange information on fuel design issues and fuel performance operating experience. This meeting was one of the periodic meetings between the staff, licensees and nuclear fuel vendors on industry experience and future plans for fuel design and utilization. In addition to the meeting, the staff toured the Framatome fuel fabrication facility.

Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) Quality for Applications

During the week of July 28 through August 1, the staff participated in a Consultants' Meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was also attended by representatives from Switzerland, Russia and Sweden. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a second draft of a document entitled "PSA Quality for Applications." The document provides the attributes of a PSA required for performing various applications and differs from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Probabilistic Risk Assessment Standard in that it provides a basic set of attributes for a state-of-the-art PSA, and special attributes for

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specific applications, rather than the three capability category structure of the ASME Standard. It is intended that by September, a draft will be sent for review by the delegates who attended an International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Committee meeting in September of 2002, where the original draft was discussed, and on the basis of their comments a final draft prepared by the end of the calendar year.

Entergy Early Site Permit (ESP) Application for Grand Gulf is Delayed

On August 1, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Potomac, a subsidiary of Entergy Nuclear Inc., informed the NRC, by letter, that it intends to submit its application for an ESP for the Grand Gulf site in mid to late September 2003. The schedule change was due to the delayed completion of the seismic analysis for the application.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
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Department of Energy and NRC Staff Workshops and Meeting with Staff of the Russian Federation's GOSATOMNADZOR to Discuss Licensing Activities in the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program

During July 21-25, 2003, staff from the Offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Nuclear Regulatory Research participated in a series of workshops and meetings in Moscow to support the Department of Energy (DOE) and Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN) in discussion on topics related to the U.S. Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) regulatory requirements and technical review. Russian participants also included TVEL (Russian fuel fabricator), GSPI (Russian facility designer), and REA (Russian nuclear plant operator). Presentations and discussions included U.S. and Russian mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel licensing requirements, testing, review of fuel qualification lead test assemblies, and U.S. neutronics methods for MOX.

On July 28-August 1, 2003, NRC staff conducted a seminar for GAN in Moscow on the U.S. MFFF regulations and guidance documents, safety reviews, and conclusions in the following areas: overview of the MFFF project, fabrication, and licensing process, and a presentation on the MFFF regulatory requirements, reviews, and conclusions for electrical systems; instrumental and central systems and the relevant software quality assurance issues; and human factors engineering requirements, reviews, and conclusions for the MFFF project. This seminar was the second in a series of training workshops 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.

Meeting on the Shallow-Land-Disposal-Area Decommissioning

On July 31, 2003, Division of Waste Management staff attended a partnering meeting on the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA), Parks Township, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and held at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) - Southwest Region offices in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Chairman, Parks Township Board of Supervisors; Township Police Chief; Argonne National Laboratory; URS, Inc. (USACE's consultant); ARCO (the former licensee); and PADEP's regional management and staff participated, along with USACE and the NRC representative. During the meeting, URS reviewed its work plan for the site remedial investigation. The plan's revised schedule calls for issuance of a Record of Decision by June 2006, and initiation of remedial action by October 2008. USACE has scheduled a public meeting at the local fire hall in the Parks Township area, on August 28, 2003, to review the remedial investigation work plan and the revised schedule. The current license for the SLDA site, held by BWXT, authorizes the licensee and USACE to jointly request that the license be put into abeyance 6 months before issuance of the Record of Decision.

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NRC Staff Hold Big Rock Point Public Meeting

On August 5, 2003, staffs of the Division of Waste Management and Region III held a Public Meeting in Charlevoix, Michigan, to discuss the Big Rock Point (BRP) License Termination Plan (LTP). Consumers Energy Company, the owner of BRP, submitted the LTP for the site to NRC in April 2003. The meeting consisted of NRC and licensee staff presentations, followed by a question and answer period. Although approximately 30 individuals attended the meeting, nobody raised any concerns with NRC staff.

