

INFORMATION REPORT

January 15, 2004

SECY-04-0004

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0004 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 9, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Petition on North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP) Application Proceeding

On January 5, 2004, NRC received a petition dated January 2, 2004, from three organizations requesting to intervene in the North Anna early site permit (ESP) application proceeding. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 52, a hearing is mandatory for an ESP, and a petition to intervene is a first step in admitting parties as litigants in that hearing. The organizations cited in the petition, which represent 17 individuals who live within 50 miles of the proposed ESP site, are the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Public Citizen. The petition asserts eight aspects that the petitioners believe are within the scope of the proceeding. In accordance with the hearing process set forth in 10 CFR Part 2, a Licensing Board appointed by the Commission will determine whether the petitioners have standing (individuals cited in the petition are affected by the proposed action). They will also determine whether at least one aspect cited in the petition is within the scope of the proceeding. Petitioners determined to have standing must subsequently submit admissible contentions to be admitted to the proceeding as interveners. The Office of the General Counsel, with support as needed from the NRC staff, will develop the NRC's response to the petition. The NRC's response will discuss whether the petitioners have standing and if the aspects asserted in the petition are within the scope of the proceeding.

License Renewal Application for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3

On January 6, 2004, the staff received a license renewal application from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requesting to extend the operating licenses for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3 for an additional 20 years beyond their current 40-year terms, pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54. The Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, and 3 are boiling water reactors designed by General Electric with current operating licenses that expire at midnight on December 20, 2013; June 28, 2014; and July 2, 2016, respectively. Unit 1 has been in an extended shutdown, and the licensee plans to pursue restart during the NRC staff's review of the license renewal application. TVA indicated that it plans to submit license amendment requests to upgrade the current licensing basis for Unit 1 as part of the restart effort and to submit license amendment requests for a 15 to 20 percent power uprate at all three units.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Staff Review of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation's American Centrifuge Lead Cascade License Application

On February 11, 2003, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation submitted an application for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (Lead Cascade). The Lead Cascade is a test and demonstration facility that will be located at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. The staff has completed its safety and safeguards review of the Lead Cascade license application and is currently documenting its findings in a Safety Evaluation Report (SER). An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and has been provided to the State of Ohio for comment. The staff expects to issue its licensing decision, SER, and EA for the Lead Cascade by the end of January 2004.

January 9, 2004

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Meeting of the Joint Action Group on Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Research and Development Plan (JAG/ATD R&DP).

On January 6-7, 2003, a member of the RES staff attended a meeting of the JAG/ATD R&DP. The JAG/ATD R&DP is organized by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology and is comprised of representatives from seven Federal departments and agencies, some having multiple representatives. The group is expected to prepare a report on research and development needs in the area of atmospheric transport and dispersion by the end of March 2004.

January 9, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-04-001, Vulcan Chemicals - LOST FIXED GAUGE.
2. PNO-IV-03-052A, ShopKo Stores - LOST TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS - CORRECTED COPY.

January 9, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, -61BT, -24PHB, and -32PT, Revision (AH26 - Part 72)

On January 7, 2004, a final rule that revises the Standardized NUHOMS® -24P, -52B, and 61BT cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 849). This action (Amendment 5) adds another dry shielded canister to the authorized contents of the cask system. The direct final rule became effective January 7, 2004.

Proposed Revision to 10 CFR 50.55a, Codes and Standards

On January 7, 2004, a proposed revision to 10 CFR 50.55a, Codes and Standards, was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 879) to incorporate by reference recent editions and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the Code for the Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants. The proposed revisions would provide updated rules for constructing and inspecting components and testing pumps and valves in light-water cooled nuclear power plants. The comment period for this action closes March 22, 2004.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

MCI Reinstated as Federal Government Contractor

On January 7, 2004, General Services Administration (GSA) Suspension and Debarment Official removed WorldCom from the Excluded Parties Listing System (EPLS) after finding that the telecommunications company had made sufficient management and oversight changes. This action allows GSA to issue an extension to MCI to continue to provide services under the Federal Telephone System (FTS) 2001 contract until the replacement contract is in place.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of January 2 through January 8, 2004:

Allegation RIV-2003-A-0080, all correspondence	FOIA/PA-2004-0083
Nuclear Material Events Database, all available years	FOIA/PA-2004-0084
Allegation RIV-96-A-0286 including all correspondence between named individual and NRC	FOIA/PA-2004-0085
RTG SNAP-7E, RTG TRACS-25A, AEC license No. 08-11817-13 and DOT permits 6169 and 5651, re: transportation certification and restrictions	FOIA/PA-2004-0086
Computer virus or intrusion at a nuclear plant, all documents detailing instances	FOIA/PA-2004-0087
Palo Verde, 5 allegations for 2003 and findings	FOIA/PA-2004-0088
Site assessment, Atrium at Chesterfield, 16305 Swingley Ridge Rd., Chesterfield, MO 630917	FOIA/PA-2004-0089

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 9, 2004

Arrivals		
Paul B. Abramson	Deputy Associate Chief Administrative Judge	ASLBP
Shaun Anderson	Student Engineer (Co-op)	NRR
Marc Brooks	Security Specialist	NSIR
Michael Loyd Cain	Project Engineer	R-II
Miriam Cohen	Director, Program Management, Policy Development and Analysis Staff	NSIR
Partick Coughlin	Security Specialist	NSIR
Michael Junge	Reliability & Risk Engineer	RES
Ray Kellar	Health Physicist	R-IV
Jason Plotter	Structural Engineer	NMSS
Mark Speck	Project Engineer	R-II
Andrew Welkie	IT Specialist	ASLBP
Dane A. Woodard	Personnel Security Specialist	ADM
Retirement		
Hai-Boh Wang	Operations Engineer (Mechanical)	NRR
Departures		
Theodric Anderson	Security Specialist	NSIR
Waldermar DelValle	Nuclear Safety Intern	R-II
David A. Martin	Student Clerk	R-III

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Media Interest

Reports that nuclear engineers were deployed undercover in four major U.S. cities over the New Year's holiday looking for signs of a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or "dirty bomb," as the nation remained on Orange-level alert status. Late in the week, the alert was lowered to Yellow.

