

INFORMATION REPORT

September 20, 2002

SECY-02-0168

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-02-0168 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Final Amendment to 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards"

On September 9, 2002, the Executive Director for Operations signed a final rule that amends Title 10, Section 50.55a, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.55a), "Codes and Standards." The final rule incorporates by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a the 1997 Addenda, 1998 Edition, 1999 Addenda, and 2000 Addenda of the Sections III and XI (Division 1) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (ASME BPV Code) and the *ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants* (OM Code). The ASME BPV and OM Codes are used for the construction, inservice inspection (ISI), and inservice testing (IST) of nuclear power plant components. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register after September 17, 2002, and will become effective 30 days after publication. Once the final rule becomes effective, licensees will be required to (1) update their ISI and IST programs to the 1998 Edition with the 1999 and 2000 Addenda of Section XI (Division 1) and OM Codes in accordance with the 120-month update requirements in 10 CFR 50.55a; and (2) construct new nuclear power plants in accordance with the 1998 Edition with the 1999 and 2000 Addenda of Section III (Division 1).

Fire Protection Significance Determination Process

On September 4, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) held a public meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rockville to discuss the improvement for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 fire protection Significance Determination Process (SDP) methodology. NRR staff presented a Phase 1 screening approach and reviewed another possible approach proposed by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry representative. Elements of both approaches were combined to improve the Phase 1 screening process. The meeting participants also discussed the possible approaches for treating each issue affecting the Phase 2 SDP methodology. Individuals were assigned as task leads on each specific Phase 2 SDP issue to develop action plans for short-term and long-term fixes to improve the Phase 2 methodology. A public workshop is being planned in early November 2002 to discuss the Phase 2 SDP methodology.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-26, Failure of Steam Dryer Cover Plate After a Recent Power Uprate dated September 11, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to alert addressees to a recent failure of a steam dryer cover plate during operations following a power uprate at a boiling water reactor. It is expected that the recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Louisiana Energy Services Site Selection

On September 9, 2002, Louisiana Energy Services (LES) announced its gas centrifuge enrichment plant final site selection as the Hartsville site in Tennessee. The site is located about 40 miles northeast of Nashville at the former Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Hartsville Nuclear Plant site. The LES plant is proposed to be located on land that TVA recently sold to the Four Lakes Regional Industrial Development Authority.

International Atomic Energy Agency Consultants Meeting to Prepare Fuel Cycle Safety Requirements

On September 2-6, 2002, a member of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated in a "Consultants Meeting" in Vienna, Austria, to prepare an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety requirements document entitled, "Safety of Fuel Cycle and Isotope Production Facilities, DS 316." This was the third meeting on this topic. The two previous meetings occurred in early 2002 and in 2001. Once finalized, DS 316 will provide the IAEA member countries with requirements that may be applied for safely designing, constructing, operating, and decommissioning fuel cycle and isotope production facilities. By the end of the meeting, the participants had prepared a final draft of DS 316 which incorporated the comments provided on a previous draft by the IAEA member countries. The current draft of this document will be provided to the member countries and to the IAEA's nuclear safety committee for review and comment. DS 316 is anticipated to be finalized and published by the end of 2004.

Meeting with Industry on Interim Staff Guidance 11, Revision 2

On September 6, 2002, representatives from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO), the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and industry attended a meeting to discuss the recently issued Revision 2 of Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) 11, "Cladding Considerations for the Transportation and Storage of Spent Fuel." SFPO staff presented an overview of the guidance and acceptance criteria contained in the ISG which are focused on the storage of spent fuel. Representatives of EPRI presented a generic approach to address the technical issues associated with transportation of spent fuel. SFPO staff indicated that reviews of transportation casks will be done on a case-by-case basis to support near-term industry needs until a future revision to the ISG is developed to address transportation issues.

Workshop on Public Involvement in Decommissioning

On September 5, 2002, the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) held an all-day workshop at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters on best practices for effective public involvement in decommissioning, with special emphasis on restricted release sites. USIECR presented information from their study, performed under an interagency agreement with NRC's Division of Waste Management (DWM), on best communication/public outreach practices. Topics covered included: the rationale for developing a public involvement plan; situation assessment to develop an appropriate plan; implementation of the public involvement plan; and

evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan, as well as discussion of the specific challenges pertaining to restricted use decommissioning.

