

INFORMATION REPORT

April 26, 2002

SECY-02-0071

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0071 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 19, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

NRC Information Notice 2002-15: Hydrogen Combustion Events in Foreign BWR Piping dated April 12, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees about two recent hydrogen combustion events in piping at foreign boiling water reactors (BWRs). These BWRs were not of domestic (U.S.) manufacture; however, the affected systems where the hydrogen combustions occurred are similar to those in some domestic BWRs.

Highlight for Turkey Point License Renewal Application

The staff's review of Florida Power and Light Company's application for renewal of the operating licenses for Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, is in its final stages. On April 11, 2002, the staff met with the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) full committee to discuss the status of the staff's review and to provide the ACRS with the staff's basis for recommending to the Commission that renewal of the operating licenses for Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, be approved. The staff provided the ACRS members with information related to the scoping of structures and components in compliance with the Station Blackout Rule (10 CFR 50.63), voids in concrete structures, and the ability of the Turkey Point nuclear plant to withstand the consequences of Category 5 hurricanes.

Annual NRC/INPO Coordination Meeting on Training-Related Issues

On April 10, 2002, a periodic NRC/Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) coordination meeting on training-related issues was held at NRC Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland. The meeting was open to the public. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss items of mutual interest concerning INPO's training program accreditation process as well as NRC training-related issues concerning the licensing of reactor operators.

Among the key topics discussed were: (1) INPO's revised training accreditation process which is conducted once every four years for each of its member plants; (2) INPO and NRC's role in supporting examination test banks that promote the development of NRC administered license examinations; and (3) possible operator licensing policy changes that may improve the integrity of licensed operator requalification examinations.

Exelon Generation

On April 16, 2002, Exelon Generation announced that it will not be proceeding with the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) project beyond the completion of the current feasibility study phase. The staff plans to meet with Exelon in early May to discuss plans and schedules for wrap-up of PBMR preapplication review activities. Exelon has informed the staff that this announcement does not impact Exelon plans to submit an early site permit application in June 2003.

General Electric Nuclear Energy

In August 2001, GE Nuclear Energy (GENE) submitted a topical report to support BWR licensee applications for power uprates of up to 20 percent power. The topical report provides a simplified approach for power uprates that maintains constant reactor dome pressure. On April 12, 2002, the ACRS met with the NRC staff and GENE, to discuss the draft topical report safety evaluation prepared by the staff.

Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

On April 15, 2002, the FPL Group, Inc. announced that it had reached an agreement to buy a majority interest in the Seabrook Nuclear Generating Station from a consortium of owners. Under terms of the agreement, FPL Group will purchase an 88.2 percent interest in Seabrook for a total of \$836.6 million. FPL Group is targeting to close the acquisition around the end of 2002.

South Texas Project Units 1 and 2

On August 22, 2001, STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) submitted an application for 1.4 percent power uprate, increasing the thermal power limit of each of the South Texas Project (STP) Units 1 and 2 from 3,800 MWt to 3,853 MWt. The request for power uprate was based on a reduction in core thermal power measurement uncertainty from 2.0 percent to 0.6 percent. Increased accuracy is achieved by STPNOC's installation of CROSSFLOW Ultrasonic Flow Measurement system. The staff completed the review of STPNOC's request, and issued the license amendments on April 12, 2002. The amendments are authorized to be implemented contingent on replacement of E type steam generators with delta 94 SGs. Unit 1 steam generators were previously replaced, and STPNOC plans to implement its power uprate prior to peak summer months of 2002. Unit 2 SGs will be replaced with delta 94 SGs in the fall of 2002, and STPNOC plans to implement its power uprate in the fall of 2002.

Davis-Besse Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Repair Concept Meeting

On April 10, 2002, the NRC held a public meeting with representatives of First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), owners of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, to discuss the repair concepts for the reactor pressure vessel head. The NRC staff listened to the presentation and raised numerous questions for the licensee to consider prior to submitting their formal repair plan. The plan will be based on cutting a 13 inch hole in the reactor pressure vessel head, welding in a 690 stainless steel plug, and a reactor core reconfiguration. Additional repairs to plug two holes in the head resulting from the relocation of two reactor pressure vessel head nozzles were also discussed.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

Staff Attends International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Meeting on Geologic Disposal

On April 10-12, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Meeting on Geologic Disposal in Vienna, Austria. The meeting served as an opportunity to informally review IAEA's proposed "Safety Requirements on Geological Disposal for Radioactive Waste." The participants learned the underlying basis for the requirements document (i.e., Radiation Protection Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and Safety Fundamentals, of the IAEA). The meeting was also a forum to discuss the draft requirements for protection of humans and the environment, and the development and implementation of a safety strategy for geological disposal. Based on the results of the technical meeting, IAEA plans to revise the document, as necessary, and present the revised document to its Waste Standards Steering Committee.

