

INFORMATION REPORT

October 22, 2004

SECY-04-0193

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0193 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 15, 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 15, 2004

Hope Creek Generating Station - Steam Leak

On October 10, 2004, in response to a steam leak in the turbine building, operators manually scrammed the Hope Creek Generating Station. After the scram, reactor pressure was manually lowered to minimize the effect of the steam leak. During this process, operators experienced difficulties in reactor level control, resulting in emergency core cooling system actuation due to low level. Currently the plant is stable in cold shutdown. Information regarding this event is also documented in Preliminary Notification Report PNO-I-04-013, which is on the NRC's public web site in the Electronic Reading Room.

NRC Region I evaluated the event in accordance with Management Directive (MD) 8.3 to determine the appropriate agency response. The MD 8.3 evaluation resulted in the chartering of a special inspection team due to an initial conditional core damage probability estimate of 5E-6. Support staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation are participating in this inspection.

Additionally, on October 12, 2004, the licensee reported that they failed to appropriately declare an unusual event in response to this event. Evaluation of this issue is included in the Special Inspection Team charter.

Operating Experience

On October 8, 2004, Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff sent a draft regulatory issue summary (RIS) to the Federal Register to be published for public comment. This RIS describes the agency's expectations with respect to licensees establishing and maintaining a Safety Conscious Work Environment: that is, an environment in which employees are encouraged to raise safety concerns both to their own management and to the NRC without fear of retaliation. These expectations are described in the 1996 NRC Policy Statement, "Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry to Raise Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation."

Reactor Oversight Process Public Meeting

On October 13, 2004, DIPM staff conducted a public meeting on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) at One White Flint North. Major topics discussed during the meeting included updates on: Significance Determination Process (SDP) timeliness activities; the draft Maintenance Rule SDP; security-related ROP initiatives; the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) analysis of the Safety Systems Functional Failure Performance Indicator (PI); the staff/industry Task Force on the Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal and Barrier Integrity PIs; Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) 93-01 Maintenance Rule Unavailability Monitoring in Shutdown Changes; and new and open PI frequently asked questions (FAQs). Meeting participants included industry, NEI, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) representatives. Regional staff participated via teleconference.

Mitigating System Performance Indicator Public Meeting

On October 14, 2004, DIPM staff hosted the monthly public meeting on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI). Major topics discussed during the meeting included: updates of the MSPI Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) task force charter issues; draft documents for MSPI implementation (NEI 99-02, Section 2.2 "General Guidance," Appendix F, "Technical Guidance" and Appendix G, "MSPI Basis Documentation"); and the timeline of future MSPI implementation milestones. Meeting participants included industry, NEI, INPO, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and NRR representatives. Regional staff participated via teleconference.

MSPI Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality Task Group Holds Second Public Meeting

On October 13, 2004, the MSPI PRA Quality Task Group held its second public meeting. The group has determined that the MSPI falls into the category of a phase 2 application in the context of the Commission's phased approach to PRA quality, since it is based on the internal events at power PRA for which a Standard exists and has been endorsed in Regulatory Guide 1.200. The objective of the task group is to provide guidance on the level of detail and the characteristics of the base PRA needed to support the MSPI implementation. The majority of the discussion at this meeting was focused on identifying those PRA modeling issues that: (a) could be addressed differently by different licensees, and (b) can have a significant impact on the Birnbaum importance for the components of the MSPI systems. The task group intends to provide guidance on what is a reasonable approach to dealing with these issues.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Meeting with Humboldt Bay Licensee

On September 29, 2004, Region IV, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection staffs met with the licensee for the Humboldt Bay plant to discuss the licensee's investigation of a missing irradiated fuel rod. The meeting was open to the public and held near the site. Approximately 30 members of the public or media attended. The licensee presented a history of the issue, the current status of the search, and their plans for a document investigation. The licensee is still optimistic that documents may be located that provide information on the disposition of the segmented fuel rod, or that some of the approximately 40 fuel rod fragments located so far may be identified as the missing segmented fuel rod. NRC staff urged the licensee to complete its material control and accountability review as soon as possible.

Department of Energy Risk-Based End States Next-Steps Workshop

On October 6-7, 2004, NRC staff participated in a Department of Energy (DOE) workshop conducted in cooperation with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices' Federal Facilities Task Force. The workshop was attended by approximately 100 representatives of DOE sites; the Environmental Protection Agency; State and local governments; Tribal governments; the National Academies Board on Radioactive Waste Management; citizen advisory boards; and public interest groups. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss with stakeholders the process and criteria to evaluate potential end-state alternatives that DOE will identify in its Risk-Based End-States Vision documents for the cleanup of its sites. Many of the issues that DOE and its stakeholders identified during the workshop are similar to the decommissioning issues that NRC is addressing under the License Termination Rule Analysis, such as sustainable institutional controls and realistic scenarios.

