

INFORMATION REPORT

October 18, 2004

SECY-04-0188

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0188 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 8, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Farley - Public Meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal

On September 30, 2004, the staff conducted two public meetings related to the license renewal application for Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Farley). The purpose of the meetings was to solicit comments from the public on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) issued on August 6, 2004. The draft SEIS is a plant-specific supplement to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants." Approximately 40 people attended the meetings, including representatives of the State and local governments, the licensee, news media, and members of the public. The public comment period ends on November 5, 2004.

In addition, in an effort to improve communication and increase interaction with members of the public, the NRC staff hosted an informal "open house" for one hour prior to each meeting and encouraged the public to submit meeting feedback forms. The NRC staff set up displays, provided informational brochures and met with members of the public to answer questions about the proposed renewal of the Farley operating licenses.

Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR-700)

By letter dated, October 1, 2004, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Technologies, Inc., informed the NRC that the ACR-700 design certification application will be postponed from the current target date of March 2005. The schedule change was attributed to a delay in receipt of the Department of Energy (DOE) response to Dominion Energy's proposal for the North Anna Combined License Project. AECL Technologies explained that once DOE's position is known, the ACR-700 project schedule will be reviewed and a new submittal date for the application will be determined. AECL Technologies requested continued NRC engagement in the pre-application process during the proposed transition phase and stated they remain committed to proceeding with the ACR-700 design certification process.

D.C. Cook - Issuance of Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) for Improved Standard Technical Specifications (ISTS) Conversion

On October 1, 2004, NRR staff issued the subject DSER for the conversion of D.C. Cook technical specifications (TS) from the current custom plant TS to ISTS. Issuance of this DSER represents a significant milestone in the pilot program for the accelerated review process of ISTS conversions, in that the DSER was issued in about six months from the date of the application (April 6, 2004). In the past, ISTS conversions typically took between 10-12 months from the receipt of application to issuance of DSER.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on License Renewal Program

On October 4, 2004, NRR staff met with representatives from the NEI's License Renewal Task Force to discuss the staff's assessment of the NRC's resource expenditures related to the review of Robinson, Ginna, and Summer license renewal applications (LRAs). In addition to the

representatives from the industry, media, and other stakeholders, thirty five students pursuing government studies from American University, Washington, DC, accompanied by their professor, were also in attendance to observe this meeting in order to get a perspective on how a government agency conducts its business.

The staff held this meeting to share with the industry the results of staff's assessment of resources expended on Robinson, Ginna and Summer LRA reviews. The staff concluded from this assessment that the efficiency of the license renewal review is highly dependent on the level of standardization and complexity of the LRA. Furthermore, utilization of new staff reviewers and contractors which was necessary to support multiple and concurrent reviews also had impact on the resources expended. The staff indicated that continuous communication between the NRC and the industry is critical to the success of the license renewal program from both NRC's and industry's perspectives, and encouraged the industry to provide feedback on how the license renewal process may be further enhanced. NEI agreed that it will gather input from the industry to discuss with the staff during the next scheduled meeting on October 27, 2004.

Issuance of Draft Regulatory Guide (DG) - 1139 "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants

On October 7, 2004, the subject draft regulatory guide was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 60192) for a 60 day public comment period. This regulatory guide provides guidance for use in complying with the requirements of Title 10, Section 50.48(c), of the Code of Federal Regulations and the referenced 2001 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association standard, NFPA 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light-Water Reactor Electric Generating Stations."

Issuance of Draft Generic Letter (GL) "Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Associated Technical Specifications"

On October 7, 2004, the subject draft GL was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 60193) for a 60 day public comment period. The NRC is proposing to issue this GL to request that addressees submit a description of their program for ensuring steam generator (SG) tube integrity for the interval between inspections and the methodology used to assess the effects of non-pressure-related loads such as bending on SG tube integrity. The proposed GL also requests addressees to provide a safety assessment demonstrating that the SG tubes will have adequate structural integrity (with appropriate regulatory margins) at the time of their next SG tube inspection, taking into account the effects of non-pressure-related loads.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Intergovernmental Meeting on West Valley Decommissioning

On September 30, 2004, NRC staff participated in a meeting with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE), the New York State's Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Department of Health. The purpose of this meeting was to work together on the timely identification and resolution of issues for decommissioning the West Valley site. The parties agreed that the primary vehicle for addressing these issues is the West Valley Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Topics of discussion included: the status of the DEIS; ongoing and planned work on the decontamination and decommissioning of facilities; shipment of waste offsite; disposition of high-level waste (HLW) tanks; and the integration of various agency requirements for decommissioning this site. In addition, EPA proposed a DEIS alternative that would include two sub-options: (1) an HLW tank removal demonstration project; and (2) in-place HLW tank closure. DOE and NYSERDA plan to schedule a DEIS alternatives workshop in the next couple of months. Cooperating agencies agreed to participate in this workshop to determine the set of alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS. In this meeting, DOE also stated its intent to submit a decommissioning plan to NRC in the same time frame as the DEIS.