Public Meetings on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Role in Regulating a Possible Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain

On April 8, 9, and 10, 2002, respectively, staffs of the Division of Waste Management (DWM) and the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) held public meetings in Beatty, Tonopah, and Ely, Nevada. These meetings were supported by staffs from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) On-Site Representative's Office in Las Vegas, the Offices of the General Counsel and Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center). Staff made presentations on NRC's regulatory program, recent pre-licensing activities, and NRC's role in ensuring safe transport of spent nuclear fuel. After each presentation, the audience was invited to ask questions and offer comments. NRC brochures and information sheets, developed with the assistance of the Center, along with copies of the draft Yucca Mountain Review Plan, were made available to attendees. Managers and staff from DWM and SFPO also met with local officials from Nye County (in Beatty and Tonopah), and the Eureka County Council (all three members traveled to Ely to meet with NRC staff), and addressed a session of the White Pine County Council.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company Meeting

On April 11, 2002, a public meeting was held between Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to discuss PG&E's geology, ground motion, and other geotechnical studies conducted for the proposed independent spent fuel storage installation at Diablo Canyon. At this meeting, PG&E provided several very detailed presentations on the geology, seismicity, ground motion from recent earthquakes, and slope stability analysis. This meeting was in response to NRC's March 25, 2002, letter, in which PG&E was informed that NRC staff had accepted its application for review, and had identified several technical areas for which additional clarification would be needed. One member of the public attended the meeting.

Issuance of 10 CFR Part 70 Standard Review Plan

On March 29, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published NUREG-1520 entitled *Standard Review Plan (SRP) for the Review of an Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility*. This SRP provides guidance to NRC reviewers in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards who perform safety and environmental impact reviews of applications to construct or modify and operate nuclear fuel cycle facilities licensed under 10 CFR Part 70. NUREG-1520's ADAMS accession number is ML020930033. On April 13, 2002, NUREG-1520 was also added to NRC's web page (<http://www.nrc.gov>) under the "Nuclear Materials," "Fuel Cycle Facilities," "Fuel Cycle Facilities Regulations, Guidance, and Communications," and "Guidance" links.

Pre-Application Meeting with the U.S. Enrichment Corporation

On April 11, 2002, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with staff from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss its plans to submit a quality assurance program description and a security plan for its license application for a lead cascade gas centrifuge facility. USEC intends to submit, for review, a stand-alone quality assurance program description, by July 19, 2002. The quality assurance document would address the 18 criteria referenced in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, and NQA-1, and would establish a graded, risk-informed approach tied to facility "Items Relied-On For Safety." USEC also intends to submit, for review, a security plan addressing physical security and information security, by June 14, 2002.

Public Meeting with 10 CFR Part 70 Stakeholders

On April 17, 2002, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) met with the 10 CFR Part 70 stakeholders in a public meeting to discuss: (1) the development of order-of-magnitude hardware and human reliability data and guidance for conducting integrated safety analysis (ISA) reviews at fuel cycle facilities; (2) backfitting guidance identified in 10 CFR 70.76; and (3) ISA-related licensing issues. The meeting participants included staffs from the Nuclear Energy Institute; Framatome-Richland; Framatome-Lynchburg; BWX Technologies; Westinghouse Electric Corporation; NFS; Global Nuclear Fuels; U.S. Enrichment Corporation (future applicant for a uranium gas centrifuge enrichment facility); Duke/Cogema/Stone and Webster (current applicant for the mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility); Los Alamos National Laboratory; MPR Associates; WSMS-MA; and the Defense Nuclear Safety Board. No members of the general public or press attended the meeting. A transcript of the meeting will be available in about 10 days. At the meeting, the Part 70 licensees and applicants opposed the development of the order-of-magnitude hardware and human reliability data and guidance for fuel facilities. According to them, it would result in the quantification of the likelihood of accident sequences that Subpart H of Part 70 does not require. They expressed concern that the development of such data and guidance might go beyond the commitments made in the approved ISA Plans and guidance contained in the final Part 70 Standard Review Plan. The stakeholders did not raise any significant issues during the backfitting guidance and ISA-related licensing-issue discussions. The NMSS staff indicated that it would make a draft of the backfitting guidance available to the Part 70 stakeholders for review after it is prepared.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

