January 16, 2002

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Fiscal Year 2002 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Report 107-258, directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue to provide a monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties. The initial reporting requirement arose in the Fiscal Year 1999 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Senate Report 105-206. The FY 2000 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Report 106-253, expanded the scope of the report requirement to include regulatory reform efforts affecting power reactor operations beyond 10 CFR Part 50, particularly NRC efforts to evaluate NRC security regulations. In FY 2000, we also expanded the monthly report to include the status of all license renewal applications that are under active review and other NRC initiatives in developing implementation guidance for the license renewal rule. In response to increased Congressional interest, in the May 2001 report, we began to provide information regarding the status of activities involving power uprate licensing actions. On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to transmit the thirty-sixth report, which covers the month of November (Enclosure 1).

The October report provided information on a number of significant NRC activities, including our actions taken following the terrorist attacks of September 11. The NRC staff was directed to conduct a comprehensive review of the NRC's safeguards and physical security programs. This review will examine the basic assumptions underlying the current safeguards and physical security program, in order to determine whether adjustments are necessary to the NRC's or licensees' programs. On November 28, the NRC staff submitted a report to the Commission that outlined the proposed course of action and schedule for conducting the review and identified preliminary policy issues for Commission consideration. We will continue to keep you informed of the status of our activities in this area. The NRC continues to respond to a significant number of letters from the public and members of Congress regarding the security of NRC licensed facilities.

We previously included information on our recent activities related to through-wall circumferential cracks found on control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration nozzles and associated welds at Duke Power Company's Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 2 and 3, located in Seneca, South Carolina. These discoveries raised concerns about the structural integrity of reactor penetration nozzles. The nozzles, which were fabricated from Alloy 600 material, are located in the top of reactor pressure vessels at pressurized water reactors (PWRs) throughout the industry. Due to these concerns, on August 3, the NRC issued a bulletin to the licensees of

the 69 operating PWRs requesting information regarding the structural integrity of reactor vessel head penetrations. The licensees have since submitted the requested information. The staff is in the process of evaluating the information to determine the need for future regulatory action(s). The staff is continuing its dialogue with the industry to resolve this generic technical issue.

Since our last report, the Commission and the NRC staff also:

- released to the public a draft version of a plan that the NRC would use to review a possible future application to build a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, if the Department of Energy submits such an application. The principal purpose of the Yucca Mountain Review Plan (YMRP) would be to ensure the quality and uniformity of the NRC staff's licensing reviews. The staff is working to conform the draft of the YMRP to the NRC and EPA rules applicable to Yucca Mountain. It is the Commission's intention to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the YMRP when the revision is complete.

- worked with the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee to issue a new Federal KI (potassium iodide) policy which was published in the Federal Register by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- submitted a letter to the States that have nuclear power plants located within the State or nearby offering to supply KI. The Commission has allotted 800,000 dollars in order to supply two 130 milligram KI tablets per person within the 10-mile emergency planning zone of the nuclear power plants in requesting States. Final guidance on recommended doses for various age cohorts was published in December by the Food and Drug Administration.

- published in the Federal Register Notices of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determinations, and Opportunity for Hearings for Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Watts Bar (WBN) and Sequoyah (SQN) plants on December 11, 2001. The proposed amendments would change Technical Specifications to allow WBN and SQN to provide incore irradiation services for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). These amendments would permit TVA to insert up to 2304 tritium-producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) in the WBN reactor and up to 2256 TPBARs in the SQN reactor to support DOE in maintaining the nation's tritium inventory for national defense purposes.

- approved a request by Exelon Generating Company to increase the generating capacity of its Dresden 2 and 3 and Quad Cities 1 and 2 nuclear power plants. The power uprate at Dresden 2 and 3, located near Morris, Illinois, will increase the power of each reactor to about 912 megawatts of electricity per unit, a 17 percent increase. The power uprate at Quad Cities 1 and 2, located near Moline, Illinois, will increase the power of each reactor to about 912 megawatts of electricity per unit, a 17.8 percent increase.

- received an application on November 29 from Florida Power and Light Company requesting the extension of the operating licenses for the Saint Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years beyond the current 40-year term. Upon the successful

completion of an acceptance review, the NRC staff will establish the license renewal review schedule.

- received license amendment applications on November 15, from the Tennessee Valley Authority requesting an increase in the maximum power limit for Sequoyah Units 1 and 2 of approximately 1.3 percent through the use of more accurate steam generator feedwater flow measuring instrumentation. Completion of the amendment review is targeted for March, 2002.

- conducted a public meeting on November 29 and 30, with Exelon to discuss the pre-application review of the pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR). Exelon and the NRC staff discussed the operational modes of the PBMR and testing requirements for a combined license application.