External stakeholders (licensees, contractors, industry representatives) comprised slightly over half of the 30-person audience, and the rest of the attendees were NRC staff members. Representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute; the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the Department of Energy were among the attendees. NRC participants included staff from DWM, the Office of Public Affairs, and the Office of the Executive Director of Operations. In addition to handing out NRC Form 659, "NRC Public Meeting Feedback," USIECR asked participants to complete questionnaires before and after the training session. The results of these questionnaires will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the workshop, and used to develop recommendations for future activities.

Staff Attends Department of Energy Igneous Activity Peer Review Meeting

On September 5, 2002, staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended the Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored Peer Review on the Consequences of Igneous Activity on a potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the results of the Panel's Interim Report. Also in attendance were members from the State of Nevada, the affected units of local government, representatives of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the U.S. Geologic Survey, and other interested parties. The Peer Review Panel is reviewing the DOE program as related to Igneous Activity, specifically to address concerns with possible magma-repository interactions. In addition, the panel is to provide comments on any other aspects of the Igneous Activity Program that they believe to be pertinent.

The Panel provided suggestions on additional work which could be accomplished and additional information regarding the general properties of magma, studies on waste package and waste form interactions with magma, and on ash redistribution. The Panel's final report will be available in the January 2003 time frame. Afterwards, DOE will prepare a report with a response to the Panel's report and a discussion of work that will be undertaken by the DOE prior to submitting a potential license application.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Meets on Sewage Sludge Study Results

On September 4, 2002, the Sewage Sludge Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS), and representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the State of New Jersey, met with the ISCORS principals to obtain input from ISCORS on the survey data report and dose modeling report that the Subcommittee is preparing. The consensus of the Subcommittee and ISCORS principals is that naturally-occurring radium, and the radon pathway, are the most significant contributors to potential doses to sewage treatment plant workers and to members of the public in the future. The ISCORS principals provided direction to the Subcommittee regarding completion of the two reports. The ISCORS principals also directed the Subcommittee to revise the guidance document to address methods for operators to reduce potential doses from radium and radon.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Cooperative Research Agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The NRC has signed a cooperative research agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for the purpose of improving NRC's access to state-of-the-art knowledge and information on advanced reactors. The period of the agreement is August 2002 to August 2005. The subject areas to be covered include advanced light water, as well as non-light water technologies. MIT is currently conducting research at their Center for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems on a number of topics associated with gas-cooled and light water reactors, as well as exploring regulatory improvements using risk perspectives. Students and faculty are engaged in research on core neutronics design, thermal fluid dynamics, fuel performance, economics, non-proliferation, and waste disposal. In addition to MIT with its consortium of US universities, national laboratories, and industries, this research involves international collaborations with Germany, Russia, China, Japan, and South Africa.

4th International MACCS Users' Group (IMUG) Meeting

A representative from the Office of Nuclear Regulator Research (RES) and contractors conducted the 4th International MACCS Users' Group (IMUG) meeting on September 6, 2002, in conjunction with the IAEA sponsored "International Conference on Radioactivity in the Environment" in Monaco. MACCS is the NRC's off-site consequence code. Representatives from the US, Japan, Hungary, Norway, and Greece attended the meeting. Several papers covered recent developments in MACCS and in a Japanese code developed from MACCS that will allow automated input-parameter uncertainty studies. Both the US and Japan are developing windows versions of MACCS and RES has targeted several areas of the existing code for improvement including the treatment of the use of potassium iodide and alternatives for calculation of plume rise.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

U.S. National Response Team Meeting

A representative of the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) participated with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy, the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and the U. S. Coast Guard in a National Response Team (NRT) planning meeting regarding reconciliation of Federal-level emergency response plans at EPA Headquarters on September 10, 2002. The meeting addressed the NRT's initiative to support the National Strategy for Homeland Security regarding consolidation of existing Federal government emergency response plans into one plan - the Federal Incident Management Plan. NRT's self-generated task is to provide the OHS with results of a coordinated interagency review of existing plans and recommendations for resolution of identified issues and plan consolidation. Following extensive discussion, an approach was agreed upon for review of the U. S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan, Federal Response Plan, Terrorism Incident Annex to the Federal Response Plan, and Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan. Key issues and corresponding recommendations for resolution are to be identified and documented in a deliverable to OHS. It was noted that these plans are currently being reviewed/ revised by other interagency groups - and the NRT initiative is to be coordinated with such ongoing activities. NRT working meetings are to be conducted approximately weekly for the next two-three months. DIRO will represent the NRC and participate in this NRT initiative.