Atomic Safety Licensing Board Decision to Terminate Hearing on Diablo Canyon Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Application

On August 5, 2003, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a Memorandum and Order denying the intervenors' request for an evidentiary hearing and terminating the proceeding in the matter of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. The ASLB had previously admitted one contention submitted by the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (representing several citizen's groups), asserting that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) could not demonstrate, and NRC staff could not make, the financial assurance finding required by 10 CFR 72.22(e), because of the uncertainty of PG&E's pending bankruptcy. The ASLB concluded that PG&E has met its burden in demonstrating that it has the financial qualifications to carry out the activities outlined in its pending 10 CFR Part 72 application. The staff is completing its environmental and safety reviews of the application and expects to make a licensing decision in the next few months.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Nuclear Fuel Performance Code Training

A training session on nuclear fuel performance codes was conducted at NRC Headquarters on August 6-7, 2003. The two-day class, sponsored by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, was presented by the staff of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The training session covered the two NRC-sponsored computer codes: the steady-state FRAPCON-3 code and the transient FRAPTRAN code. Material presented in the session included fundamental aspects of fuel behavior, conditions within the fuel rod, and the relationship of these conditions to nuclear fuel design criteria. Commercial and test reactor data were discussed with user instructions on developing code input. Attendees (four from NMSS and twelve from NRR) were provided with the opportunity to perform calculations during the class. Having completed the training, the attendees will now be able to use the codes on their own desktop computer system.

Publication of final NUREG-1640, "Radiological Assessments for Clearance of Materials From Nuclear Facilities"

NUREG-1640, "Radiological Assessments for Clearance of Materials From Nuclear Facilities," was published in July, 2003. It is also available on the NRC website at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1640/>

The NUREG provides individual dose factors for assessing critical groups for scenarios involving release of certain materials from licensed sources. The materials analyzed were: steel, copper, aluminum, and concrete. Other materials are being analyzed separately and will be published later this year in a supplement to NUREG-1640. This work is being done to support the development of a draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement to support rulemaking on this issue.

Program for Non-Destructive and Destructive Examination of Discarded North Anna 2 Nozzles

RES has initiated a program at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) for the non-destructive and destructive examination of six nozzles removed from the discarded head of the North Anna Unit 2 plant. This program is being conducted in collaboration with the EPRI Materials Reliability Program. The nozzles were shipped to PNNL in late July. The six nozzles were selected to represent a selection of flaw indications and visual observations.

The stress-corrosion cracks with both axial and circumferential orientations in the North Anna 2 nozzles and J-welds include a range of sizes, aspect ratios and related materials characteristics that provide the opportunity to assess the effectiveness and reliability of non-destructive testing methods to detect and size realistic flaws.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-03-034, Rush Copley Medical Center - MEDICAL EVENT (WRONG ISOTOPE).
2. PNO-II-03-013, Medical University of South Carolina - BRACHYTHERAPY PROCEDURE EVENT.
3. PNO-II-03-014, Southern Nuclear Company - VOGTLE UNIT 2 SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR MECHANICAL SEAL LEAK ON REACTOR VESSEL HEAD.

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Office of Administration
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Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2003; Correction (Parts 170 and 171)

A document correcting the final rule that amends the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to the Commission's applicants and licensees was published in the Federal Register on August 6, 2003 (68 FR 46439). This document corrects typographical errors and mislabeled fee types in the schedule of materials fees. The final rule becomes effective August 18, 2003.

Adjustment of the Maximum Retrospective Deferred Premium (AH32 - Part 140)

A final rule that increases the maximum secondary retrospective deferred premium for liability insurance coverage in the event of an incident at a licensed, operating, commercial nuclear power plant with a rated capacity of 100,000 kW or more was published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2003 (68 FR 46929). This action responds to the legislative requirement that an inflation adjustment be made at least once every five years. The final rule becomes effective August 20, 2003.