- conducted a public meeting on December 3, with General Atomics (GA) to discuss GA's plans for a pre-application review of the gas turbine modular helium reactor (GT-MHR). GA requested to meet with the NRC staff regularly to discuss programmatic, licensing, and technical issues.

- issued NUREG/CR-5500, Volume 10, "Reliability Study: Combustion Engineering Reactor Protection System, 1984-1998," and NUREG/CR-5500, Volume 11, "Reliability Study: Babcock & Wilcox Reactor Protection System, 1984-1998." The results, findings, conclusions, and information contained in these reports support a variety of risk-informed regulatory activities.

- issued an internal report documenting the results of the Phase I development of potential Risk-Based Performance Indicators to enhance the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process. The report will be issued as a NUREG in February, 2002. The NRC staff is working with the industry to initiate a pilot program in early 2002 to test some of the potential enhancements.

- published in the Federal Register (66 FR 59546) on November 29, a document announcing the availability of draft wording for a possible amendment to the NRC's regulations concerning the risk-informed treatment of structures, systems, and components. The contemplated amendments would permit power reactor licensees and applicants to implement an alternative regulatory framework for certain structures, systems, and components.

- issued Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-22 to provide addressees with guidance on preparing a No Significant Hazards Consideration analysis for a license amendment request, as required by 10 CFR Part 50.

- published in the Federal Register (66 FR 59541) on November 29, a direct final rule that revises the NUHOMS - 24P, 52B, and 61B cask systems in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. This action allows the storage of low burn-up spent fuel in the NUHOMS - 24P and makes a number of administrative corrections.

- participated in a “full participation” emergency exercise on November 28, at the Byron Nuclear Power Plant in Illinois. Other participants included the State of Illinois, local governments, and other Federal agencies. The exercise achieved its primary objective, which was to demonstrate that if a real emergency were to occur, the actions taken by the licensee, NRC, state and local governments would have been appropriate to protect the health and safety of the public.

- issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to Advanced Medical Imaging and Nuclear Services, a medical company located in Easton, Pennsylvania, that provides nuclear medicine services. The letter confirms the company's agreement to halt all NRC-licensed activities until it takes several actions to adhere to Agency regulations. During an initial inspection of the firm's facility in November, the NRC determined that since June 2001, the firm had been conducting activities without an Authorized User (of nuclear materials) or Radiation Safety Officer, as required by its NRC license.

- took a number of steps to prevent the public disclosure of information that could be misused by individuals with malevolent purposes. Key among these steps was the prompt shutdown of public access to the NRC website and other means of ready access to documents that could disclose potential targets, vulnerabilities or methods of exploitation related to NRC-licensed facilities. Guidelines to permit expeditious review of such information are being finalized. Interim criteria are currently in use to enable day-to-day licensing and regulatory efforts to continue.

- The NRC is proceeding to restore public access to relevant information as quickly as possible using a newly designed website that is intended to improve the public's access to information, make navigation of the site easier, and give greater visibility to frequently accessed information. A new feature, which will be available in mid-January, will provide real-time broadcasts over the Internet of Commission meetings that are open to the public as a means of improving communications.

I have enclosed (Enclosure 2) the update to the Tasking Memorandum which delineates the schedules for accomplishing high priority initiatives.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:
1. Monthly Report
2. Tasking Memorandum

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON THE
LICENSING ACTIVITIES AND REGULATORY DUTIES OF THE
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 2001

Enclosure 1

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[1]Note: The period of performance covered by the report includes activities occurring between the first and last day of the month (e.g., November 30, 2001). The transmittal letter to Congress accompanying this report may provide more recent information in order to keep Congress fully and currently informed of NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

XIX. Implementing Risk-Informed Regulations

The staff continues to make progress on tasks involving use of probabilistic risk information in many areas. The milestone schedule for significant risk-informed activities is included in the Commission Tasking Memorandum (Enclosure 2). The following activities have seen substantial progress since the last report:

Public Workshop on Risk-Informing Special Treatment Requirements in 10 CFR Part 50

On November 7, 2001, the NRC conducted a public workshop on the rulemaking for risk-informing special treatment requirements (Option 2). In attendance were NRC managers and staff and approximately 25 representatives of nuclear utilities, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and other groups. The NRC had released background information for the workshop that included preliminary rule concepts, as well as discussion material relating to alternative ways of specifying requirements for treatment of low-risk, but safety-related (RISC-3) structures, systems and components. Based upon the feedback from the workshop, the NRC staff will prepare the proposed rule language, obtain management agreement, and then make the draft proposed rule language publicly available for comment.

