

INFORMATION REPORT

May 16, 2002

SECY-02-0086

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0086 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 10, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 - 1.3 % Power Uprate

The NRC staff has approved a request by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to increase the Sequoyah, Units 1 and 2, licensed maximum thermal power ratings from 3411 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3455 MWt. This is an increase of approximately 1.3 percent. The basis for the uprate is installation of Caldon leading edge flow meters (LEFMs) to measure secondary system feedwater flow with higher accuracy. Electrical output of each unit can be increased as much as 15 megawatts electrical (MWe), raising the net maximum capacity (MDC) from 1122 MWe to 1137 MWe.

The application for the power increase was submitted to the NRC on November 15, 2001. The amendments were issued on April 30, 2002, 5 ½ months later. The NRC's evaluation of the requested power uprate for the plant focused on several areas, including nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident calculations, radiological consequences, operations and technical specification changes. The NRC staff determined that the licensee could safely increase the power output of the reactor by making the proposed plant instrumentation modifications (i.e., LEFMs).

TVA intends to implement the power uprates at both units next month. Unit 1 is currently operating at full power and Unit 2 is nearing the end of a refueling outage.

Draft Generic Letter (DGL) entitled "Control Room Envelope Habitability"

On May 9, 2002, NRR issued a draft generic letter (DGL) in the Federal Register for comment by the public. The comment period expires 90 days after the Federal Register notice is published. This DGL entitled "Control Room Envelope Habitability," describes control room envelope (CRE) habitability issues identified by the industry and the NRC staff. The DGL requests that licensees submit information to demonstrate that they meet their CRE design bases requirements, and that suitable design, maintenance and testing control measures are in place for maintaining this compliance. Since December 2001, NRR has published four draft regulatory guides to aid licensees in performing a confirmation of their CRE habitability design bases.

Davis-Besse Root Cause Analysis Meeting

On May 7, 2002, the NRC held a Type 1 public meeting with representatives of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), owners of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, to discuss the technical aspects of the root cause analysis of the Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation. In its preliminary evaluation, the staff has not been able to confirm the root cause of the head degradation because existing physical evidence is insufficient to validate the assumptions in the licensee's analysis. The staff is continuing its review of the licensee's root cause analysis.

AP1000

The NRC hosted a public meeting on May 1, 2002, at NRC Headquarters to discuss the probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) that was submitted in support of Westinghouse Electric Company's (Westinghouse's) March 28, 2002, request for final design approval and design certification of the AP1000. The primary purpose of the meeting was to allow Westinghouse representatives the opportunity to present the AP1000 PRA to the NRC staff members who will be involved in the design certification review.

Regulatory Infrastructure

On May 7, 2002, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) presented its white paper titled, "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulatory Framework for Power Reactors," dated May 2002. This white paper was formally transmitted to the NRC on May 7, 2002. The framework introduces a risk-informed regulatory regime that is technology neutral and is structured to be consistent with the reactor oversight process. The NEI proposal calls for the development and issuance of a new Part to Title 10 for power reactors that satisfies current NRC safety goals while providing an opportunity for improving regulatory effectiveness and efficiency. NEI did not request a formal review of the document but requested that its paper serve as the basis for further public discussion on constructing a new regulatory framework.

Staff Issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal For North Anna Power Station and McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

In the week of May 6, 2002, the NRC staff published the draft environmental impact statements (EIS) regarding license renewal for the North Anna Power Station and McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The draft EIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). The drafts are being issued for public comment, with the comment period closing on August 1, 2002. On June 12, 2002, the staff will hold public meetings for McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, in Huntersville, North Carolina, to provide the public with information about the results of the staff's review and to collect comments on the draft EIS. On June 25, 2002, the staff will hold public meetings for North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2, in Louisa, Virginia, to provide the public with information about the results of the staff's review and to collect comments on the draft EIS. After the comment period ends, the staff will resolve the comments received and develop the final environmental impact statements.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

MTR Research Reactor Spent Fuel Transport Package Approval Recommended

On May 2, 2002, the Spent Fuel Project Office recommended, to the Department of Transportation, revalidation of the German Package Design Certificate for the Model No. GNS-16 transportation package. The GNS-16 will be used to transport irradiated MTR research reactor fuel from Germany to the U.S., as part of the Department of Energy's foreign research reactor fuel-return program.