Meeting with DOE and the State of Washington Regarding the Hanford Site

On September 28, 2004, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection met with representatives from the DOE's Office of River Protection and the Washington State Department of Ecology to discuss an upcoming NRC review of DOE's tank-waste-retrieval actions at the Hanford site. Topics of discussion included: an overview of single-shell tank-waste-retrieval actions; the regulatory framework at the site; and the status of the performance assessment for the tanks. DOE plans to transmit technical documents so that NRC can begin its review in October 2004.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

International Topical Meeting and IAEA Workshop on High Temperature Reactor Technology

On September 22-24, 2004, and September 27-30, 2004, respectively, a staff member from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) participated in the 2nd International Topical Meeting on High Temperature Reactor Technology and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Interregional Workshop on Safety Demonstration and Market Potential for High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors (HTGRs) in Beijing, China. Discussions included current HTGR designs, licensing, market applications, and core and power conversion system design options. Following the workshop, a safety demonstration test of the HTR-10 located at the Institute for Nuclear Energy and Technology was observed. Information highlights included China's announcement to place their first commercial module of a pebble bed power reactor plant into operation by 2010 with the option to construct, and place into operation, 20 additional modules soon thereafter. South Korea announced its decision to spend more than \$1.2 billion over the next 10 years in developing an HTGR of their own design for both electrical power and hydrogen generation. PBMR Pty., discussed their plans to build the first commercial pebble bed modular reactor in the Republic of South Africa for operation beginning in 2010.

Publication of NUREG/BR-0058, Rev. 4, "Regulatory Analysis Guidelines of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission"

NUREG/BR-0058, Rev. 4, was published in September 2004. This document sets forth the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) policies as they relate to the development of regulatory analyses. The NRC performs these analyses as part of its decisionmaking process for a broad array of regulatory initiatives. This revision incorporates a new Commission policy concerning the treatment of individual requirements in regulatory analyses. This policy addresses concerns that bundling requirements into a single action could mask an individual requirement that is either unnecessary or unjustified. This revision of the Guidelines also includes changes to reflect the latest regulatory analysis guidance from the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, it discusses the NRC's treatment of uncertainty, in order to conform to the agency's Information Quality Guidelines.

IAEA Technical Meeting for On-Line Monitoring Technologies

On September 27-29, 2004, RES staff attended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Meeting entitled, "Increasing Instrument Calibration Interval through On-Line Monitoring (OLM) Technologies." The presentations offered a variety of perspectives on the OLM technologies, including regulatory, operational/user, and academic perspectives. Several power plant operators have been using OLM and have realized cost benefits and reductions in radiation exposure to maintenance personnel.

Following the IAEA technical meeting, the staff attended an Advisory Group meeting on September 30-October 1, 2004, to continue development of the IAEA technical document entitled, "On-Line Calibration Monitoring of Process Instruments in Nuclear Power Plants." NRC will continue to participate in this program as part of a coordinated effort among the various

international regulatory authorities, reflecting a world-wide interest in OLM as a viable alternative to traditional calibration methods and the potential impact such technologies may have on reactor safety.

Meeting of the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Expert Panel

On September 27-30, 2004, RES staff and contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory held the second meeting with the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) Expert Panel. The purpose of the PMDA PIRT is to identify locations and components in light water reactors that could be susceptible to future materials degradation and provide a basis for the development of proactive regulatory and industry actions to avoid, mitigate, and/or manage potential future degradation of reactor components. The Expert Panel refined and finalized the methodology for examining individual system components and assigning values of susceptibility for various degradation mechanisms, confidence in the susceptibility calls, and knowledge level of the degradation mechanisms. Staff from the NRC Technical Training Center provided valuable assistance to the Expert Panel by presenting detailed system and operational history information. The final report for all pressurized water reactor components examined will be available in June 2005, and the final report for the boiling water reactor systems examined will be completed in December 2005. Results from this activity will be used to guide research and regulatory actions to address proactive assessment and management of materials degradation in operating reactors.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-04-012, Premcor Refining Group - RADIATION EXPOSURE TO CONTRACT WORKERS.
2. PNO-IV-04-027, Entergy Operations, Inc., - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.
3. PNO-IV-04-028, Mountain View Hospital - MEDICAL EVENT.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Industry Codes and Standards: Amended Requirements (AH24 - Part 50)