Proposed Rulemaking to Risk-Inform Combustible Gas Control Requirement in 10 CFR 50.44

The staff continues to make significant progress in developing a risk-informed rulemaking for combustible gas control in reactor containments following an accident. The availability of draft rule language was noticed in the Federal Register on November 14, 2001. This language can be viewed on the NRC web site and comments may be submitted electronically. The staff expects to formally publish this proposed rule, together with regulatory guidance, in fiscal year 2002 and finalize this rule in fiscal year 2003.

II. Revised Reactor Oversight Process

The NRC continues to implement the Revised Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) at all nuclear power plants. The NRC has continued meeting with interested stakeholders on a periodic basis to collect feedback on the efficacy of the process and considers this feedback in making refinements to the ROP. Recent activities include:

a. NRR staff conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on November 14-15, 2001, with industry's working group on the ROP. During this meeting the working group discussed and finalized Revision 2 of NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline." The new guidance will be effective on January 1, 2002. The working group also discussed proposed changes to the Safety System Unavailability performance indicator and plans to pilot those changes in April 2002. To support the pilot, a training workshop for pilot participants will be held in January 2002. A pilot planning meeting with the industry and public was held on December 12-13, 2001, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD. Other key issues discussed included: changes and revisions to emergency preparedness significance determination process, Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," and IMC 0610*, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports," and frequently asked questions.

b. On November 6, 2001, NRR staff briefed about 60 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) participants on the ROP and the significance determination process at NRC's Risk-Informed Decision Making Workshop that was sponsored by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. In addition, on November 5-7, 2001, the NRR staff briefed ten senior regulators from Eastern European countries on all aspects of the ROP.

c. NRR staff is continuing efforts to interface with internal stakeholders to improve and implement a more efficient and effective ROP. For example, NRR staff has formed an efficiency focus group to identify areas for possible efficiency gains in the oversight of reactors and to develop criteria for evaluating the suggestions. The focus group, which consists of representatives from NRR, each of the four regions, and the Office of Enforcement, held its first meeting on November 7-9, 2001. The results of this meeting will be presented to the NRC regional management for review and evaluation to identify those ideas that may yield potential benefits. Subsequent meetings of the focus group will serve to develop the approved efficiency suggestions candidates and finalize program guidance to support implementation.

III. Status of Issues in the Reactor Generic Issue Program

The change in the status or resolution dates for Generic Safety Issues (GSI) since the October 2001 report is described below:

GSI Number: 173.A
TITLE: Spent Fuel Storage Pool: Operating Facilities
STATUS: The staff's proposed resolution was presented to the ACRS on October 6, 2001. The ACRS response was issued on October 15, 2001, and was in general agreement with the staff's approach. However, the additional time required to address the ACRS comments has resulted in a revision of the targeted close-out of the issue from October 2001 to December 2001.

IV. Licensing Actions and Other Licensing Tasks

Licensing actions are defined as requests for: license amendments, exemptions from regulations, relief from inspection or surveillance requirements, topical reports submitted on a plant-specific basis, notices of enforcement discretion, or other licensee requests requiring NRC review and approval before they can be implemented by the licensee. The fiscal year (FY) 2002 NRC Performance Plan incorporates two output measures related to licensing actions. These are: number of licensing action completions per year and age of the licensing action inventory. Although the size of the licensing action inventory is not a measure in the FY 2002 NRC Performance Plan, as it was in previous performance plans, it is still included in this report.

Other licensing tasks are defined as: licensee responses to NRC requests for information through generic letters or bulletins, NRC responses to 2.206 petitions, NRC review of licensee topical reports, NRR responses to regional requests for assistance, NRC review of licensee 10CFR50.59 analyses and FSAR updates, or other licensee requests not requiring NRC review and approval before they can be implemented by the licensee. The FY 2001 NRC Performance Plan incorporates one output measure related to other licensing tasks, which is the number of other licensing tasks completed.

