

INFORMATION REPORT

May 1, 2003

SECY-03-0066

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0066 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 25, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

South Texas Project, Unit 1 Reactor Pressure Vessel Boron Residue

On April 12, 2003, South Texas Plant Unit 1 was in cold shutdown and preparing to restart from its current refueling outage. While performing a routine inspection of the reactor coolant system and associated systems as part of the boric acid control program, the licensee found what appeared to be small amounts of boric acid residue on two bottom mounted instrumentation penetrations on the reactor pressure vessel. The licensee informed the staff of its findings and preliminary investigation results in a letter dated April 24, 2003. The preliminary results indicate primary reactor coolant as the likely source of the residue. The licensee has committed to an effort that includes the following elements: 1) investigation of the root cause; 2) determination of the extent of the condition; 3) identification and implementation of effective corrective actions; and 4) briefing the staff prior to restarting the unit.

Fire Protection Issues Management Working Group

On April 18, 2003, NRC staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry to continue discussions on fire protection issues. The meeting was held at NEI headquarters and addressed the following items: industry incentives to adopt National Fire Protection Association Standard NFPA 805, inspection and enforcement policy during NFPA 805 transition period, NEI NFPA 805 implementation guide table-top exercise, NEI guidance for post-fire safe shutdown analysis, NRC fire protection improvement plan, license renewal interim staff guidance, NRC assessment of triennial inspections, and protocol for resolving emerging fire protection issues. The next working group meeting is planned for early June.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2003-07 (RIS), Issuance of Regulations Revising Filing Requirements for Advance Notification of the Shipment of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Special Nuclear Material

On April 23, 2003, the NRC issued Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2003-07. This RIS informs addresses of the publication of a final rule which revises the advance notification requirements for the shipment of spent nuclear fuel and special nuclear material in 10 CFR 70.20b, 71.97, 73.26, 73.27, 73.67, 73.71, 73.72, 73.73, and 73.74.

Staff Conducts Public Scoping Meetings on the Quad Cities and Dresden Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements for License Renewal

On Tuesday, April 8, 2003, the staff conducted two public scoping meetings in Moline, IL, and on Thursday, April 10, 2003, the staff conducted two public scoping meetings in Morris, IL. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the supplemental environmental impact statements (SEISs) being prepared as part of the review of the license renewal application submitted by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) on January 3, 2003. The SEISs will be plant-specific supplements to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437).

Approximately 120 people attended the meetings in Moline and approximately 90 people attended the meetings in Morris. Attendees included representatives of the NRC staff, Exelon, local governments, members of the public and local news media. Of the individuals who spoke at the meetings, most provided comments in general support of license renewal for Quad Cities and Dresden. There was some opposition as well, in particular, regarding the proposal by Exelon that the Quad Cities plant be valued at zero dollars for tax purposes. This would result in a substantial reduction in revenues for local taxing authorities. The scoping period ends on May 12, 2003.

The staff and its contractors (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) had recently visited both sites to gather additional information on the environmental aspects of the license renewal applications. The teams considered the full scope of environmental issues, including aquatic and terrestrial ecology, land use, human health, socioeconomics, etc., and the licensee's process for identifying new and significant information on the Category 1 issues identified in NUREG-1437.

NRC Conducts Annual Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM)

On April 22-23, 2003, the NRC conducted its annual AARM in Annapolis, MD. This meeting, which is attended by many of the agency's senior managers, provides an opportunity to review industry trends, evaluate the status of the reactor oversight process (ROP), and discuss performance of individual nuclear facilities warranting senior management attention.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Nuclear Fuel Services Meeting on Management Measures

On April 18, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) licensing staff to discuss proposed management measures for Items Relied on for Safety (IROFS). This meeting was part of the review of the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Uranyl Nitrate Building license amendment application. One member of the public, a reporter from McGraw-Hill, was present at the meeting. NFS submitted its management measures commitments, dated April 16, 2003, in response to an NRC request for additional information dated March 26, 2003. These measures are intended to address the requirements in 10 CFR 70.62(d) that licensees establish management measures to ensure that engineered and administrative controls identified as IROFS are designed, implemented, and maintained --and to ensure they are available and reliable to perform their function when needed.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety Subcommittee Briefing on Mixed Oxide

On April 21, 2003, the staff discussed its technical review for construction of the mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels. Presentations were also made by the applicant, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS). In particular, the staff made presentations in the areas of nuclear criticality safety, chemical safety, fire protection, and confinement ventilation, that addressed six issues that are unresolved in the staff's revised draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER), which is scheduled to be issued on April 30, 2003. Those issues are: (1) the adequacy of the DCS criticality validation report, (2) red-oil explosions, (3) hydroxylamine nitrate explosions, (4) adequacy of fire barriers, (5) soot-loading evaluations, and (6) high-efficiency particulate air filter efficiency.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Public Meeting to Discuss the Performance Indicator for Reactor Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal

On April 10, 2003, staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) participated in a public meeting to discuss improvements to the "Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal" Performance Indicator (PI) of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).