On October 1, 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a final rule in the Federal Register (69 FR 56804) that incorporates by reference the 2001 Edition and 2002 and 2003 Addenda of applicable portions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants. The final rule approves the latest editions and addenda for use with certain specified limitations and modifications. The final rule becomes effective November 1, 2004.

Criminal History Check: Assessment of Application Fee (AH53 - Part 73)

On October 1, 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a final rule in the Federal Register (69 FR 58820) that amended its regulations to reflect an administrative change in the method of calculating the Agency's application fee for criminal history checks requested by licensees. The amendment establishes the fee amount as the sum of the user fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the NRC handling charge. The amendment ensures the full recovery of NRC's administrative costs related to fingerprint record processing. The final rule became effective October 1, 2004.

Contract Awards

On September 30, 2004, a competitive fixed-price requirements contract No. NRC-38-04-377 was awarded to Conger & Elsea, Inc. as a small business set-aside. The contractor is to provide Root Cause/Incident Investigation Team Training. The estimated cost is \$2,820,751 for a five year period of performance, inclusive of four one-year options.

On September 30, 2004, a competitive fixed-price requirements delivery order number DR-33-04-328 was awarded to Prosight, Inc., a small disadvantaged business, under the General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule. The contractor is to provide the software and professional services necessary to install and implement a Portfolio Management System. The estimated cost is \$885,139 for a five year period of performance, inclusive of four one-year options.

On September 30, 2004, a competitive delivery order was awarded to CACI AB, Inc., under the General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule. The contractor is to provide infrastructure development and organizational effectiveness support to the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response. The estimated cost is \$234,720 for a two year period of performance.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Briefing for Government Accountability Office (GAO) Staff on Best Practices in Records Management

On October 5, 2004, Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) staff met with GAO representatives to discuss the implementation of Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) as an enterprise-wide electronic records management system. GAO is working on a project that involves best practices in industry and the Federal Government for managing records. Based on the information gathered, GAO will issue a Best Practices Guide for use by the entire Federal Government. GAO representatives indicated that ADAMS is an example of the Federal Government's best practices in records management.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of October 1 through October 7, 2004:

Duke Power's warning-siren tests for McGuire & Catawba for 10-1-03 thru 9-30-04	FOIA/PA-2005-0001
Contract NRC-2600307, original awarded contract & all modifications	FOIA/PA-2005-0002
All documents to & from named individual and NRR, re: Browns Ferry, 3-22-75 fire, operator manual actions that were analyzed in the development of 10 CFR 50 Appendix R III.G.2	FOIA/PA-2005-0003
Government purchase cardholders	FOIA/PA-2005-0004
"Q" security clearance upgrade performed in 2004, all records on named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0005
W. R. Grace, all communications between DOE, DOD, re: all draft & executed agreements, violations, enforcements	FOIA/PA-2005-0006
Envirocare of Utah, all records re: contracts between DOE, DOD, re: violations, enforcements	FOIA/PA-2005-0007
Partnership for Public Service & the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation's study "The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government"	FOIA/PA-2005-0008
Wolf Creek Technical Specification Amendment No. 142, 9-27-01	FOIA/PA-2005-0009
Reduction Pilot Plant, Huntington, WV, employment records, 1951-54, for named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0010

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Retirement		
Charles Marschall	Branch Chief	R-IV
Departures		
Louis Allenbach	Consultant	NRR
Manuel Cerquiera	Consultant	NMSS
Thomas Dexter	Consultant	R-IV
Nekita Hobson	Consultant	NMSS
David A. Kerske	General Engineer (Summer)	NMSS
Charles Marotta	Consultant	NMSS
Chester Poslusny	Consultant	NMSS
Stanley Ridley	Consultant	NMSS
Richard Whittington	Consultant	NMSS

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

Continuing controversy over the Vermont Yankee power uprate application.