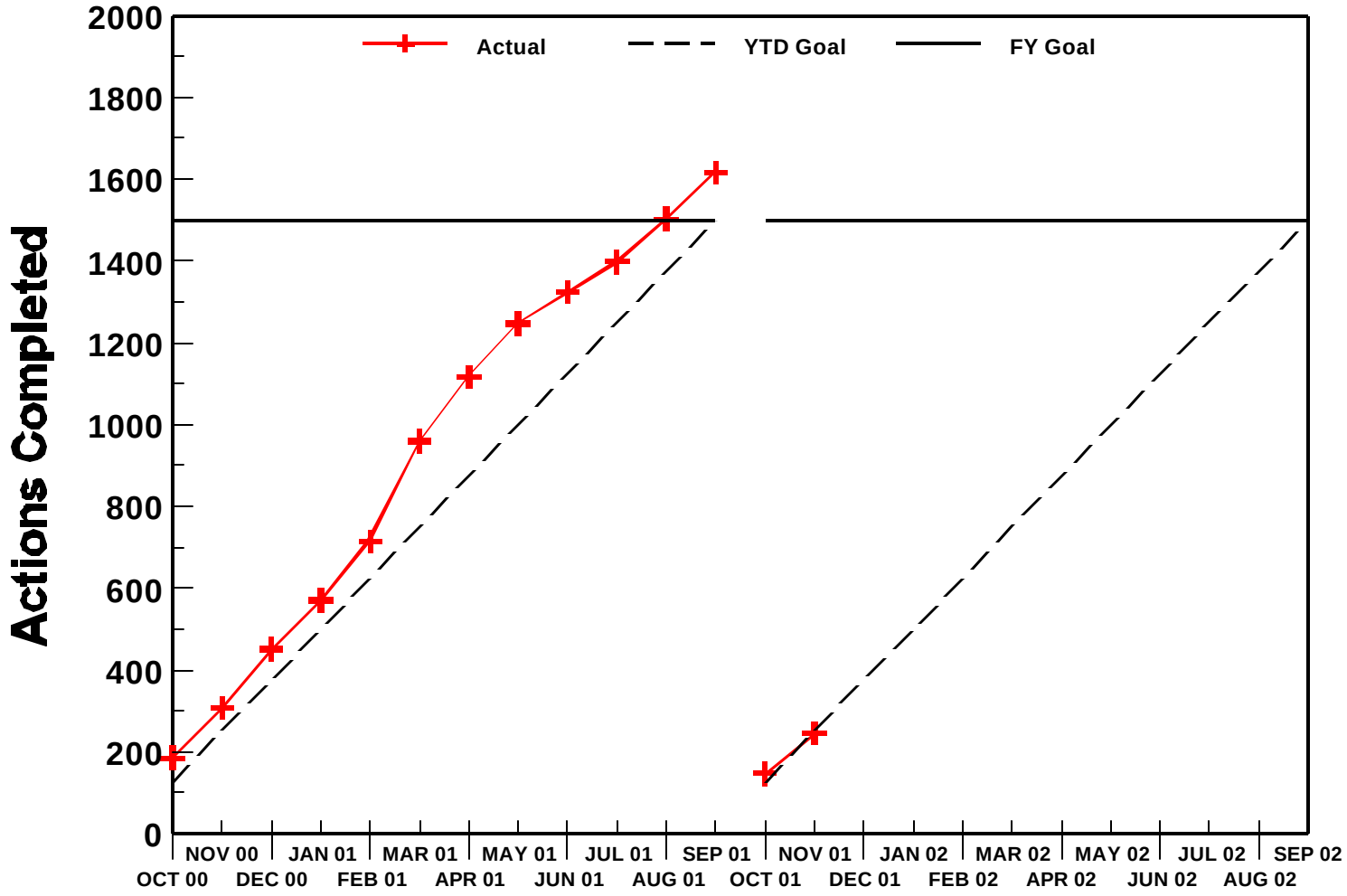
The actual FY 2000 and FY 2001 results, the FY 2002 goals and the actual FY 2002 results, as of November 30, 2001, for the four NRC Performance Plan output measures for licensing actions and other licensing tasks are shown in the table below.

PERFORMANCE PLAN				
Output Measure	**FY 2000 Actual**	**FY 2001 Actual**	**FY 2002 Goals**	**FY 2002 Actual (thru 11/30/2001)**
Licensing actions completed/year	1574	1617	≥ 1500	245
Age of licensing action inventory	98.3% ≤ 1 year; 100% ≤ 2 years	96.9%≤ 1 year; 100% ≤ 2 years	95% ≤ 1 year; 100% ≤ 2 years	95.6% ≤ 1 year; 100.0% ≤ 2 years
Size of licensing action inventory	962	877	N/A	863
Other licensing tasks completed/year	1100	523	≥ 550	45

The following charts demonstrate NRC's FY 2002 trends for the four licensing action and other licensing task output measure goals.

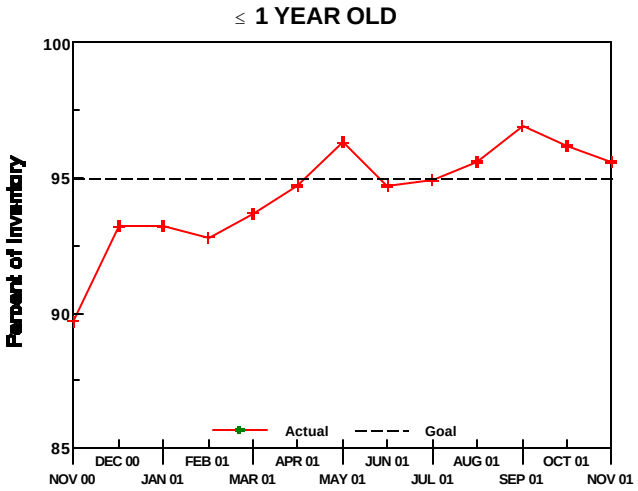
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

