

# INFORMATION REPORT

August 22, 2002

SECY-02-0156

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-02-0156 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING AUGUST 16, 2002

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\*No input this week.

*/RA/*

John W. Craig  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
M. Layton, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 16, 2002

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station

On August 14, 2002, Maine Yankee began the transfer of its spent fuel from the spent fuel pool to the onsite independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The licensee is using the NAC International Universal Multi-Purpose Canister System dry cask spent fuel storage system. The licensee had previously conducted an NRC-observed dry run to demonstrate their ability to transfer the fuel from the pool; de-water, weld, inspect and decontaminate the cask; and transfer the cask to the ISFSI via a heavy haul trailer. An NRC Region I inspector was on sight to observe the movement of the first cask. The fuel will join four canisters of greater-than-class C waste that the licensee has previously transferred to the ISFSI.

In addition, on August 6, 2002, the licensee moved the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) into the shipping container that will be used to transfer the RPV to Barnwell, South Carolina. The RPV was lifted using a "strand jack system" and the containment polar crane, which had horizontal stiffeners added to its girders to increase its capacity. The RPV package is scheduled to be transported out of the containment in September, then be moved to a transport barge at the Maine Yankee barge slip and secured to the barge in preparation for shipment to Barnwell. According to Maine Yankee, this will be the largest single package Barnwell has ever received.

Nuclear Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Utilities Group (NHUG) Meeting

The NRC attended the Nuclear Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Utilities Group summer meeting during the week of August 5. This meeting addressed current issues on chillers and control rooms. Papers were presented on the NRC's draft Regulatory Guides DG-1114 and DG-1115 concerning control room habitability and testing for unfiltered inleakage. Committee meetings discussed these draft guides and the lessons learned from testing control rooms for unfiltered inleakage. During the committee meetings, the NRC continued to receive compliments expressing appreciation for our five regional workshops on control room habitability held in July and August. Many verbal and written comments from stakeholders stated that these meetings were very successful.

Issuance of Bulletin 2002-02, Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs

The NRC issued Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles Inspection Programs," on Friday, August 9, 2002. Like Bulletins 2001-01 (issued on August 3, 2001) and 2002-01 (issued on March 18, 2002), Bulletin 2002-02 is concerned with the integrity of the reactor vessel head and vessel head penetration nozzles.

This Bulletin is addressed to all PWR licensees. The bulletin requests that PWR licensees provide information concerning changes in their inspection programs and their future inspections of reactor vessel head and reactor vessel head penetration nozzles, starting with their next or current refueling outage. Responses to Bulletin 2002-02 are due within 30 days of issuance, which would be September 9, 2002.

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The staff is planning to conduct a public meeting in Rockville, MD on Friday, August 23, 2002 with NEI to discuss NRC expectations for licensee responses.

#### Reactor Oversight Process

The mid-cycle reviews for the current assessment period for all power plants were completed on August 7, 2002. The Regions performed their reviews in accordance with the guidance provided in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program." The mid-cycle review involved evaluating the most recent quarterly performance indicators and inspection results for the period July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002. The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff participated in the mid-cycle reviews of all power plants. Mid-cycle letters will be issued by the end of the month.

The IIPB staff conducted a public meeting on August 8, 2002, to finalize the guidance documents (draft Appendix F and draft Section 2.2 to NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Performance Indicator Guideline") for the upcoming Mitigating System Performance Index (MSPI) pilot program. These documents were revised to incorporate the feedback received during the MSPI workshop held on July 23-25, 2002. At this meeting, the MSPI working group also discussed MSPI implementation issues. The next MSPI working group public meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2002.

#### Women in Nuclear (WIN) Annual Meeting

A representative from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation traveled to San Antonio, TX to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Women In Nuclear (WIN) annual meeting. She was part of a panel discussion which explored issues of concern in health physics and emergency preparedness. She presented an overview of the NRC Potassium Iodide program as well as answered technical questions regarding the presence of strontium-90 in the environment and the claims put forth by the Radiation Public Health Project "Toothfairy" report.

