

INFORMATION REPORT

January 31, 2002

SECY-02-0022

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0022 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 25, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-01: Changes to NRC Participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale Dated January 14, 2002

The NRC issued this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of impending changes in the NRC's level of participation in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES).

NRC Information Notice 2002-05: Foreign Material in Standby Liquid Control Storage Tanks Dated January 17, 2002

The NRC issued this information notice to inform addressees of equipment and design issues identified recently at the River Bend Nuclear Power Plant concerning debris found in the standby liquid control system storage tank. The aspect of this event considered of particular interest is the evident potential for systems initially filled with a combination of dry chemicals and water to have the wrapper material for the chemicals left in the system and to remain there undetected for an extended period.

NRC Information Notice 2002-06: Design Vulnerability in BWR Reactor Vessel Level Instrumentation Backfill Modification Dated January 18, 2002

The NRC issued this information notice to alert addressees to a potential design vulnerability in a hardware modification to the reactor vessel water level instrumentation system.

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2

In a letter to the NRC dated January 21, 2002, PPL Susquehanna, LLC provided notification that they will be seeking license renewal for both Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) units. The current operating licenses for the SSES boiling water reactors will expire on July 17, 2022, and March 23, 2024, for Units 1 and 2 respectively. The licensee expects to submit the application by the end of the first quarter of 2005.

Tritium Production Program

The NRC published Federal Register Notices of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determinations, and Opportunity for Hearings for TVA's Watts Bar and Sequoyah requests on December 17, 2001, for a 30-day comment period (period expired January 16, 2002). On January 15, 2002, Mr. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists sent the staff a letter requesting a 60-day extension of the public comment period. The Secretary of the Commission (SECY) contacted Mr. Lochbaum and determined that he also wanted the extension to file a hearing request. On January 17, 2002, SECY sent a letter to Mr. Lochbaum denying his request for more time to request a hearing.

SECY also received hearing requests from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and We the People of Tennessee. SECY and the Office of the General Counsel reviewed the requests and forwarded them to the Atomic Safety Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) chairman.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Sequoyah Fuels Meeting

On January 16-17, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in a meeting with the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) in Rockville, Maryland. The participants discussed SFC's responses to the February 2001 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Request for Additional Information (RAI) on environmental issues at the site. The discussion included the characterization and modeling of ground water and dose modeling. In addition to NRC and its consultant, SFC, consultants for SFC and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency's contractor were present at the meeting. NRC is conducting an environmental review of the decommissioning and will develop an environmental impact statement to determine whether the licensee's proposed approach for remediation of the facility (on-site disposal) is acceptable. NRC is still reviewing the licensee's submittals and plans follow-up questions to the RAI.

Meeting with Dominion/Virginia Power to Discuss Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation License Renewal Application

On January 16, 2002, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Dominion/Virginia Power to discuss the company's progress in developing a renewal application for the 10 CFR Part 72 license for the Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). Dominion presented the proposed format and content of its application and environmental report, which follows the preliminary guidance developed by the staff through interactions with Dominion over the past 2 years. Dominion is proposing to submit its renewal application on CD-ROM (with a single, signed paper copy) and demonstrated the software tools available to enhance the staff's review of the electronic submittal. It currently plans to submit the Surry ISFSI renewal application in April 2002.

National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Transportation Study

On January 11, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff informed the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council of NRC's intent to provide partial financial support for a study entitled *Transportation of Radioactive Waste* proposed by the National Research Council's Board on Radioactive Waste Management. The 24-month study will be carried out by a committee of 12 experts, including two from outside of the U.S. The objective of the study is to develop a high-level synthesis of the key technical and societal concerns regarding spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste transport, and to identify technical and policy options for addressing these issues and managing transportation risk. The staff also has requested that one of the initial activities of the proposed study include a review of the Package Performance Study. The project start date is targeted for April 1, 2002.