Discussions between the staff and industry focused on whether certain scrams could be included in the "loss of normal heat removal" category and whether the current definition for the PI is still appropriate given its emphasis on the ability to restore main feedwater, when plant operational procedures often call for the isolation of main feedwater and the start of auxiliary feedwater. Participants concluded the meeting with an outline on how to proceed with making potential changes to the PI and its implementation guidance. A continuation of this meeting will occur during the next monthly meeting of the ROP Working Group, currently scheduled for May 1, 2003.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

National Response Team Preparedness Committee Meeting

On April 23, 2003, the Division of Incident Response Operations staff attended the National Response Team Preparedness Committee meeting in Alexandria, VA. The meeting included a discussion of the Committee's work reconciling the various response plans and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) plans to release the National Response Plan and National Incident Management System. DHS intends to publish the National Response Plan Concept document on May 3, 2003. While this is a one month delay from the originally proposed date in the applicable Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5), DHS does not plan on delaying any of their other release dates.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-03-022, STP Nuclear Operating Company - REACTOR VESSEL BOTTOM HEAD PENETRATION LEAKAGE.
2. PNO-I-03-010, Griffin Pipe Products Company - CESIUM 137 SOURCE FOUND AT PIPE MANUFACTURING FACILITY.
3. PNO-I-03-011, Hartford Hospital - POTENTIAL MEDICAL EVENT AT HARTFORD HOSPITAL.
4. PNO-III-03-021, D.C. Cook 1 and 2 - DUAL UNIT SHUTDOWN RESULTING FROM FISH INTRUSION.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Medical Use of Byproduct Material: Clarifying and Minor Amendments (Part 35)

A direct final rule that amends the regulations pertaining to the medical use of byproduct material was published in the Federal Register on April 21, 2003 (68 FR 19321). The direct final rule clarifies certain definitions, notification requirements, and recordkeeping requirements. The direct final rule also allows training in ophthalmic treatment to be conducted in eye clinics or private practices in addition to medical institutions. The direct final rule becomes effective July 7, 2003.

The companion proposed rule for this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on April 21, 2003 (68 FR 19466). The comment period for this action closes May 21, 2003.

Releasing Part of a Power Reactor Site or Facility for Unrestricted Use Before the NRC Approves the License Termination Plan (Parts 2, 20, and 50)

A final rule that standardizes the process for allowing a power reactor licensee to release part of its facility or site for unrestricted use before the NRC approves the license termination plan was published in the Federal Register on April 22, 2003 (68 FR 19711). The final rule identifies the criteria and regulatory framework that a licensee uses to request approval for a partial site release and provides additional assurance that residual radioactivity would meet the criteria for license termination. The final rule becomes effective May 23, 2003 except for the provisions of §50.75(g)(4) which become effective November 18, 2003.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
April 18 through April 24, 2003:

MLTS, companies that use radioactive isotopes	FOIA/PA-2003-0258
MLTS, all active and retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2003-0259
Contract for the operation and maintenance of NRC headquarters facilities in Rockville, MD; incumbent contract	FOIA/PA-2003-0260
MLTS, PA and WV	FOIA/PA-2003-0261
Northwestern Univ (IL) labs licensed to use nuclear and radioactive material; recent log of FOIA requests	FOIA/PA-2003-0262
U.S. Navy license for depleted uranium, specific records referenced in previously released records	FOIA/PA-2003-0263

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ENCLOSURE G

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

e-Payroll Update

In compliance with the government-wide e-payroll initiative, the Office of Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Human Resources are migrating from the current Human Resources/Payroll system, HRMS, to the Department of Interior's National Business Center (DOI/NBC) Federal Personnel and Payroll System, FPPS. NRC has begun working with DOI/NBC on conversion to the new system with the target to complete conversion this Fall. The NRC staff impact will be minimal during this initial conversion since we will continue to use the current Time & Labor system for entering time. Employees will be gaining access to the Employee Express System which allows employees to process standard payroll forms, and view and print their Earnings & Leave Statements from the Internet. Briefings will be provided on the new self-service system to all employees by early Fall.

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Arrivals		
*EGLI, Richard	REACTOR TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR	HR
TOKAR, Michael	CONSULTANT	NMSS
Retirements		
None		
Departures		
None		

*EOD, 04/21/03 and Orientation 04/28/03

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Media Interest

Discovery of leaking from the bottom of the South Texas 1 nuclear reactor dominated news coverage early in the week, with articles in *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as various news services nationwide.

Media outlets, including *Associated Press*, covered an alert declared at the D.C. Cook nuclear facility in Michigan because of an influx of fish in the plant's cooling water system. Both units of the plant were taken off-line.

Significant media coverage resulted from Westchester County's plans to hire a consultant to study the feasibility and impact of shutting down New York's Indian Point nuclear power plant and replacing it with an alternative energy source. Articles appeared in *The New York Times* and elsewhere.