Meeting with Packaging Technology, Inc.

On October 7, 2004, the Spent Fuel Project Office staff held a pre-application meeting with representatives from Packaging Technology, Inc. (PacTec) to discuss a packaging design for transporting unirradiated fuel from the Fast Flux Test Facility in Richland, Washington, to the Savannah River site. Because the shipment is between two DOE facilities, DOE has the authority to issue an approval for the package design. As a result, the staff discussed the potential need for an interagency agreement between DOE and NRC to support the NRC review.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Third International Conference on Fatigue of Reactor Components

On October 4-6, 2004, Office of Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated and discussed thermal fatigue analyses and environmental degradation of structural materials for light water reactor applications at the 3rd International Conference on Fatigue of Reactor Components. The U.S. industry plans to meet with NRC staff early in 2005 to present their position on thermal fatigue and a corresponding aging management plan.

International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Meeting on Reactor Core Internals Behavior and Technology for Repair and Replacement in Nuclear Power Plants

On October 7-8, 2004, a staff member from RES participated in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Meeting on Reactor Core Internals Behavior and Technology for Repair and Replacement in Nuclear Power Plants. The agenda included presentations on radiation-induced degradation of internal components, in-service inspection, assessment of aging, and aging management programs for power reactors. The information discussed at this meeting is relevant to two Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) user need requests on environmentally-assisted cracking of BWR vessel internal components and environmentally-assisted degradation of pressurized water reactor (PWR) internals, components, and piping.

International Workshop on Probabilistic Safety Analysis (PSA) for Non-Reactor Applications

On October 4-5, 2004, staff from RES and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) participated in an international workshop on Probabilistic Safety Analysis (PSA) for Non-Reactor Applications at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) headquarters. The workshop allowed different countries to exchange information on the use of PSA for non-reactor nuclear facilities and included over 50 participants from 15 countries. The workshop presentations covered a range of topics of interest to the staff. The information gained from this conference will support ongoing NMSS and RES efforts to risk-inform regulatory processes in the materials and waste arenas.

Meeting of the Nuclear Energy Agency's (NEA) Working Group on Risk Assessment (WGRISK)

On October 6-8, 2004, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in the Fifth Annual Meeting of the NEA's Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installation Working Group on Risk Assessment. The meeting covered a range of topics of interest to the staff, including the development and use of PSAs by NEA member countries and PSA activities by other international organizations, such as the IAEA and the International Cooperative PRA Research Program (COOPRA). The meeting included over 30 participants from 16 countries. Information gained from this meeting supports staff efforts to risk-inform regulatory processes by allowing the staff to share information on PRA activities and coordinate international cooperative activities to avoid duplication and efficiently use NRC resources.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-013, PSEG Nuclear LLC - UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN OF GREATER THAN 72 HOURS - STEAM LEAK DUE TO A RUPTURE OF THE HOPE CREEK "A" MOISTURE SEPARATOR (MS) DRAIN LINE TO THE CONDENSER.
2. PNO-II-2004-010, McGuire - SHUTDOWN OF MCGUIRE UNIT 1 FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.

October 15, 2004

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

NRC Recognized as a Best Workplace for Commuters

On October 14, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation presented the NRC with an award for being one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters. This award is for providing employees outstanding commuter benefits which help reduce traffic and air pollution in the community. The ceremony was held in Silver Spring, Maryland, and recognized multiple employers in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Those receiving an award included various private business, as well as several local and Federal Government agencies. The awards were presented by officials from EPA and Mr. Doug Duncan, Montgomery County Executive.

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ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

2004 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC) Available to NRC Staff in the Technical Library

The complete set of all twelve sections of the 2004 edition of the ASME Boiler and Vessel Code, published every three years by the ASME, is now available for use in the Technical Library. An update service subscription ensures NRC will receive all addenda, supplements, code cases, interpretations, and errata published during the next three year period.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of October 8 through October 14, 2004:

Material License Tracking System database	FOIA/PA-2005-0011
Certification Program as referenced in SECY-04-0148	FOIA/PA-2005-0012
RMI Environmental Services facility, Ashtabula, Ohio, records re: handling of radioactively contaminated pipe	FOIA/PA-2005-0013
Office of Investigations Report 3-2002-035	FOIA/PA-2005-0014
Pennsylvania nuclear power stations (Three Mile Island, Peach Bottom, Limerick, Susquehanna & Beaver Valley) complaints by citizens, whistleblowers, public officials	FOIA/PA-2005-0015
Oyster Creek overpower event, NRR's response to the region dated 6-5-95	FOIA/PA-2005-0016
Connecticut Yankee nuclear power plant, request to transport spent nuclear fuel or non-nuclear fuel to U S Ecology, Grand View, Idaho, all documentation	FOIA/PA-2005-0017
Peach Bottom I, all contracts, records re: construction, early to mid-1960's	FOIA/PA-2005-0018
Georgia Nuclear Aircraft Lab, license, inspection reports and inventory, waste material, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0019

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Arrivals		
Juan Ayala	General Engineer	NRR
Joseph K. Burns	Reactor Systems Engineer	NRR
Tze-Jer Chuang	Structural Engineer	NMSS
Craig Erlanger	Security Specialist	NSIR
Farrah Gaskins	Health Physicist (NSPDP)*	R-I
David Graves	Physical Scientist (NSPDP)*	NSIR
Christin E. Hitiris	Office Automation Assistant	NMSS
Alonzo Richardson	Security Specialist	NSIR
Mark Shaffer	Branch Chief	R-IV
Annette Stang	Secretary (OA)	NSIR

*Nuclear Safety Professional Development Program

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Media Interest

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

The steam leak at Hope Creek nuclear power plant in New Jersey on Oct. 10, and the safety conscious work environment issue at Salem/Hope Creek.

NRC's revised schedule for reviewing the Vermont Yankee uprate request.

The status of the Yucca Mountain Project without the 10,000-year standard in place.

The tritium leak at the Dresden nuclear plant.

The sleeping control room supervisor at Pilgrim nuclear plant.

Other OPA Items:

OPA staff assisted at a public meeting in Eunice, N.M., on a proposed uranium enrichment plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-130	NRC Approves Third License Amendment for Nuclear Fuel Services' Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Project (10/12)
04-131	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet October 19-21 in Rockville, Maryland (10/14)
04-132	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Proposed Rule on Requirements for Export or Import of Radioactive Materials (10/14)
04-133	NRC Extends Review Schedule for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant Uprate Request (10/15)
Regions:	
I-04-045	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hear Oral Arguments on Petitions Seeking Hearings on Proposed Vermont Yankee Power Uprate (10/12)
I-04-046	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant (10/14)
I-04-047	NRC, Dominion Nuclear to Discuss Inspections on Millstone License Renewal on October 20 th (10/15)
IV-04-042	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Integrated Production Services, Inc. (10/14)

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending October 15, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0176	9/29/04	Exemption Requests to Reduce Liability Insurance Coverage for Decommissioning Reactors After Transfer of all Spent Fuel From a Spent Fuel Pool to Dry Cask Storage
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0183	10/12/04	SECY-04-0183 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 1, 2004

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Receipt of Application for License; Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of License; and Notice of Hearing and Commission Order (CLI-04-30) - In the Matter of USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant) - Docket No. 70-7004.
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of 10/20/04 meeting.
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 154th meeting on October 19-21, 2004.
4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Procedures for Meetings.
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Fire Protection (10/27/04).
6. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Regulatory Policies and Practices, notice of meeting (10/28-29/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Special Inspection At Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant Commences

On October 14, 2004, NRC began a special inspection at the Hope Creek nuclear power plant to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the October 10 rupture of an 8-inch low pressure steam line that led to a manual shutdown of the plant (see Enclosure A). The team inspection will include an assessment of whether the steam line failure could have been prevented and an independent evaluation of equipment and human-performance issues that complicated the shutdown. In addition, the inspection will assess the adequacy of the licensee's root-cause evaluation of the event and its plans for corrective actions. The special inspection team will document its findings and conclusions in a report to be issued within 45 days of the inspection's conclusion.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Management Changes at Columbia Generating Station

On October 14, 2004, Energy Northwest announced that the Vice President, Nuclear Generation would be retiring effective November 5, 2004. The Plant General Manager will serve in the capacity as the Vice President, Nuclear Generation and as the Plant General Manager through January 2005. In February 2005 the Vice President, Technical Services will assume the role as the Vice President, Nuclear Generation and the Plant General Manager will assume the duties of the Vice President, Technical Services. A new Plant General Manager has not been named.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of the Executive Director for Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 15, 2004

Fall 2004 Senior Management Meeting

On October 14-15, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations conducted the subject meeting with the agency's senior management team. The meeting served as a forum to discuss a broad range of significant managerial and non-technical issues facing the agency. The meeting also included a presentation by Chairman Diaz on the topic of "Ensuring Excellence in Agency Management."

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ENCLOSURE Q