U.S.-France and U.S.-United Kingdom Safeguards Bilateral Meetings

On January 8 and January 9-10, 2002, respectively, the U.S. Government held its annual safeguards bilateral coordination meetings with France and the United Kingdom (U.K.). Staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as well as the Departments of State and Energy,

participated in the meetings, which were held in Paris and London. The meetings addressed each government's policy and technical positions with respect to strengthening International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Although the IAEA's integrated safeguards program was the focus, the discussions also addressed strengthening safeguards in those countries that do not implement the Additional Protocol and preventing weaknesses in the traditional safeguards system from being carried over into the integrated safeguards system. The agenda for each meeting also addressed IAEA safeguards implementation in the U.S., France, and the U.K.; Additional Protocol ratification status; the status of the U.S.-Russia-IAEA Trilateral Verification Initiative; and technical support being provided to the IAEA. The meeting in France also addressed the IAEA's initiative to combat nuclear terrorism. A follow-on meeting in the U.K. addressed the use of the British Nuclear Fuels, Limited's, plutonium inventory measurement system for the measurement of plutonium and mixed oxides (MOX) in reprocessing and MOX fuel fabrication plants. With respect to the discussions held on integrated safeguards and safeguards strengthening, both the French and U.K. participants agreed with the positions presented by the U.S. participants. Both governments agreed that cooperation should occur in developing responses to the IAEA paper on integrated safeguards that is expected to be presented at the March 2002 Board of Governors Meeting.

Final Rule Reflecting the Abolishment of the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data

On January 10, 2002, the Office of the Executive Director for Operations approved a final rule that amends 10 CFR Parts 1, 20, 34, 70, 71, 72, and 73 to reflect the abolishment of the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) and the transfer of certain functions from AEOD to the Incident Response Operations. In addition, this final rule changes the advance notification requirements, for shipments of licensed material, from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety or the Administrator of the appropriate Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regional Office to the Director of the Spent Fuel Project Office. This final rule will inform the public of these administrative changes and will eliminate duplicate filings. The final rule was published in the Federal Register (67 FR 3584) on January 25, 2002.

Proposed Rule Signed by the Executive Director for Operations

On January 23, 2002, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that amends 10 CFR 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," by adding the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS®-24PT1 Storage System to the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment will add the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS® -24PT1 Storage System design which has improved shielding and the ability to withstand a higher seismic response spectra than the Standardized NUHOMS® Storage System. In addition, the 24PT1 dry shielded canister, which will be stored in the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS® Storage System, is designed to be transportable; otherwise the designs are the same.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

FRPCC FRS Meeting

On January 24, 2002, staff from Incident Response Operations and Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards attended the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC), Federal Response Subcommittee (FRS) meeting. At the meeting, the participants discussed the subcommittee's current task to revise the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP). The revision will be based in part on lessons learned generated during the FRPCC meeting and tabletop exercise held on October 4 and 5, 2001. Additionally, the update will clarify federal roles and responses to a terrorist incident. The subcommittee updated its proposal for this task, and will present the proposal to the full FRPCC at the January 30, 2002 meeting.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-002, Building and Earth Sciences, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
2. PNO-III-02-003, Crane Army Ammunition Activity, SAFETY EQUIPMENT FAILURE INVOLVING A RADIOGRAPHY CAMERA SHUTTER.
3. PNO-IV-02-005, Washington State University Nuclear Radiation Center, ALERT DECLARED DUE TO PULSE ROD FOUND STUCK FROM THE FULL IN POSITION.
4. PNO-IV-02-006, Owensby and Kritikos, INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO A RADIOACTIVE SEALED SOURCE.
5. PNO-IV-02-006A, Owensby and Kritikos, CORRECTION, ERROR ON UNITS (BOLDED) - INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO A RADIOACTIVE SEALED SOURCE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

In-House Training on Performance-Based Work Statements

On January 22-24, 2002, the Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM) presented an in-house course on Performance-Based Work Statements. The instructor provided a practical, hands-on approach to writing performance-based work statements including guidance on establishing measurable, realistic standards of performance and how to assign monetary or non-monetary incentives to NRC task order or administrative service requirements. The instructor used samples of NRC Statements of Work to demonstrate practical applications of his guidance. The course was attended by representatives from DCPM and the program offices.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: FuelSolutions; Confirmation of Effective Date (Part 72)

A document confirming the effective date of November 13, 2001, for a direct final rule that revised the FuelSolutions cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2002 (67 FR 3431).

Revised Filing Requirements (Parts 1, 20, 34, 70, 71, 72, and 73)

A final rule that revises filing and advance notification requirements to reflect organizational changes within the NRC was published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2002 (67 FR 3584). The final rule became effective January 25, 2002.