Tactical Geographic Information System

At the request of Congressman Jerry Lewis, NRC staff from the Division of Nuclear Security in the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) and staff from the Emergency Preparedness Section of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) met with a representative from the Tactical Survey Group to preview a demonstration of software that maps facilities to be used by first responders. The Tactical Survey Group is a privately owned company which has developed a highly portable, tactical geographic information system.

Trilateral Initiative Meeting Annual NMSS Users Planning

On April 16, 2002, a staff member attended the first of three identical meetings held by Mr. T. Shea, IAEA, to discuss the status of the Trilateral Initiative with U.S. Government officials. The Trilateral Initiative began in September 1996 as a joint effort between the U.S., Russia, and the IAEA to implement statements by the U.S. and Russian Presidents during the 1990s to place weapons-origin fissile material under IAEA verification. The purpose of the IAEA monitoring and verification measures was to provide international confidence that the relevant fissile materials declared by the U.S. and Russia as no longer required for defense purposes remain outside the weapons programs.

Level 2 Rating for Overexposure in Excess of Regulatory Limits

On April 17, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response submitted a Level 2 rating on the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) regarding an overexposure to an individual conducting industrial radiography. The event occurred on April 10, 2002, at Technical Welding Laboratory Inc., a State of Texas licensee. The radiographer had been exposed to an uncollimated, 1295.0 GBq (35 Ci) cobalt-60 source while conducting industrial radiography at a temporary job site located in Houston, Texas. The preliminary whole body dose estimate is 0.7 Sv (70 rem). The radiographer has been referred for medical follow-up and cytogenetic studies.

This event was rated as Level 2 under on-site impact in accordance with Section III-2.2 of the INES User's Manual. The definition of Level 2 includes "Events resulting in a dose to one or more workers exceeding a statutory annual dose limit for radiation workers."

Catastrophic Disaster Response Group Meeting

On April 19, 2002, the Director of DIRO represented NRC at the Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG) meeting, chaired by FEMA. CDRG includes senior managers of all the signatory agencies & departments of the Federal Response Plan (FRP) and considers policy and activities to address the consequences of any major disaster or emergency in the US. Two topics of interest to NRC were TOPOFF2 and plans to revise the FRP. Department of Justice (DOJ) representatives briefed the CDRG regarding TOPOFF2. As in previous briefings, TOPOFF2 is expected to include major events in Chicago and Seattle. DOJ also

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indicated their, previously communicated, desire to include an NRC scenario (such as a licensee exercise) in the TOPOFF2 scenario. DOJ expects to re-engage NRC when they are further along in their scenario development. Regarding the FRP, FEMA and the CDRG are initiating activities to revise the FRP to reflect experience gained after 9-11. An initial meeting on the FRP effort is expected on May 10.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-016, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, REPORTED EXTREMITY OVEREXPOSURES.
2. PNO-III-02-015, Ford Motor Company, LOST STATIC ELIMINATOR DEVICE.
3. PNO-III-02-16, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, DISCRETE RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES FOUND OUTSIDE THE RADIOLOGICALLY RESTRICTED AREA.
4. PNO-III-02-017, Northern Engraving, AM-241 STATIC ELIMINATOR DEVICE MISSING.

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

Arrivals		
BERG, Richard	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RIII
BILIK, Thomas*	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
BROWN, Eva**	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
COSTA, Arlon	EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR	NSIR
FOPMA, Melody	HR SPECIALIST	OHR
KUNTZ, Robert	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
PERGANDE, Shaun	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
THWEATT, JoAnn	SECRETARY (OA)	OCFO
VAIDYA, Bhalchandra	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
Retirements		
RODRIGUEZ, Javier***	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV

*Transferring from HQ to RIII

**Transferring from RII to HQ

***Effective 02/22/02

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

Media Interest

There was media interest in the discovery of radioactive particles found on four people who had recently worked at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant.