Research and Test Reactor On-site Visits

In response to the Commission-approved direction on the draft Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs) for Research and Test Reactors (RTRs) licensed to operate at or above two (2) megawatts thermal, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)/Division of Nuclear Security (DNS) staff provided technical support to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation/Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs during site visits to the six RTRs from July 29, 2002, through August 14, 2002. The NSIR/DNS staff held on-site discussions with RTR management on safeguards issues relative to determining an acceptable approach to implementing the ICMs, and on each licensee's written response to the Commission. The staff intends to formalize these ICMs for each licensee under the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) process at a later date.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-02-035, Dayton X-Ray Company, Inc., STOLEN RADIOGRAPHY DEVICE.
2. PNO-III-02-036, Davis-Besse, CRACK IDENTIFIED IN VESSEL HEAD STAINLESS STEEL LINER.

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ENCLOSURE D

3. PNO-I-02-016, University of Pennsylvania, A PARENT OF RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL THERAPY PATIENT RECEIVED A RADIATION EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITS FOR A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
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Salary Offset Procedures for Collecting Debts Owed by Federal Employees to the Federal Government (Part 16)

A final rule that amends the regulations concerning procedures used to collect debts that are owed to the NRC by Federal employees was published in the Federal Register on September 11, 2002 (67 FR 57506). The final rule conforms NRC regulations to the legislative changes enacted in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures contained in the Federal Claims Collection Standards. The final rule becomes effective October 11, 2002.

Contract Awards

As a result of a noncompetitive, negotiated 8a acquisition, a firm fixed price type Contract No. NRC-10-02-136 was awarded to SPS Consulting, LLC of Bethesda, MD on September 9, 2002, for Division of Contracts Report Generation and File Room Support Services. The contract period runs for 14 months with three option years and is valued at \$953,245 over that period. The contract was awarded in 90 days using email issuance of the request for proposals and email submission of the proposal.

As a result of a noncompetitive, negotiated acquisition, a cost-plus-fixed-fee type Contract No. NRC-04-02-074 was awarded to the Battelle Columbus Operations on September 9, 2002, for Technical Development of Loss-of-Coolant-Accident Frequency Distribution. The contract runs for 36 months and is valued at \$2,254,275. The contract was awarded in 105 days using electronic submittal of the Statement of Work to the Division of Contracts by the program office.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
September 6, 2002 through September 12, 2002:

MLTS and GLT database (FOIA/PA-2002-0404)

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, operator licenses, SOP-6011, OP-6011
(FOIA/PA-2002-0405)

List of pharmacists who are authorized users, U.S. (FOIA/PA-2002-0406)

Coastal Radiation Services, site inspection reports, RCRA action, ROD's and Consent Decrees,
re: radioactive source leak about April 1979 (FOIA/PA-2002-0407)

Stephan Company, Maywood NJ, RCRA's, inspection reports, license renewal of STC-1333,
exemption requests, decommissioning, docket 40-8610, all docs not made publicly available
(FOIA/PA-2002-0408)

Testing or examinations on named individual (FOIA/PA-2002-0409)

Radiation exposure (5/21-5/23/02) while employed at Precision Drilling Oil Field Services
(FOIA/PA-2002-0410)

Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala Lakota Nation, Oglala Sioux Tribe, and the Stronghold, all
documents dated January 1, 1976 or later (FOIA/PA-2002-0411)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Arrivals		
LESTER, Adrienne	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
WALKER, Carla	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
Departures		
BAK, Michael	STUDENT PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NRR

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Media Interest

Sixty-five scholars from North Carolina State University met with Chairman Meserve and other NRC officials during a visit.

A Regulatory Issues Summary sent to NRC nuclear power plant licensees recommends they use uniform language in describing unplanned radioactivity releases that are at or just above the NRC's reporting requirements to ensure clear and consistent communications to the public.

There was media interest in a survey of security guards at 24 nuclear reactors, who told a non-profit watchdog group they were not prepared to fend off a terrorist attack.