Specification of a Probability for Unlikely Features, Events and Processes (Part 63)

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations governing the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, was published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2002 (67 FR 3628). The proposed rule would define the term "unlikely" in quantitative terms to provide a range of numerical values for determining whether a feature, event, or process or a sequence of events or processes should be excluded from certain required assessments. The comment period on this action closes April 10, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
January 18, 2002 through January 24, 2002:

Illinois Central Railroad caboose 9792, records related to acquisition or use by AEC.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0102)

Contract, 1989 Phase I & II SBCR contracts related to PC Parallel Processing System.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0103)

Gammacell 220 irradiator manufactured by Nordion International (formerly Atomic Energy of
Canada, Ltd.) Kanata, Ontario, Canada, all records. (FOIA/PA-2002-0104)

Source material licenses for four identified companies. (FOIA/PA-2002-0105)

Radiation exposure on individuals and letters dated 10/15/74 from Nuclear Fuel Services.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0106)

Materials licensees, information on four named companies. (FOIA/PA-2002-0107)

Correspondence to/from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, 9/11/01 to present, referral
from Department of Defense. (FOIA/PA-2002-0108)

Senior reactor operator license on self. (FOIA/PA-2002-0109)

Site assessment, NY-Whitestone Bridge, 500 Brush Ave., Bronx, New York.
(FOIA/PA-2002-0110)

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 25, 2002

Arrivals		
COKER, Shyrl	SENIOR AUDITOR	OIG
CROOTE, Tammy	COST ANALYST	NRR
CULLEN, JR., William	MATERIALS ENGINEER	RES
ECHOLES, Richard	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
GRAHAM, Christopher	ELECTRONICS ENGINEER	NRR
McDEVITT, Joan	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
MILES, Daniel	IT SPECIALIST	RIII
NORRIS, Michael	NUCLEAR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	IRO
STEARNS, Donald	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
Departures		
ASHKEBOUSSI, Nima	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
GOVAN, Tekia	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
GROTH, Katrina	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
JONES, Jamil	STUDENT ENGINEER	ADM
McGEE, Jr., Dee	IT SPECIALIST	OCIO
PLUMMER, Tamiko	STUDENT CLERK	OCFO
YOUNG, Sheila	CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Media Interest

There was media interest in a final environmental study by NRC that sanctions a plan to store highly radioactive nuclear waste on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-008	NRC Proposes Probability Limits for Excluding Unlikely Events From Consideration at Potential Waste Repository
02-009	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards To Meet February 7 - 9 in Rockville, Maryland

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

NRR Staff Meets with Team from Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation

On January 22, 2002, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and several senior NRR staff met with a team from the Chinese utility, Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation. Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation operates two 910 MWe PWRs at the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station, is completing construction of two similar units at Ling Ao, and has plans to construct six more units by 2010. The team requested an overview on the use of Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) in reactor regulation. In early April 2002, NRC will sponsor a 5-day PSA workshop for the Chinese regulator and the utility. The team was also interested in the status of NRC's review of pending plant designs, including the pebble bed modular gas cooled reactor, and when NRC expects to receive an application for licensing a new plant. Following the meeting, the team traveled to Columbia, South Carolina to visit Westinghouse's fuel fabrication facility.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0003	1/7/02	Annual Report on Commission Adjudication
2. SECY-02-0012	1/17/02	Weekly Information Report Week Ending January 11, 2002

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated January 16, 2002, provides NRC's November report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties.
2. Letter to Howard Dean, M.D., Governor of Vermont, dated January 15, 2002, concerns NRC's program to supply potassium iodide (KI) to requesting States.
3. Letter to Representative Thomas H. Allen dated January 14, 2002, concerns Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (Maine Yankee) in Wiscasset, Maine.
4. Letter to Sandra R. Galef, New York State Assembly, dated January 11, 2002, concerns permanent storage facility for the radioactive spent fuel rods at the Indian Point nuclear plants.
5. Letter to Congress dated January 11, 2002, concerns USEC's consideration of the accelerated movement of shipping operations from its Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant to its Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and the potential effects on the United States' long term energy strategy.
6. Letter to Representative Patsy T. Mink dated January 11, 2002, provides response to request for information on NRC's actions relating to the possibility that individuals might collect tritium to build a nuclear weapon and to the government's actions to prevent individuals from collecting such materials.
7. Letter to Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio, dated January 11, 2002, concerns USEC's ongoing ability to meet the nation's energy needs and USEC's consideration of the relocation of its shipping operations from its Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant to its Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
8. Letter to Representatives W.J. "Billy" Tauzin and John D. Dingell, dated January 11, 2002, concerns the security of radioactive materials that may be imported or otherwise obtained by NRC materials licensees.

