

INFORMATION REPORT

March 3, 2004

SECY-04-0036

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0036 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 20, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station - Inspection Exits and Restart Meeting

On February 12, 2004, the NRC's Restart Readiness Assessment Team and the Management and Human Performance Team presented the results of their recent inspections at a public exit meeting near the site. Later in the day, the 0350 Oversight Panel conducted a public restart meeting with the licensee at the same location. The Region III Administrator, Director of the Office of the Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs attended these meetings. The restart meeting was also attended by State and local elected officials, licensee employees, public citizens, and media representatives. Additionally, a telephone bridge line was established to enable participation in lieu of travel.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Chief Nuclear Officer to Retire

On February 13, 2004, TVA Chief Nuclear Officer, Mr. John Scalice, who has led TVA's nuclear program for 14 years, announced his plans to retire, effective June 1, 2004. Mr. Karl Singer, senior vice president of nuclear operations, is expected to assume the position of Chief Nuclear Officer on June 1, 2004. Mr. Singer has approximately 20 years of nuclear reactor experience. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1984 to 1993, then joined TVA at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama.

Vermont Yankee Extended Power Uprate Acceptance Review

On February 18, 2004, the NRC staff verbally informed Entergy that the staff has completed its acceptance review of the Vermont Yankee Extended Power Uprate license amendment application dated September 10, 2003, as supplemented on October 1 and October 28, 2003, and January 31, 2004. The staff has determined that the licensee has provided the necessary information such that the detailed review can be completed within a 12-month review schedule. The expected completion date for NRC review is January 31, 2005.

Industry Corrective Action Program Owners Group (CAPOG) Meeting

On February 18, 2004, Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff participated in a meeting of the CAPOG in Las Vegas, NV. During this meeting, the staff made a presentation on its analysis of recent corrective action program inspection findings and provided an overview of recent changes to the inspection program related to trending. Attendees included representatives from industry, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and other corrective action program stakeholders.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Meeting

On February 19, 2004, DIPM staff hosted the monthly ROP Working Group meeting to discuss general mitigating systems performance index (MSPI) related topics, industry's responses to the staff's draft maintenance rule significance determination process (SDP), and ways to

improve the barrier integrity performance indicators (PIs). Discussions also included ways of creating a top ten ROP issues list and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on ROP PIs.

Public Information Session on License Renewal Review Process

On February 27, 2004, the staff conducted a public information session in Waterford, Connecticut, to discuss the NRC process for considering license renewal applications. The session was conducted following the receipt of the license renewal application for the Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3. The staff placed advertisements in local newspapers and on local public access radio stations, distributed flyers to local community organizations, and issued a press release announcing the information session. Approximately 35 people attended the session. The public questions related mostly to the role of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and on the recently revised 10 CFR Part 2 requirements related to public hearings. The meeting was well attended by local and state government officials including a State Representative from the 38th District.

Petition to Intervene in System Energy Resources, Inc. Early Site Permit Proceeding for Grand Gulf

The NRC received a petition dated February 12, 2004, from four organizations to intervene in the System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI) early site permit (ESP) application proceeding for Grand Gulf. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 52, a hearing is mandatory for an ESP, and a petition to intervene is the first step in admitting parties as litigants in that hearing. The organizations cited in the petition, that represent 14 individuals who live within 50 miles of the proposed Grand Gulf ESP site, are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Claiborne County, Mississippi Branch; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Public Citizen; and Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club. The petition asserts nine aspects the petitioners believe are within the scope of the proceeding for which they request to intervene.