Safeguards Information about security at Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in the 1990s appears to have been improperly released in the public domain.

A shipment of highly enriched uranium from Russia was delivered mistakenly to the wrong fuel cycle facility in the United States. There was no apparent threat to public safety or security.

The licensee of Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Ohio requested a delay in the NRC's restart inspection after some employees neglected proper procedures during restart preparations.

Dow-Jones News Services is comparing the French and U.S. approaches to reactor vessel head degradation.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-001	NRC Announces the Availability of License Renewal Application for Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant (1/8)
Regions:	
II-04-002	Oral Argument on Duke's Application to Use Mixed Oxide Nuclear Fuel Scheduled for January 15 in Charlotte (1/8)
III-04-002	NRC Staff to Discuss an Apparent Violation Associated with Emergency Classifications at Point Beach (1/9)
III-04-003	NRC Staff Seeks Input on Dresden Draft Environmental Report for License Renewal (1/9)
IV-04-001	NRC Staff to Meet with Energy Northwest to Discuss Columbia Generating Station Issues (1/5)
IV-04-002	NRC Proposes \$6,000 Fine for Cooperheat-MQS, Inc., of Houston, Texas (1/6)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Visit by South Africa Provincial Delegation

On January 7, 2004, Premier (Governor) Marthinus van Schalkwyk of Western Cape Province, South Africa headed a Provincial delegation that met with Commissioners McGaffigan and Merrifield. Discussions were related to emergency planning and the results of NRC's pre-licensing review of the pebble-bed moderated reactor (PBMR).

January 9, 2004

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 9, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0222	12/29/03	SECY-03-0222 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending December 19, 2003
2. SECY-03-0219	12/22/03	Termination of Rulemaking to Add M5 Cladding to 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors" (WITS 200300060)
3. SECY-03-0220	12/23/03	Litigation Report - 2003 - 03
4. SECY-03-0221	12/22/03	Annual Report on Feedback From Licensees Regarding the Impact of NRC's Activities on Licensees' Operations
Memoranda		
1. M040108	1/8/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-03-0224 - Sequoyah Fuels Corp. (Gore, Oklahoma Site); State of Oklahoma's Petition for Review of LBP-03-25

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground Site - Notice of Reconstitution.
2. System Energy Resources, Inc. Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene Early Site Permit for the Grand Gulf ESP Site.
3. Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy and on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

IPEC Utility Workers Union Contract Expiration Update

A strike by operators, maintenance workers, and radiation protection workers at Indian Point Unit 3 is still possible when the current contract expires on January 17, 2004. Region I continues to monitor licensee preparations and is prepared to respond as needed in accordance with NRC procedures. Inspectors have reviewed licensee contingency plans, including those for licensed operator staffing, emergency preparedness, and security staffing. Entergy and the Union representative continued negotiating in meetings twice this week. Daily negotiating sessions are planned beginning on Saturday, January 10. News reports stated the union conducted meetings this week to explain picket line rules and organize picket schedules in preparation for possible job action. Region I is coordinating a "watch bill" to provide 24-hour coverage if required. Should a strike take place, the DRP Branch 2 Chief and a DRS Security Inspector will go to the site to observe the licensee's implementation of contingency plans.

Haddam Neck Decommissioning Activity

On January 6, 2004, the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) from the Haddam Neck Plant arrived at the Chem-Nuclear low level radioactive waste disposal site in Barnwell, SC and was placed in a disposal trench at the site. Region I inspected the shipment preparations of the 820 ton package prior to release from the facility in Connecticut on December 18, 2003, and monitored its progress through to receipt at Barnwell.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Honeywell International, Inc.

On January 6, 2004, the Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, participated in a public exit meeting at Honeywell International, Inc. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the findings from the NRC's Augmented Inspection Team that was established to inspect and assess the Honeywell uranium hexafluoride (UF6) offsite release of December 22, 2003. Following the presentation of findings by the AIT, the meeting was opened to public comments/questions. Approximately 120 people attended the 2-hour meeting. The majority of the comments were related to the off-site response and the coordination between the licensee and the off-site responders. The licensee acknowledged that off-site response and coordination could be improved and noted that Honeywell had held a recent meeting to initiate improvements. Both Region II staff and the licensee confirmed that Honeywell would not restart operations until NRC is satisfied with Honeywell's corrective actions.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 9, 2004

Structural Inspection at Diablo Canyon Power Plant

During the week of January 5, 2004, a specialist from the regional office performed a followup inspection at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in response to the December 22, 2003, earthquake. The 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck the San Simeon Fault 35 miles northwest of the plant. Prompt followup conducted by the licensee and NRC did not identify any damage to the facility. The specialist inspector's findings confirmed that there was no apparent damage to the facility. Other aspects of the inspection, including a review of the licensee's response procedures and an NRC-required special report, are ongoing.

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ENCLOSURE P