#### Nuclear Quality Oversight Conference

On August 7-9, 2002, representatives of the Equipment and Human Performance Branch (IEHB) attended the semi-annual meeting of nuclear quality assurance managers at Solomons Island, Maryland. Topics covered included an initiative toward an industry-based quality assurance oversight program, which is an extension of several joint assessment programs. Also covered was the ongoing adoption of continuous surveillance and assessment processes within the regulatory audit framework.

Of particular interest to IEHB was a discussion of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)-led task group report on the feasibility of procuring commercial grade items manufactured under commercial ISO 9000 quality standards. EPRI is leading an effort to evaluate the potential for crediting ISO 9000 as an alternative means of meeting the intent of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B for suppliers. IEHB plans to meet with EPRI to further discuss these initiatives.

#### Duke License Renewal Application for McGuire 1&2 and Catawba 1&2

The Safety Evaluation Report with open items was issued August 14, 2002. The document was briefly delayed to address the impact of NRC Bulletin 2002-02, concerning the Davis Besse vessel

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head penetration nozzle degradation, on the McGuire and Catawba license renewal application. The staff had characterized the vessel head penetration nozzle degradation issue as a current operating issue that is beyond the scope of the license renewal review pursuant to 10 CFR 54.30. However, after considering Bulletin 2002-02, the staff generated an open item to obtain a commitment from the applicant to incorporate the forthcoming resolution of the vessel head penetration nozzle degradation issue (in the current operating term) into the aging management program credited for vessel head penetration nozzle degradation in the period of extended operation.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 16, 2002

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Hearing Requests for Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Project

The NRC has received five hearing requests related to the proposed Blended Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU) project at Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) in Erwin, Tennessee. The requests were submitted in response to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and notice of opportunity to request a hearing, that were published in the Federal Register on July 9, 2002. BLEU is a Department of Energy and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) project to dispose of surplus highly enriched uranium by downblending it into low-enriched uranium (LEU) and to manufacture the LEU into fuel to be used in TVA's Browns Ferry reactors.

In February 2002, NFS requested a license amendment to authorize LEU nitrate receipt and storage, and plans to request at least two more future amendments to authorize downblending and conversion. NRC's Environmental Assessment (prepared by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses) supported these three amendments, and the FONSI supported the LEU nitrate receipt and storage amendment.

Staff Participated in American Nuclear Society Conference on Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Management

During the week of August 5, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in Spectrum 2002, the American Nuclear Society's 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Nuclear and Hazardous Waste Management, held in Reno, Nevada. Staff chaired, and made presentations during sessions on Entombment, Decontamination, and Decommissioning. The staff also presented a paper, at the Spent Nuclear Fuel session, on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's roles and responsibilities regarding the Yucca Mountain project and spent fuel transportation.

Meeting with the Department of Energy on Geotechnical, Seismological, and Geophysical Data Supporting a Proposed Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain

On August 6-8, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (hereafter, the Center) participated in an Appendix 7 meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the meeting was for DOE to present the geotechnical, seismological, and geophysical data it had collected and analyzed during the last two years. On August 6, 2002, DOE and its contractors, the staff, the Center, and representatives from the State of Nevada and Nye County paid a visit to the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF). DOE contractors showed the attendees the various rock type formations and associated fractures, joints, faults, and rock mechanics test and sampling locations within the ESF. On August 7-8, 2002, the staff discussed several issues related to structural deformation and seismicity, repository design and thermal-mechanical effects, and total system performance and integration agreements. These discussions included explanations of how DOE plans to use the site characteristics to estimate potential seismic ground motions and the extent and magnitude of rockfall loads probabilistically. DOE also presented preliminary analyses that assess the response of the drip shield and waste package subjected to these potential seismic and rockfall

loads. It identified the different reports to be issued during 2003 and 2004 to support resolution of the applicable key technical issue agreements and their licensing applications.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
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Agreement Between the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) and the Russian Research Center (RRC) Formerly the I.V. Kurchatov Institute for Atomic Energy (KI) on Fuel Behavior and Material Science Research