Meeting of Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Plant Support Engineering Cable Users Group

On February 9-13, 2004, the Division of Engineering staff participated in the subject meeting. Discussions included the staff's February 5, 2004, letter to NEI, regarding the potential common mode failure of medium voltage underground cables due to wetting. The letter encouraged the industry to develop proposals that would address cable issues by April 30, 2004. Industry participants objected to the use of the term "common mode" stating that only random failures due to "water treeing" are possible. Industry participants also objected to the April 30, 2004, response date, as being unrealistic because of the potential complexity of this issue.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Meeting with Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor

On February 10-12, 2004, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff participated in a meeting in Moscow, Russia, to discuss comment resolutions on first drafts of selected Federal-level regulations and safety guides developed by the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN). Comments on the regulations and safety guides were previously provided to GAN by NRC, the European Commission, and the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors. The regulations and safety guides are related to the Russian mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel project and are part of the Russian infrastructure support project funded by DOE. DOE requested NRC's participation at this meeting and funded it through a reimbursable agreement. This activity is part of NRC continuing support to DOE and GAN, related to the Russian MOX program.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
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Third Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) meeting for the ACR-700 Design

On February 18-20, 2004, the subject meeting was held at NRC Headquarters. Subpanels on thermal-hydraulics and severe accidents met in parallel sessions over the three days of this meeting. An independent panel of thermal-hydraulics experts met to develop a PIRT for a critical break loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) in the ACR-700, a design basis event. The PIRT will be used to guide code development and determine the need for new experiments. The findings will be used by the panel to formulate recommendations for modification of NRC's severe accident analysis tools.

Meeting with the Representatives of the Department of Energy

On February 19, 2004, RES and NRR staff met with representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss implementation of a Congressional mandate for DOE to transfer mechanical stress improvement process (MSIP) technology to Lithuania. MSIP is used to remediate residual stresses in stainless steel piping thereby reducing the likelihood of intergranular stress corrosion cracking at pipe welds.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of February 13 through February 19, 2004:

Yucca Mountain, communications between NEI & NRC, from 1998 to current, to include meetings, transcripts, correspondence, schedules, agendas	FOIA/PA-2004-0125
SCIE-EGG-103-89, "Draft Technical Evaluation Report on U.S. Commercial Power Reactor Hydrogen Tank Farms & Their Compliance with Separation Distance Safety Criteria," March 1990	FOIA/PA-2004-0126
All files maintained on named individual	FOIA/PA-2004-0127
Organization chart or directory or phone book	FOIA/PA-2004-0128
NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan, Table of Contents	FOIA/PA-2004-0129
Sen. John Kerry, correspondence to & from NRC, January 1, 1995 to present	FOIA/PA-2004-0130
Resumes, biographies, etc. for NRC employees who serve or served in senior level positions & whose appointments were reviewed or new appointments during President George W. Bush's administration	FOIA/PA-2004-0131
NSIP-2003-0032, reason for non-selection	FOIA/PA-2004-0132

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Arrivals		
Thelma Davis	Secretary	NRR
Steven Griffin	Building Management Specialist	ADM
Crystal Y. Johnson	Secretary	NMSS
Lynn Mrowca	Reliability & Risk Analyst	NRR
Karen Y. Thompson	Criminal Investigator	OIG
Departures		
Dora Abankwah	Office Automation Assistant	NRR
Mario Cora Hernandez	Project Manager	NRR
Matthew P. Langhenry	Sr. Program Analyst	OCFO

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Media Interest

The following are issues or items which the Office of Public Affairs received inquiries from the media and/or noted media coverage:

President Bush's nomination of Dr. Gregory Jaczko, aide to Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev), to the Commission.

The NRC Inspector General's report that the agency has not done enough to improve its internal communications in response to the corrosion problems at Davis-Besse.