Remarks by Chairman Meserve about improvements in the security of the country's nuclear power plants received widespread coverage on the anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-107	Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advises Nuclear Licensees to Increase Security Measures
Regions:	
I-02-057	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Meprolight, Inc., for Violation of Radioactive Material Requirements
I-02-058	NRC Issues Finding of Low to Moderate Safety Significance to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant
II-02-045	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Civil Penalty Against Puerto Rico Company for Violation of NRC Radiation Safety Requirements
III-02-051	Note to Editors: Telephone Access for Sept. 18 Davis-Besse Meeting

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0122	07/01/02	Staff Review Guidance for Gaseous Diffusion Plant Changes in Ownership or Control
SRM on 02-0122	09/10/02	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 02-0122	09/10/02	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-02-0067	09/11/2002	Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) for Operational Programs (Programmatic ITAAC)
Commission Voting Record on 02-0067	09/11/2002	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0158	08/22/02	Litigation Report - 2002 - 02

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Charles W. Stenholm dated September 4, 2002 concerns a proposed airport in the vicinity of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station in Glen Rose, Texas.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (137th Meeting 9/25-26/02) - Notice of Meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 13, 2002

Regional Administrator Participates in the Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Session

On September 12, 2002, the Regional Administrator participated in the Special Strategic Plan Senior Leadership Group Session in Headquarters. The Group is tasked with evaluating the effectiveness of the NRC's Strategic Plan and making recommendations for changes to the next revision where necessary.

New Radiation Protection Managers Seminar at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations

On September 11, 2002, the Deputy Regional Administrator and Chief, Plant Support Branch, Division of Reactor Safety, participated in the New Radiation Protection Managers Seminar at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations located in Atlanta. Discussion topics included feed back on the reactor oversight program in the radiation protection area.

NRC Career Fair at the Georgia Institute of Technology

On September 9, 2002, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and Human Resources Specialist, Division of Resource Management and Administration participated in a Career Fair at Georgia Institute of Technology located in Atlanta. This effort is part of the Region's Strategic Workforce Planning activities.

Progress Energy/Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River 3 Management Meeting

On September 12, 2002, representatives from Progress Energy/Florida Power Corporation were in the Region II office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Crystal River 3 plant issues and major activities.

Calvert Cliffs Exercise

In response to a request from the Region I Office, the State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Calvert Cliffs exercise, during September 9-13. The exercise involved officials of the State of Maryland and applicable local governments.

Workshop on Revised 10 CFR Part 35

On September 10, 2002, representatives of Region II and NMSS held the first Stakeholder Workshop on the implementation of the revised 10 CFR Part 35. The workshop, held in the White Flint Auditorium, was targeted to Region II licensees. Approximately 80 stakeholders participated in the workshop.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

On September 13, 2002, the licensee declared an Unusual Event. The declaration was based on licensee judgement that an incident where an individual made an unauthorized entry into the protected area at the Sequoyah nuclear plant warranted the declaration. After setting off an explosive system alarm, the individual improperly continued into the protected area prior to completing some access requirements. The licensee responded to the event by accounting for all individuals on site, locating the individual who entered unauthorized, notified off site law authorities, and searched the nuclear plant for any contraband type materials.

The NRC resident inspectors were on site and Region II sent a specialist inspector with expertise in physical security to the site. These inspectors followed the licensee's response and corrective actions on site. The Region II incident response center was staffed, monitored the results of the licensee and inspector activities on site, and coordinated the licensee and NRC response with appropriate NRC staff and managers in Headquarters through the NRC Operations Center. The licensee exited the Unusual Event on September 13. The NRC Region II response center exited the monitoring mode at that time.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 65

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	09/18/02 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	E-Government Act	Reps. Davis/Turner Technology & Procurement Policy Government Reform
Gerke	09/19/02 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Linking Program Funding to Performance Results	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmt & Intergov Relations Government Reform Reps. Pryce/Slaughter Legislative & Budget Process Rules
Combs	09/24/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	Dr. Paperiello, DOE, DOD, DOS, NRDC, Carnegie Endowment for Intl Peace, Former Director of Iraqi Nuclear Program	Combating Terrorism: Preventing Nuclear Terrorism	Reps. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform

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ENCLOSURE R