On August 9, 2002, William D. Travers, EDO, signed the referenced Agreement. This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the USNRC and RRC-KI of Russia will continue cooperation on fuel behavior and material science research. The objectives of this Agreement are to (a) obtain experimental data on the behavior of Zr-1%Nb fuel rod cladding under postulated accident conditions, (b) advance the development of fuel rod codes that are used to analyze fuel behavior under accident conditions, and (c) explore and modify plant transient codes for analyzing accidents in light-water reactors containing high-burnup fuel. The work performed under this Agreement will contribute to NRC's goal of maintaining safety by verifying the accuracy of the FRAPTRAN analytical code, which will be used in the NRC review of extending burnup limits. The work conducted at RRC-KI is considered to be cost effective, contributing to the efficient use of the NRC resources. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the parties and be effective for a period of five years.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
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National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center

On August 9, 2002, Dr. James Ellis, Director of the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) (located at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory), presented a seminar in the NRC Operations Center describing the support that NARAC would provide to NRC in the event of a radiological emergency. NARAC is committed to supporting NRC during an emergency. The NARAC codes compliment RASCAL, the primary NRC emergency dose assessment code, because the NARAC codes can model to greater distances, consider differing wind fields in the vertical direction, and can model wind flow around topographic features more accurately. NARAC would expect NRC to provide it with the radiological source term generated by RASCAL.

Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center Working Group

On August 13-14, 2002, the Division of Incident Response Operations participated in a meeting of the Assessment Working Group of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC). The Assessment Working Group develops the procedures that are used to monitor radioactivity deposited by a plume and to assess the significance of the measured radioactivity relative to protective action guides (PAGs). FRMAC is in the process of computerizing the procedures. The computer code would be able to input deposition patterns calculated by RASCAL, the NRC's emergency dose assessment code.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-02-013, Fletcher Allen Health Care, UNDERDOSE MISADMINISTRATION RESULTING FORM A PREMATURELY TERMINATED INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY PROCEDURE.
2. PNO-II-02-029, Virginia Electric Power Company, LOW WATER LEVEL IN LAKE ANNA RESERVOIR DUE TO DROUGHT.
3. PNO-II-02-030, Southern Resources, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-1-02-014, Alaron Corporation, DAMAGE TO PACKAGE CONTAINING CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT DURING TRANSPORTATION.
5. PNO-II-02-024B, Virginia Electric and Power Company, TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT TO END STRIKE AT NORTH ANNA AND SURRY.



Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 16, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of August 9, 2002 through August 15, 2002:

NUREG/CR-5199, "Inspection Techniques for Post-Fire Safe Shutdown of Nuclear Generating Stations," dated September 1988 (FOIA/PA-2002-0364)

UCLA Research Reactor Facility, Los Angeles, CA, records re: license termination and decommissioning, and order issued 9-30-1985 by ASLB (FOIA/PA-2002-0365)

Purchase Order DR-98-0126, issued under GSA schedule GS-23F-9781H, Arthur Andersen (FOIA/PA-2002-0366)

Envirocare of Utah, notices of deficiency or violation, site inspections, permits, complaints and general correspondence, 1998 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0367)

Investigation 4-1999-066 (FOIA/PA-2002-0368)

Daily Plant Status Report, 5/1/02 to 5/29/02 (FOIA/PA-2002-0369)

Contract 10-98-151, copies of proposals (FOIA/PA-2002-0370)

Licensed Operator Exam (RO) given at V. C. Summer Nuclear Station about 9/27 - 10/1/99 (FOIA/PA-2002-0371)

Radiation exposure on named individual, investigative report (FOIA/PA-2002-0372)

Ponder Oil Services, Mega Oil, and Vista USA Inc., and nuclear fission materials leaving port of Baku, Azerbaijan, 1994-2002, all records (FOIA/PA-2002-0373)

E-mails in NRC FOIA office containing specific named individual and e-mails containing American Lawyer Media (FOIA/PA-2002-0374)

Oyster Creek, State of New Jersey response to exemption request dated April 30, 2002, re: 10 CFR 1.109 and 10 CFR 50.75(f)(2) (FOIA/PA-2002-0375)

MLTS, licensees in NJ, PA, VA, IL, MN, and WI of pharmaceutical and biotech research (FOIA/PA-2002-0376)

Investigation of discrimination by Earthline Technologies (RMI) on named individual (FOIA/PA-2002-0377)