Utah's appeal for the NRC to reject a scaled-down version of Private Fuel Storage's proposed Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Goshute Indian reservation generated coverage in several Western newspapers.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-048	NRC Issues Final Rule Allowing Parts of Reactor Sites to be Released for Unrestricted Use
03-049	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 8 - 9 in Rockville, Maryland
03-050	NRC Appoints Bruce Mallett, Loren Plisco To Senior Regional Management Positions
Regions:	
I-03-033	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine for York, Pa., Medical Facility
I-03-034	Note to Editors: NRC Meeting on Indian Point Performance Rescheduled to April 28
I-03-035	NRC to Meet with PSEG to Discuss Annual Assessments of Hope Creek and Salem Nuclear Power Plants
III-03-035	NRC to Discuss Performance at Honeywell
III-03-036	NRC Dispatches Inspectors To Review Cook Nuclear Plant Shutdown

III-03-037	NRC Proposes \$12,000 Fine Against St. Louis Firm For Deliberate Violation of Radiation Protection Requirements
IV-03-020	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss Augmented Inspection of Schlumberger Technology Corporation

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Meetings with Francois Roushely, Chairman, Electricite de France (EdF)

On April 14, Francois Roushely, Chairman, Electricite de France (EdF), met with Chairman Diaz and Commissioners Dicus and McGaffigan. Topics that were discussed included reactor life extension, reactor decommissioning funding, and licensing of new reactors in the U.S. Chairman Roushely explained the importance to EdF of constructing a European Pressurized Reactor (EPR) in the near term.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0036	03/07/03	Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences for Fiscal Year 2002
SRM on SECY-03-0036	03/27/03	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-03-0036	03/27/03	(same)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to T. Pearce O'Kelley, Organization of Agreement States, dated April 18, 2003, concerns the 2002 Organization of Agreement States Meeting and Invitation extended to NRC Commissioners to participate in the OAS annual meeting.
2. Letter to Bill Lockyer, State of California, dated April 15, 2003, concerns the independent spent fuel storage installation proposed to be constructed on the site of the Diablo Canyon NPP.
3. Letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, dated April 15, 2003, concerns the independent spent fuel storage installation proposed to be constructed on the site of the Diablo Canyon NPP.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Training Managers Conference

On April 21-22, 2003, the Region II Operator Licensing staff hosted a Training Managers Conference. Attendees included managers from nuclear power plant licensees in Region II. The theme of the conference was "Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Examination Process." Presentations were focused on the pilot program using the Draft Revision 9 of the Examination Standards, NUREG-1021, and lessons learned were shared with the facility licensees staff.

Visit to Region II Office

On April 25, 2003, the Director and Deputy Director, Division Nuclear Materials Safety, Region I visited the Region II office to discuss the NRC materials program with managers and staff.

Steel of West Virginia, Inc (SWVA) Enforcement Action

On April 24, 2003, Region II issued a Severity Level III enforcement action to the licensee for violations of NRC requirements related to the melting of shielding for and unauthorized removal of a gauge, containing 500 millicuries of Cesium-137. The NRC proposed no Civil Penalty for these violations due to the licensee's prompt and complete corrective actions.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

Special Inspection of D.C. Cook Fish Intrusion

On April 25, 2003, Region III began a special inspection of the circumstances surrounding damage to the traveling screens from a large fish intrusion. The screens protect the intake for both units at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station, operated by American Electric Power Co. near Bridgman, Michigan. Both reactors were shut down on April 24, 2003, because of the effects of the influx of alewives, a small fish that is the predominant species in Lake Michigan. Fish debris entered the emergency service water system, affecting flow to safety-related components including the emergency diesel generators.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference - Dresden Unit 3

On April 23, 2003, members of the Region III and NRC Headquarters staffs met in the regional office with representatives of Exelon Generation Company for a predecisional enforcement conference to discuss apparent violations of the NRC requirement to provide complete and accurate information. The issue is related to a telephone conference call on September 27, 2001, concerning the technical adequacy of an operability evaluation involving a damaged pipe support that was discovered on July 19, 2001, in the Unit 3 High Pressure Coolant Injection System. The meeting was closed to public attendance.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

South Texas Project (STP) Bottom Mounted Instrumentation (BMI) Alloy 600 Penetration Leakage

Region IV, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) held two teleconferences with STP on the BMI penetration leakage issue on Unit 1. The calls were conducted on Tuesday and Thursday, April 22 and 24, respectively. The licensee provided the NRC with a preliminary timeline for the evaluation of the condition of the lower vessel head and the potential examination and repair methods. The licensee plans to demonstrate the non-destructive examination (NDE) methodologies prior to commencing NDE of the BMI penetrations. A public meeting has been scheduled in Headquarters on May 1, 2003, to provide more detailed information in response to questions raised during the teleconferences.

Predecisional Enforcement Conferences (PEC) with two former employees of Schlumberger Technology Corporation

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety and other members of the Region IV staff conducted PECs on April 24 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and on April 25 in Bismarck, North Dakota, with former employees of Schlumberger Technology Corporation. The purpose of the individual conferences was to discuss potential willful violations associated with the use of well logging sources when the individuals were employed by Schlumberger Technology Corporation.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 25, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 12

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	05/01/03 SD-406	9:30	Markup	Draft Nuclear Security Legislation	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Keeling	05/15/03 SD-406 <i>Tentative</i>	9:30	NRC	Nuclear Security	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

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ENCLOSURE R