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Chief Information Officer
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of August 1 through August 7, 2003:

NEDO-31708 "Fuel Thermal Margin During Core Thermal Hydraulic Oscillations in a Boiling Water Reactor"	FOIA/PA-2003-0368
Lungmen Nuclear Power Project, Taiwan 1-1-93 to present; Taiwan Power Co., all documents including correspondence between NRC and other government agencies (Referral by Dept. of State)	FOIA/PA-2003-0369
Solicitation, 1998, RQ 50875073, contract, winning proposal	FOIA/PA-2003-0370
Evaluation of NRC solicitation no. NRR-03-038	FOIA/PA-2003-0371
Indian Point emergency preparedness, NRC's determination that emergency preparedness is satisfactory and provides adequate protection, NRC News 03-099, dated 7-25-03, all documents relating to this determination	FOIA/PA-2003-0372
Perry Nuclear Power Plant, drug test adulteration	FOIA/PA-2003-0373
Policy & Procedures Letters 1-48, 1-50 and specific memos on policy and guidance directive 84-20	FOIA/PA-2003-0374
White Mesa Mill, International Uranium Corporation (IUSA), documents relating to the submittals on process alternate feed materials, dated 12-15 & 12-18-00	FOIA/PA-2003-0375
Davis Besse's failure to comply with 10/1996 10 CFR 50.54 (f) letter and Design Basis Document Validation Program; the 1000 identified deficiencies and their disposition, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0376
Allegation 03-A-0058	FOIA/PA-2003-0377
Information access practices, 1-20-2001 to present, include decisions, directives, FOIA instructions, policy memos etc.	FOIA/PA-2003-0378
Indian Point emergency preparedness, NRC's determination that emergency preparedness is satisfactory; NRC's reversal of FEMAs 2-21-03 exercise report, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0379
Neutron Products Inc., material licenses, applications, reports, memos re: radioactive waste disposal or residual radioactive contamination (use of Quehanna Nuclear Reactor facility in the 1980's)	FOIA/PA-2003-0380

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Quehanna Nuclear Reactor facility, licenses issued to PA State Univ., 1962-1967, reports, assessments, memos re: radioactive waste disposal	FOIA/PA-2003-0381
Martin Co. (Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin Corp.); byproduct material license from AEC, 6-26-62, 19-1938-29 (F64), all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0382
Nuclear Materials Events Database, State of Colorado, January 1 - December 31, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and January 1 - June 30, 2003	FOIA/PA-2003-0383

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Office of Human Resources
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Arrivals		
CALL, Michael	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
EITREIM, Anthony	CHIEF COUNSEL	ASLBP
JORGENSEN, Bruce	CONSULTANT	RIII
KLINE, Kevin	PROGRAM ANALYST	NSIR
LANGSCHWAGER, Matthew	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
PERRY, Jamila	SECRETARY	OCFO
QUICHOCHO, Jessie	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
RIDGE, Christianna	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
WINGFIELD, Theodore	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
YIN, Xiaosong	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
Departures		
BELCHER, Stephanie	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
BELLARMINE, Thomas*	SUMMER FACULTY	NRR
BLANCO, Andrew	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
LARE, Megan	STUDENT CLERK	RI
MARINCEL, Michelle	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
MCDONALD, Sharon	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR
PERGANDE, Shaun	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
RUND, Jonathan	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
SPECHT, Trevor	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	NRR
YOUNT, Hannah	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS

*Effective August 1, 2003

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Media Interest

Continued controversy over Indian Point, as local counties seek documents on NRC's decision to back FEMA's endorsement of emergency preparedness plans.

NRC's approval for South Texas 1 to restart after repairs to the bottom of its reactor vessel.