An announcement by Exelon Corp., that it is dropping out of an international consortium developing "pebble-bed" reactors, attracted press interest.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-048	NRC Revises Regulations on Medical Uses of Radioactive Material
02-049	NRC Announces Workshops on Medical Uses of Radioactive Material
Regions:	
I-02-036	NRC to Meet with Company to Discuss Cleanup of Lakehurst, NJ., Site
III-02-021	NRC Dispatches Inspector to Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Following Discovery of Radioactive Particles Off-Site
IV-02-022	NRC to Meet With Amerenue To Discuss Safety Performance at Callaway

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0148	8/2/01	Processes for Revision of 10 CFR Part 20 Regarding Adoption of ICRP Recommendations on Occupational Dose Limits and Dosimetric Models and Parameters
SRM on 01-0148	4/12/02	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0148	4/12/02	(same)
2. COMSECY-02-0014	03/28/02	Re-Affirmation of the Final Rule on Part 35 - Medical Use of Byproduct Material
3. SRM on M020412	04/12/02	Affirmation Session, April 12, 2002 - COMSECY-02-0014; SECY-02-0045; SECY-02-0047; SECY-02-0050; SECY-02-0065
4. Commissioner Votes on COMSECY-02-0014	4/10/02	Re-Affirmation of Final Rule on Part 35 -- Medical Use of Byproduct Material
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0058	4/1/02	Results of the Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors and Status of Ongoing Development
2. SECY-02-0062	4/3/02	Calendar Year 2001 Reactor Oversight Process Self Assessment
3. SECY-02-0066	4/12/02	SECY-02-0066 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 5, 2002
Memoranda		
1. M020412	4/16/02	Supplemental SRM-M020412 - I. COMSECY-02-0014 - Re-Affirmation of Final Rule on Part 35 - Medical Use of Byproduct Material

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated April 12, 2002, submits proposed legislation which authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2003.
2. Letter Mr. John C. Ameno, Jr., Apollo Borough Council, dated April 11, 2002, responds to request for assistance related to the health and safety of the citizens of the Apollo Borough.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final rule, 10 CFR Parts 20, 32, and 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 2002

Fuel Movement Preparations at Yankee Rowe (MA)

On April 15 and 16, 2002, a specialist from DRS inspected activities at Yankee Rowe (Rowe, MA), in preparation for the licensee's plans to move fuel from the Spent Fuel Pool to the ISFSI next month. All major ISFSI task components were inspected. The fuel pool to ISFSI pad sequence was also reviewed as well as applicable procedures and available work packages. An NRC Dry Run to demonstrate the licensee's capability to safely transfer fuel to the ISFSI is scheduled to begin May 6. A team of Region and Headquarters personnel will observe this test and determine licensee readiness.

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Region II
Items of Interest
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Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.

On April 18, 2002, the E.I. Hatch annual assessment meeting was held at the Plant Visitor's Center, Baxley, Georgia. The purpose was to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Annual Assessment.

Operator Licensing Audit

On April 15-19, 2002, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Operator Licensing, Human Performance Branch, and an Operator, License Examiner, Region III were in the Region II office to perform an audit of activities associated with the program.

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

On April 15-19, 2002, the State Liaison Officer attended the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Crystal River Operator Certification Presentation Dinner

On April 17, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects presented NRC Operator Licensing Certificates to operators at the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant.

Alabama A&M Presentation

On April 19, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects attended the Alabama A&M Business/Industry Cluster Workshop, in Normal, AL to discuss job opportunities at the NRC and to highlight successes of Alabama A&M graduates at the NRC.

Department of Energy

On April 19, 2002, Region II managers hosted a visit from the Assistant to the Under Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy (DOE). Discussion included how the NRC performs self-assessments and inspection planning.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 50

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	04/23/02 2123 RHOB	4:30	Markup	H.J.Res. 87, Approving Yucca Mountain as a Repository	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Madden	04/25/02 2167 RHOB	10:30	NRC, DOE, DOT, and others	Transporting Nuclear Waste to Yucca Mountain	Reps. Petri/Borski Highways and Transit Reps. Quinn/Clement Railroads Transportation and Infrastructure

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