The industry's contract with Wackenhut to provide a mock attack force for security drills at nuclear plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-124	Public Meeting Oct. 14 in Eunice, N.M., to Discuss Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Uranium Plant (10/4)
04-125	NRC Chairman Discusses Nuclear Plant Security at Americas Nuclear Energy Symposium (10/5)
04-126	Dr. Richard S. Denning Appointed to NRC Advisory Committee (10/6)
04-127	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting in Atlanta Oct. 13-15 on Fire Protection Standard, Inspections (10/6)
04-128	NRC Proposes \$9,600 Fine Against Virginia Firm in Whistleblower Case (10/7)
04-129	NRC Sets Schedule for Review of USEC Application; Offers Opportunity to Request Participation in a Hearing (10/7)
Regions:	
IV-04-041	NRC Staff Seeks Public Comment on Draft Report that Finds ANO-2 License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable (10/4)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Documents Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-04-0118	10/6/04	Plan for the Implementation of the Commission's Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment Quality
Commission Voting Record on 04-0118	10/6/04	(same)
2. COMSECY-04-0059	9/21/04	Status of Decommissioning Program - 2004 Annual Report
3. Commission Voting Record on SECY-04-0109	10/7/04	Final Rulemaking to Add New Section 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors"
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0167	9/17/04	Litigation Report - 2004 - 02
2. SECY-04-0179	10/5/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 24, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M041007B	10/7/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-04-0109 - Final Rulemaking to Add New Section 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors"; II. SECY-04-0165 - State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Confirmatory Order Modifying License); Appeals of LBP-04-16 by NRC Staff and Licensee; III. SECY-04-0168 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; IV. SECY-04-0171 - CAN's Motion to Dismiss the Yankee Rowe License Termination Proceeding or to Re-notice it; V. SECY-04-0172 - Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2); Licensing Board's Referral of its Ruling on "Need to Know" During Discovery; VI. COMSECY-04-0058 - Draft Notice and Order for USEC, Inc.

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward Markey, dated October 1, 2004, responds to letter regarding changes in force-on-force exercises and information security at nuclear power plants licensed by NRC.
2. Letter to Robert R. Loux, State of Nevada, dated October 1, 2004, responds to letters regarding the resolution of a key technical issue regarding igneous activity and the level of detail to be contained in the licensing application associated with the retrieval of waste from Yucca Mountain.
3. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated October 1, 2004, responds to request for an immediate update in regards to several concerns about the Indian Point Energy Center.
4. Letter to Congress, dated September 30, 2004, provides the monthly report for August on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.
5. Letter to Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California, dated September 26, 2004, concerning the California Agreement State Program.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

Management Exchange Program Between Exelon and Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG)
PSEG announced today that effective October 11, 2004, Mike Gallagher, currently a Director of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs for Exelon, will become Vice President of Engineering at the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Station. This assignment is part of the Exelon-PSEG management exchange program announced last week.

Vermont Yankee - Senior Management Change

Entergy announced that effective December 1, 2004, William McGuire will replace Kevin Bronson as the plant manager at Vermont Yankee. Mr. McGuire is currently the Nuclear Safety Assurance Manager at FitzPatrick. Mr. Bronson will be on an assignment with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) in Atlanta.

Joint Coordination Meeting on Safety Light Corporation (SLC)

On October 5, 2004, Region I participated in a joint meeting hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region III. The meeting had been requested by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to discuss several issues related to the SLC site located near Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. The discussions included the status of the USEPA emergency removal action for the excavated silo radioactive waste; the current status of the facility and whether a second USEPA removal action could address some of the dilapidated structures that are unused; and a public meeting planned for early November near the site to discuss the proposed listing of the SLC site to the National Priorities List. All agencies agreed to continue to cooperate, as appropriate with regard to the above matters. Twenty people attended the closed meeting with senior representatives for each agency being the Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division, USEPA Region III; Deputy Secretary for Air, Waste, Radiation Protection, PADEP; and the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, NRC Region I.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 8, 2004

NRC Deputy Executive Director for Management Services Visits Region II

On October 6, 2004, the Deputy Executive Director for Management Services visited the Regional Office and discussed the Agency's human capital initiatives with the Region II Management Team.

Oconee - Regulatory Performance Meeting

On October 4, 2004, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, conducted a Regulatory Performance Meeting at Oconee. The meeting addressed the results of a supplemental inspection (IP95002) associated with two White Findings. The findings involved high pressure injection pump electrical connectors and pressurizer heater breakers.