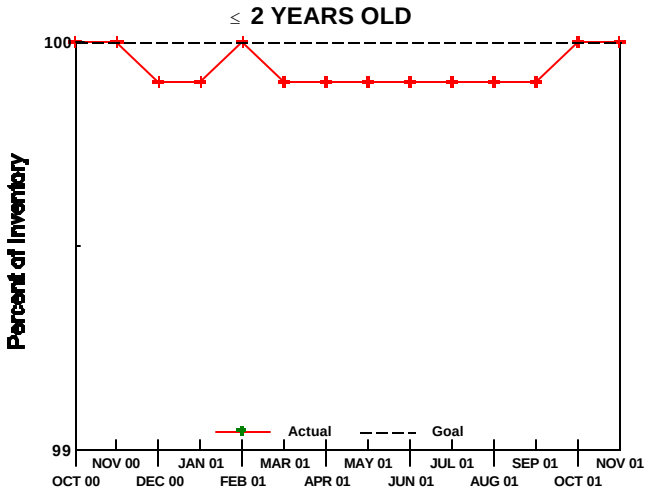
Performance Plan Target: Completed Licensing Actions



Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

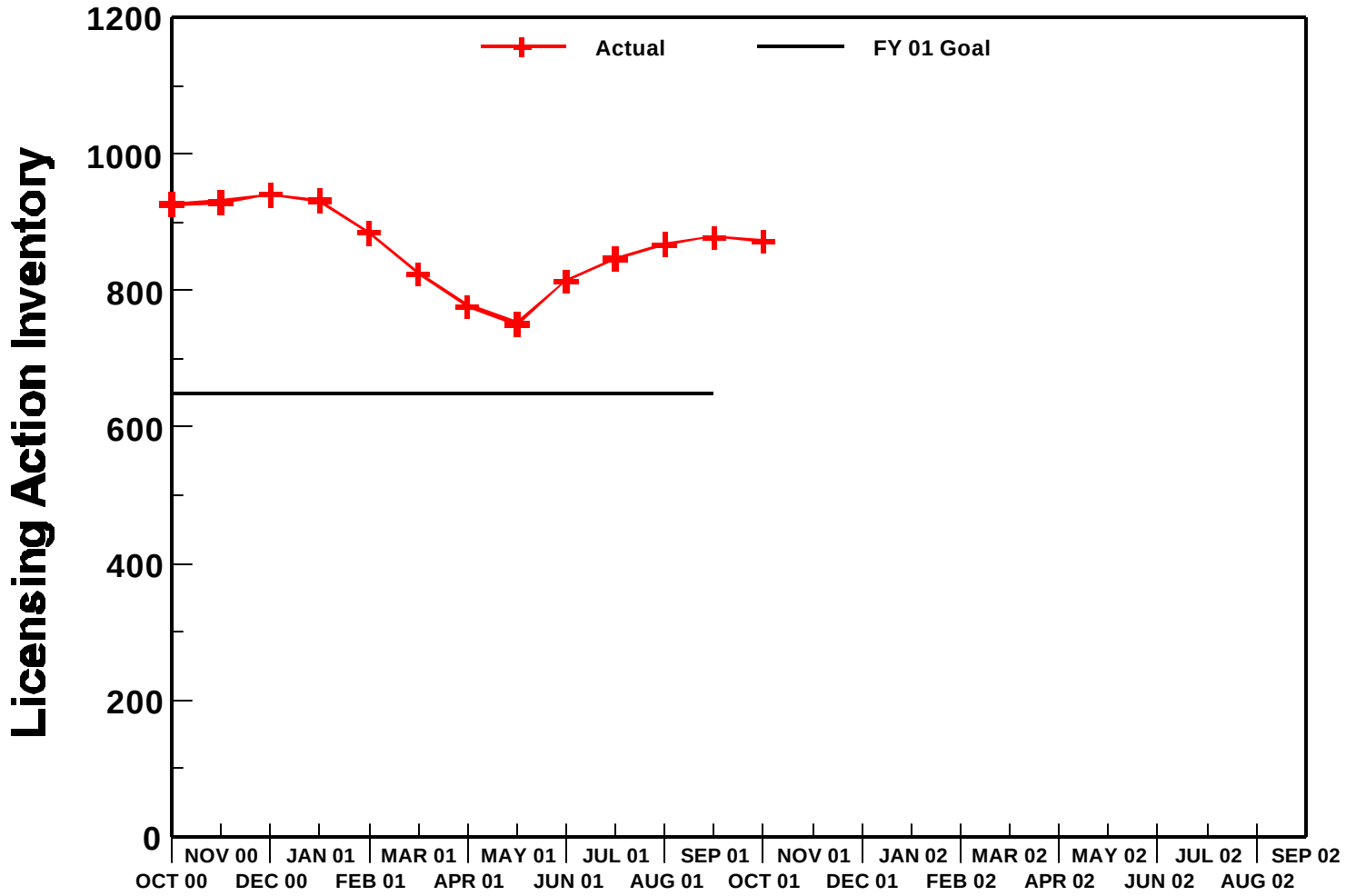
Performance Plan Target: Age of Licensing Action Inventory