Rejection by Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel of a petition to deny Diablo Canyon a permit for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Chairman Nils J. Diaz was interviewed by *Washingtonian* magazine for an article on the performance of nuclear plants in the area; separate interviews were conducted with staff on the North Anna and Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-100	NRC Increases Secondary Premium for Nuclear Power Plant Insurance (8/5)
Regions:	
II-03-039	NRC Staff Seeks Input on Summer Nuclear Plant Draft Environmental Report for License Renewal (8/6)
IV-03-034	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to South Texas Project (8/8)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-03-0025	6/18/03	Status of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Business Process Improvement Initiative
SRM on COMSECY-03-0025	8/5/03	(same)
Commissioner Votes on COMSECY-03-0025	8/5/03	(same)
2. COMSECY-03-0039	7/25/03	Implementation of Semiannual Reports Instead of Quarterly Reports and Utilization of NRC Website to Update the Public on Activities Related to Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials
SRM on COMSECY-03-0039	8/6/03	(same)
Commissioner Votes on COMSECY-03-0039	8/6/03	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0128	7/31/03	SECY-03-0128 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 25, 2003
2. SECY-03-0123	7/22/03	Use of Traditional Enforcement for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 Restart
3. SECY-03-0124	7/24/03	Summary of Activities Related to Generic Safety Issues
4. SECY-03-0132	08/07/03	SECY-03-0132 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 1, 2003

Commission Correspondence

1. Letters to Congress, et al., dated 08/07/2003, provides observations on the current status of safety, security and emergency preparedness at Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

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Region I
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Indian Point - Oversight Process Assessment Meeting

On August 4, 2003, Region I and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) conducted the pre-decisional mid-cycle plant assessments for Indian Point Units 2 and 3. The balance of the Region I facilities were assessed the week July 28. The results of all of the Reactor Oversight Process assessments are scheduled to be published by letter to each licensee on or before August 27, 2003.

Region I Senior Management Site Visit to Susquehanna

On August 7-8, 2003, the Region I Regional Administrator and other staff toured Susquehanna and met with the Resident Inspection staff and selected licensee managers, as part of the Region's routine program of site visits.

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Region II
Items of Interest
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American Nuclear Society 2003 Utility Working Conference

On August 4-7, 2003, the Deputy Regional Administrator, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, and other regional managers participated in the American Nuclear Society 2003 Utility Working Conference in Amelia Island, FL. On August 7, they accompanied the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs in the National Reactor Utilities Group meeting. The meeting included a discussion of feedback on the reactor oversight process.

Florida Power and Light Company - Turkey Point Nuclear Plant Management Meeting

On August 5, 2003, regional managers and staff held a closed management meeting with representatives from Florida Power and Light Company. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Turkey Point Nuclear Plant security issues.

Operator Licensing Counterpart Meeting in Region II

On August 7, 2003, Region II hosted the internal NRC, Operator Licensing counterpart meeting, involving the four regions and NRR Operator licensing management. The meeting included a discussion of the latest guidance for the conduct of operator licensing.

Meeting with Operator Licensing Working Group

On August 8, 2003, Region II hosted a meeting of the Operator Licensing Working Group. Participants included NRC and representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute. The purpose was to discuss the status of the pilot study and other issues with Revision 9 of the NRC, Examiner Standards.

Region IV
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Unified Defense 04 Exercise

On August 7, 2003, Region IV staff participated in a scenario development meeting for the Unified Defense 04 exercise scheduled for February 19-26, 2004. Other participating organizations included the Texas Emergency Management Department, the Texas Department of Health, FEMA Region IV, the U.S. Army 5th Unit, the Texas National Guard, NORTHCOM and TXU Energy (Comanche Peak). The basic scenario outline for the Texas venue of the exercise was developed and will be reviewed by senior military command early next week. This high level review may result in some modification of the scenario vignettes. Currently, the Texas portion of the exercise involves a significant hurricane striking the Texas gulf coast and an emergency declaration at the Comanche Peak plant shortly thereafter. The Comanche Peak event will involve a small release. The licensee has agreed to play in the exercise.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 25

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	TBA	TBA	Chairman Diaz, DOE Bechtel, NEI	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Keeling	09/10/03 LHOB	10:00	TBA	Findings of 9/11 Intelligence Report	Reps. Cox/Turner Select Committee on Homeland Security

Note: August recess has begun; the Senate returns on September 2nd, and the House returns on September 3.

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