9. Letter to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, dated January 10, 2002, concerns a study on the appropriate role of the Department of Defense with respect to homeland security.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-73A]; Robert H. Leyse; Supplement to a Petition for Rulemaking.
2. Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena and on Future Plant Designs; Notice of Meeting.
3. Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels; Notice of Meeting.
4. Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Federal and State Coordinating Meeting On Safety Light Corporation Site

On January 24, 2002, the Director of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety (DNMS), and members of his staff led a discussion with representatives from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a coordinated plan for future actions for the Safety Light Corporation (SLC) site in Bloomsburg, PA. This site is an NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan that does not have the financial assurance or resources to fund its Decommissioning Cost Estimate. Near term next actions include a review of the licensee's work plan for removal of stored radioactive and mixed waste, and a joint site tour of the SLC site by the above agencies. The purpose of the site tour would be for EPA to conduct an onsite assessment to determine whether there is any imminent hazard which could require an emergency removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Heritage Minerals, Inc. Meeting

On January 22, 2002, DNMS management and staff met with licensee representatives from Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) to discuss results of confirmatory surveys conducted by the NRC's contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), at the Lakehurst, New Jersey site. The site is on the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list. During the period July-December 2001, the licensee performed decommissioning of specific indoor and outdoor areas and submitted a Final Status Survey (FSS) for NRC review. Discussions related to the licensee's methodology used in the FSS and ORISE survey results. Residual contamination in soil and interior structures may require additional remediation prior to release for unrestricted use. Representatives from the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection also attended.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Carolina Power and Light Company - Harris Nuclear Plant

On January 22, 2002, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Acting Regional Administrator, visited the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant. The Commissioner toured the facility, met with licensee management and the NRC resident inspectors. The Commissioner also held two special question and answer sessions with licensee employees and with representatives of local and state emergency response and government organizations.

North Carolina State University - Non-Power Reactor Facility

On January 23, 2002, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Acting Regional Administrator, toured the non-power reactor facility, located on the campus of North Carolina State University. The Commissioner met with faculty members and students in the nuclear engineering program to discuss the future of the nuclear industry and careers in the NRC for prospective students.

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba Nuclear Plant

On January 24, 2002, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Acting Regional Administrator visited the Catawba Nuclear Plant. The Commissioner toured the facility and met with licensee management and the NRC resident inspectors. The Commissioner also met with over 200 licensee employees to answer questions regarding the NRC and regulation of the nuclear industry.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Meeting to Discuss Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning

On January 23, 2002, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and members of the regional staff met with Ms. Susan Brechbill, Director of the DOE Ohio Field Office, and members of her staff, at the DOE-funded/NRC-regulated Battelle Columbus Laboratories decommissioning project at West Jefferson, OH, to discuss inter-agency relationships, responsibilities, resource use, communications and other topics relating to mutual objectives in achieving safe, timely, "final" completion of site decommissioning by 2006.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 25, 2002

Regulatory Conference with TXU, Comanche Peak Steam Electric

The Regional Administrator and members of the Region IV staff met with representatives of TXU on January 23, 2002, to conduct a regulatory conference. The purpose of the regulatory conference was to discuss the significance associated with a preliminary white finding involving the control of radioactive material released from the Comanche Peak radiologically controlled areas. The conference was open to public observation. There was significant local media interest with print, radio, and TV coverage of the meeting.

Public Meeting to Discuss Deregulation Effects on Texas Nuclear Plants

A public meeting was held on January 24, 2002, between NRC and managers from several electrical industry companies in Texas, including TXU, STP Nuclear Operating Company, Reliant Energy, and Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc (The Independent System Operator for the Texas grid). The meeting addressed how the design bases for the Texas nuclear plants will be maintained in a deregulated electrical industry environment.