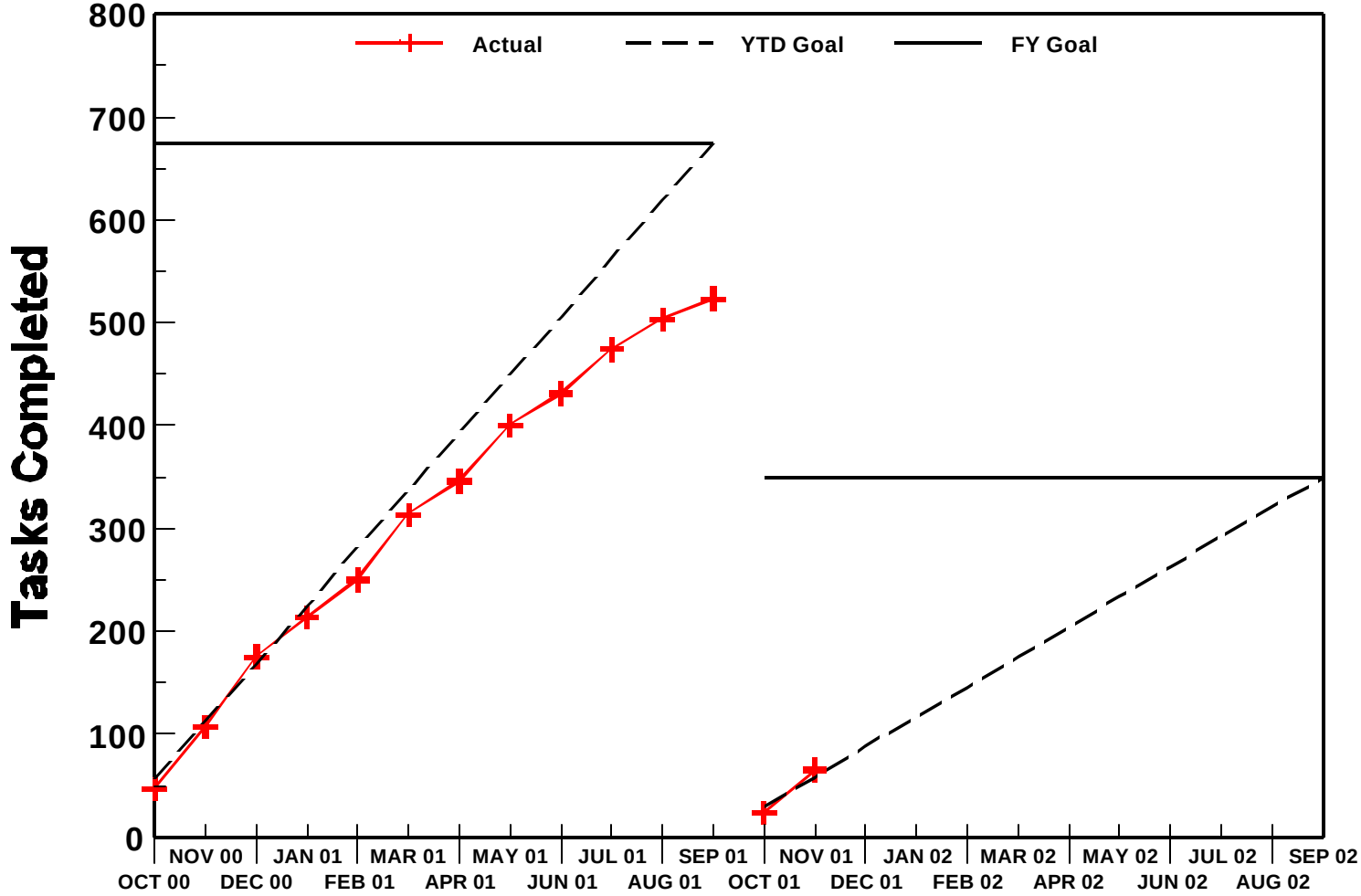
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Licensing Action Inventory



Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Completed Other Licensing Tasks



V. Status of License Renewal Activities

Hatch, Units 1 and 2, Renewal Application

The final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) was issued in May 2001. The staff issued the safety evaluation report on October 5, 2001, finding that there were no safety concerns preventing the NRC from extending the Hatch licenses. The Commission approved the staff's recommendation on January 7, 2002, and authorized the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to renew the operating licenses for Plant Hatch upon making the appropriate findings on safety and environmental matters.

Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, Renewal Application

The schedule for completing the review of the Turkey Point application was reduced from 30 months to 25 months because a hearing was not conducted. The NRC staff is scheduled to issue the final SEIS in January 2002, and the completed safety evaluation report in February 2002. The Commission's decision on issuing the renewed license is now scheduled for July 2002.

Surry, Units 1 and 2, and North Anna, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

The Surry and North Anna renewal applications are currently under review. Environmental and safety requests for additional information were issued in November 2001. Applicant responses to the environmental and safety requests for information are due by January 2002 and by February 2002, respectively.

McGuire, Units 1 and 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

The McGuire and Catawba renewal applications are currently under review and the staff is issuing requests for additional information. All environmental requests for additional information were issued in November 2001 and December 2001 for McGuire and Catawba, respectively. All safety requests for additional information for both plants are scheduled to be issued in January 2002.

Two petitions were received requesting a hearing on the renewal of the McGuire and Catawba licenses and by Commission order, an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) has been established. A pre-hearing conference was held on December 18 and 19, 2001, and the ASLB's decision on the petitioners' standing and contentions is scheduled to be made in January 2002.

Peach Bottom, Units 2 and 3, Renewal Application

The Peach Bottom renewal application is currently under review and the staff is issuing requests for additional information. The environmental review and scoping process have begun and two public scoping meetings were held in the vicinity of Peach Bottom on November 7. All environmental requests for additional information were issued December 20, 2001, and the safety requests for additional information are scheduled to be issued by March 2002. No petitions to intervene were received and the schedule for completing the review of the Peach

Bottom application was reduced from 30 months to 25 months. The Commission's decision on issuing the renewed license is now scheduled for July 2003.

VI. Status of Review of Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Corporation's Application for a License to Operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians

During this reporting period, the NRC staff continued its review of the license application amendments submitted by Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Corporation (PFS). These include the license application amendments on aircraft crash hazards and geotechnical aspects of the proposed PFS Facility which were submitted early in 2001 and a recently submitted amendment, which updates the license application documents with information previously provided to the NRC staff in response to requests for additional information or in commitment letters from the applicant. A supplement to the NRC staff's safety evaluation report (SER) pertaining to aircraft hazards was issued. In the supplement, the NRC staff confirmed that PFS continued to demonstrate compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements and that the probability of aircraft crash hazards remained greater than one in a million.

Work is continuing on two other significant documents. A second SER supplement is under preparation that will document the staff's evaluation of the license application amendment submitted early in 2001, which provided new information on geotechnical aspects of the license application. The amendment updated information on the characterization of the natural system of the proposed site and the design of major structures, systems, and components of the proposed facility. The NRC staff (as lead Federal agency) and the cooperating Federal agencies (the Surface Transportation Board and the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management) are also nearing completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The NRC staff issued the unredacted version of Supplement 2 of the PFS SER on December 21, 2001, to the two lead parties to the adjudication of the geotechnical contention before the ASLB, the applicant and the State of Utah. The staff released the redacted FEIS on January 2, 2002, to all of the parties. The issue of wider distribution of these documents is under consideration by the Commission.

Litigation in the adjudicatory proceeding on the PFS application continued during this reporting period: (1) PFS filed a motion for summary disposition of Contention Utah L, Part B, concerning its request for an exemption from certain seismic regulations, (2) the parties concluded discovery related to PFS's seismic exemption request, and (3) the period for discovery against the NRC Staff concerning aircraft crash hazards commenced.

VII. Enforcement Process and Summary of Reactor Enforcement by Region

Reactor Enforcement by Region

	Reactor Enforcement Actions*					
		Region I	Region II**	Region III	Region IV**	TOTAL
Severity Level I	Oct 2001	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 01 Total	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 00 Total	0	0	0	0	0
Severity Level II	Oct 2001	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 01 Total	0	1	0	0	1
	FY 00 Total	1	2	0	0	3
Severity Level III	Oct 2001	2	0	0	0	2
	FY 2002 YTD	2	0	0	0	2
	FY 01 Total	1	1	1	1	4
	FY 00 Total	5	0	4	4	13
Severity Level IV	Oct 2001	0	0	1	0	1
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	1	0	1
	FY 01 Total	1	0	2	1	4
	FY 00 Total	4	1	3	5	13
Non-Cited Severity Level IV & Green	Oct 2001	15	34	16	25	90
	FY 2002 YTD	15	34	16	25	90
	FY 01 Total	279	105	201	139	724
	FY 00 Total	313	190	289	258	1050

*Numbers of violations are based on enforcement action tracking system (EATS) data that may

be subject to minor changes following verification. The number of Severity Level I, II, III listed refers to the number of Severity Level I, II, III violations or problems. The monthly totals generally lag by 30 days due to inspection report and enforcement development.