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Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
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<b>Arrivals</b>		
HUNTER, Christopher	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RES
LEMONCELLI, Mauri*	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
MAUER, Andrew	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	OSTP
MONTGOMERY, Natasha**	SECRETARY	OHR
RIESBECK, Kirsten	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST	OIP
SMITH, Brooke	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
<b>Departures</b>		
ALVENS, Duane	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
DIECKER, Jane***	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
DORSEY, Melissa	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
DOWLING, Jonathan***	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
GERARDI, Craig	STUDENT TRAINEE (GENERAL ENGINEERING)	RES
GEROND, George***	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
GOSHEN, John	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LIMATA, Laura	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
MOCK, Aisha	STUDENT CLERK	RIII
MORENO, Jeffrey***	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
NEUNER III, Burton	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
O'KELLY, Kevin****	OFFICE ASSISTANT	RIII
PAIGE, Jason	STUDENT CLERK	NRR
PENNAMON, Bryan	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII
PRUETT, Timothy	IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
RHO, Jennifer	STUDENT SOCIAL SCIENTIST	OIP
RUTENKROGER, Scott***	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV

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VIRANT, Thomas	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
WITTMEYER, Jennifer****	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
WYLAM, Justin***	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV

\*Converting from part-time temp

\*\*Returning to duty 8/20/02

\*\*\*Effective 8/15/02

\*\*\*\*Effective 8/14/02

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Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
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Media Interest

A meeting between First Energy and NRC officials about problems at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant, attracted media interest.

There was media interest in an accident involving a tractor-trailer rig hauling low level radioactive materials to the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

NRC's Executive Director for Operations and Region IV Administrator told the board of Nebraska Public Power District that significant changes are needed at the Cooper Nuclear power plant.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
02-088	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing on License Renewal Application for H. B. Robinson Nuclear Power Plant
02-089	NRC to Hold Public Meeting in South Carolina on Proposed MOX Facility
02-090	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in its Enforcement Program
02-091	NRC Licensing Board to Continue Hearing September 9 in Maryland on TVA Appeal of NRC Staff Discrimination Ruling
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-02-051	NRC, Army Command to Discuss Use and Tracking of Licensed Devices
IV-02-037	Michael Hay Named NRC Sr. Resident Inspector at Waterford 3
IV-02-038	Inspection Team to Discuss Results of Recent Inspection at Cooper Nuclear Station August 22

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 16, 2002

French Visit

During the period August 13-20, 2002, a regulatory team from the French General Directorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (DGSNR) visited NRC for in-depth discussions of radiation protection safety at nuclear power plants. The extensive visit included discussion at Headquarters, at Region II offices, and a two day visit to the McGuire Nuclear Power Plant. Discussion at the plant focused on the complexity of ensuring radiation protection during an outage.

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Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-02-0144	7/26/02	Process Used to Determine When Further Research on a Particular Item Should be Closed or Terminated
2. SECY-02-0148	8/2/02	Summary of Activities Related to Generic Safety Issues
3. SECY-02-0149	8/2/02	Proposed Bulletin: "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Inspection Programs"

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Request to Amend A License to Export Highly-Enriched Uranium - Notice of Receipt.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 16, 2002

ABB Prospects, Inc. Site in Windsor, CT

On August 15, 2002 the Region I Director of the Division of Nuclear Material Safety (DNMS) and staff from Region I DNMS met with representatives of ABB Prospects, Inc. at the ABB site in Windsor, CT and toured the site. Representatives from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Radiation (CTDEP) were also present and participated in the tour. The tour covered the entire site and included both NRC licensed areas and Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) areas. The tour also included the interiors of the buildings in Building Complexes 2, 5, and 17, which are the subject of a current license amendment request. At the conclusion of the tour, the NRC met separately with CTDEP to also discuss ABB's current license amendment.

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Region II  
Items of Interest  
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2002 American Nuclear Society Utility Conference

On August 12-14, 2002, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety, and Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, attended the 2002 American Nuclear Society Utility Conference "Sustaining the Nuclear Revival" in Amelia Island, Florida.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Plant

On August 13, 2002, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, was at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Plant, in South Carolina, to meet with the resident inspectors and tour the plant.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - North Anna and Surry

On August 15, 2002, the licensee and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers signed a tentative agreement to end the 13-day strike. The transition of replacement and returning workers is in progress. The resident inspectors will evaluate the transition from a strike condition to normal plant operations.