Charges by a former member of a nuclear waste advisory panel that the Department of Energy is relying on flawed science in developing its license application for a high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-023	NRC Schedules Public Presentation and Webcast on March 3, 2004, on Three Mile Island Accident, 25 Years Later (2/18)
04-024	NRC Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes to Meet March 1-2, 2004, in Rockville, Maryland. (2/19)
Regions:	
I-04-005	NRC Sends Special Inspection Team to Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 (2/17)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0022	2/13/04	SECY-04-0022 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 6, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M040218A	2/18/04	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-04-0017-Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station); State of Maine's Petition for Review of LBP-03-26; II. SECY-04-0021-Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2); NRC Staff's Petition for Interlocutory Review of the Licensing Board's January 29, 2004 Memorandum and Order (Ruling on BREDL Motion for Need to Know Determination and Extension of Deadline for Filing Security-Related Contentions)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Patrick Henry Wood, III, FERC, dated February 18, 2004, expresses thanks for meeting to discuss security and related issues such as electrical grid stability.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting Notice (3/3-6/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Indian Point Exercise Coordination

On February 18-19, 2004, staff from NRC Region I and the NRC Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Public Affairs, and Nuclear Regulatory Research participated in several on-site activities associated with development and coordination of the June 8, 2004 Indian Point emergency preparedness exercise. The NRC staff participated in a tabletop exercise involving representatives from the Indian Point site, State of New York, and four counties in the Indian Point emergency planning zone (EPZ). In addition, the NRC staff reviewed the current exercise plan with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II office. These meetings were held to ensure adequate participation by evaluated responders and to discuss planned outreach activities in support of the exercise.

Oyster Creek

On February 19, 2004, AmerGen Energy Company announced plans to seek extension of Oyster Creek Generating Station operating license by 20 years. The current license expires April 9, 2009. AmerGen plans to submit a license renewal application to the NRC in mid-2005.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie Emergency Exercise

On February 18, 2004, Region II participated in the St. Lucie Emergency Exercise with a Site Team. The Deputy Regional Administrator functioned as the Site Team Leader/Director of Site Operations. Representatives from the Office of Inspector General, Audits and Investigations staff accompanied the Site Team.

On February 19, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator visited the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant in Jensen Beach, Florida. The purpose of the visit was to tour the facility and meet with licensee management and the resident inspectors.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

Predecisional Enforcement Conference High Mountain Inspection Services, Incorporated

On February 18, 2004, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and Region IV staff conducted a closed Predecisional Enforcement Conference in Casper, Wyoming, with High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc. The purpose was to discuss four apparent violations of NRC requirements involving the security of byproducts material, training of licensee staff, labeling of devices containing byproduct material, and record keeping.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 20, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 46

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	02/24/04 SD-366	10:00	DOE, NERC, Midwest Independent Transmission Service Operator	S. 2095, Energy Policy Act/ Electricity Reliability	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Gerke	02/24/04 2247 RHOB	3:00	TBA	Dental and Vision Benefits for Federal Employees, H.R. 3751	Reps. Davis/Davis Civil Service & Agency Organization Government Reform
Gerke	02/25/04 2247 RHOB	10:00	OMB, SBA, Public Citizen	Improving Regulatory Accounting	Reps. Ose/Tierney Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Government Reform
Gerke	02/26/04 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Replacement of Government Telecommunications System	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Gerke	03/03/04 2154 RHOB	2:00	GAO, OMB, Treasury	GAO Audit of Government Financial Statements	Reps. Platts/Towns Gov't Efficiency & Financial Mgmt Government Reform
Keeling	03/04/04 SD-366	2:30	Dr. Travers; TVA COO; NEI	Future of Nuclear Power/Browns Ferry Restart	Senators Alexander/Graham Energy Energy and Natural Resources
Madden	03/05/04 Las Vegas	9:00	TBA	Transportation of Nuclear Waste	Reps. Quinn/Brown Railroads Transportation & Infrastructure

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Gerke	03/10/04 TBA	2:00	OMB, GAO, NRC and others	Agencies' Computer Security Efforts	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology, Info Policy, Inter-governmental Relations and the Census Government Reform
Portner	03/11/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/11/04 TBA	TBA	DOE	Final Report by U.S. - Canada Power System Outage Task Force	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Portner	03/17/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Energy Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/24/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Waste Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

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