** Violation totals for Regions II & IV reflect a shift from a 6 week inspection period to a quarterly inspection period.

	Escalated Reactor Enforcement Actions Associated with the Revised Reactor Oversight Process					
		Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Total
NOVs related to white, yellow or red findings	Oct 2001 -Red	0	0	0	0	0
	-Yellow	0	0	0	0	0
	-White	0	0	1	0	1
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	1	0	0
	FY 01 Total	8	4	4	3	19
	FY 00 Total	6	1	0	0	7

Description of Significant Actions taken in October 2001

Nuclear Management Company, LLC (Palisades Nuclear Plant) EA 01-223

On October 26, 2001, a Notice of Violation was issued for a violation associated with a white finding involving smoke detectors in the cable spreading room. The violation cited the licensee's failure to properly locate and install the smoke detectors in accordance with requirements including the applicable National Fire Protection Association code.

Exelon Nuclear Generating Company (Peach Bottom) EA 01-188 and (Limerick) EA 01-189

On October 23, 2001, Notices of Violation were issued for a Severity Level III problem involving the willful creation of inaccurate and incomplete siren testing maintenance records by two former maintenance technicians and deficiencies with the ability to provide early notification to the populace surrounding the facility in the event of an emergency.

Tennessee Valley Authority (Watts Bar) EA 98-327

On October 15, 2001, the NRC issued a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of $88,000 for a Severity Level II violation involving employment discrimination against a power maintenance specialist for engaging in protected activities.

VIII. Power Reactor Security Regulations

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC and the nuclear industry have taken a number of actions to ensure the security at nuclear power plants. Although nuclear power plants are among the most hardened and secure civilian facilities in the United States, the recent attacks have focused attention on the need to review policies and practices related to protecting civilian nuclear facilities against attack.

Immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the NRC advised nuclear power plant licensees to go to the highest level of security (i.e., Level 3), and all promptly did so. The Nation's nuclear power plants remain at the highest level of security, and the NRC continues to monitor the situation.

For the longer term, the Chairman with the full support of the Commission has directed the NRC staff to reevaluate the NRC safeguards and physical protection programs. This reevaluation will be a top-to-bottom analysis involving all aspects of the agency's safeguards and physical protection programs. On November 28, the NRC staff submitted a report to the Commission that outlined the proposed course of action and schedule for conducting the review and identified preliminary policy issues for Commission consideration.

Given the nature of the attacks on September 11, the identification of any necessary adjustments to the safeguards and physical security measures for civilians must involve other U.S. national security organizations. The NRC is currently interacting with the FBI, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, the Department of Defense, and the recently established Office of Homeland Security to ensure that all pertinent input received from relevant agencies is considered before changes are made to the NRC's programs.

IX. Power Uprates

The staff has assigned power uprate license amendment reviews a high priority. The staff considers power uprate applications among the most significant licensing actions and is, therefore, conducting power uprate reviews on accelerated schedules.

Licensees have been applying for and implementing power uprates since the 1970s as a way to increase the power output of their plants. The staff has been conducting power uprate reviews since then and to date, has completed 68 such reviews. More than 8040 MWt (2680 MWe) or an equivalent of more than two large nuclear power plant units has been gained through implementation of power uprates at existing plants. During the month of November, the staff completed review of one extended power uprate application for a 15.3 percent increase in power at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The staff's review of this application was completed less than a year from the date the application was submitted by the licensee. This was a significant accomplishment for the staff because this power uprate was the first of its kind with respect to the requested increase in power level. During the month of November, the staff received two applications for "measurement uncertainty recapture" power uprates of 1.3 percent each. The staff currently has 14 plant-specific applications and two General Electric Nuclear Energy topical reports for power uprates under review.

Based on the licensees' voluntary responses to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-08, "Operating Reactor Licensing Action Estimates," and the results of a June 2001 staff survey of all licensees in June 2001, to obtain information regarding the industry's future plans related to power uprate applications, the staff estimates that licensees plan to submit 36 additional power uprate applications in the next 5 years. Based on the information provided, planned power uprates are expected to result in an increase of over 3500 MWt (1170 MWe) (equivalent to approximately one large nuclear power plant unit). The staff will utilize the information provided in response to the RIS and the June survey for planning and allocating resources for power uprate reviews and to assure the staff's readiness and availability to perform the technical reviews for these applications when they arrive.

Identical letters to:

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Rick Boucher

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative John D. Dingell

The Honorable James M. Jeffords, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Bob Smith

The Honorable Sonny Callahan, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Senator Peter J. Visclosky

the Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Pete V. Domenici

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510