Staff Participates in Department of Defense Low-Level Radioactive Waste Generators Meeting

On April 29 through May 1, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) participated in the 12th Annual Department of Defense Low-Level Radioactive Waste Generators Meeting. The meeting served as an opportunity for participants to discuss the impacts on programs since September 11, 2001. A staff member from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response presented the keynote address. Other topics included the future of regional management of low-level radioactive waste; reducing transportation costs with reusable containers and rail shipments; updates to the NRC key programs and activities in the waste arena; and the status of disposal facilities operated by U.S. Ecology, Chem-Nuclear, Envirocare, and Waste Control Specialists.

Staff Attends National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program Strategy Meeting

On April 23-24, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) attended the National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program's (NSNFP's) Strategy Meeting. The NSNFP heard presentations by the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office; Bechtel SAIC Company/Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System; Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory; and the NSNFP Office. The meeting participants discussed current developments, future needs, realignment of work because of budget restrictions, and the action plan for licensing implementation.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Publication of ASME Standard

On April 5, 2002, ASME published its "Standard for Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" (ASME RA-S-2202). As stated in this document, this standard "sets forth requirements for PRAs used to support risk-informed decisions for commercial nuclear power plants, and prescribes a method for applying these requirements for specific applications. This standard applies to PRAs used to support applications of risk-informed decision making related to design, licensing, procurement, construction, operation, and maintenance." This standard is the first in a series addressing PRAs and establishes requirements for a Level 1 (core damage frequency), limited Level 2 (sufficient to evaluate large early release frequency) for internal events (excluding internal fires) while at full power. ANS is developing PRA standards to address external events, low power shutdown, and internal fires, with tentative publication dates of December 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. These standards are developed under the consensus process with different stakeholders participating.

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ENCLOSURE C

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

NSIR Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute on Interim Compensatory Measures

On May 7, 2002, the Division of Nuclear Security held a closed meeting (Safeguards Information) with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Nuclear Industry Security Sub-Committee. The primary subjects discussed were (1) tabletop exercises on a limited number of scenarios provided by industry, and (2) changes to the NEI guidelines for the implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required in the NRC Order dated February 25, 2002.

NRC/NEI Closed Meeting on Access Authorization

On May 7, 2002, representatives of the Division of Nuclear Security and representatives from the Personnel Security Branch in the Office of Administration met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry stakeholders at NRC headquarters in a closed meeting to discuss potential vulnerabilities associated with Access Authorization (AA) for nuclear power plants and industry's proposed guidance for AA, NEI 99-08, "Industry Guidelines for Nuclear Power Plant Access Authorization Programs." Areas of discussion included improvement in the current process for submission of fingerprints for criminal history checks, the pilot program for fully electronic submission of fingerprints scheduled to commence in May 2002, and recent issues associated with AA for nuclear power plants. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2002.

NRC Public Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute and Stakeholders on Fitness for Duty Issues

On May 8, 2002, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response met with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute and other licensee representatives at NRC Headquarters. Topics discussed included (1) modified revisions to 10 CFR Part 26, the Fitness-for-Duty (FFD) Rule, which included stakeholder and OGC comments and (2) rulemaking time line update. The next public meeting between NRC and FFD stakeholders is scheduled for June 25, 2002, at NRC Headquarters.

RASCAL Training in Region III

On May 8 and 9, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response/Division of Incident Response Operations provided training on the RASCAL (Radiological Assessment System for Consequence AnaLysis) computer code for Region III emergency response personnel. This code is used during radiological emergencies to estimate projected doses due to a release of radioactive materials.

Emergency Response Data System Software Upgrade

Between April 30, 2002, and May 7, 2002, the Division of Incident Response Operations staff worked with Scientech, Inc. to install and test an upgrade to the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS). This upgrade improved the security features of the ERDS system to include automatic password expiration and automatic logoff of idle user consoles. ERDS passed all functional tests following the upgrade. The testing included security functions as well as the data reception, storage, and retrieval functions associated with the system.

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ENCLOSURE D

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-19, University of Alabama, RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED PACKAGE.
2. PNO-III-02-020, Boston Scientific, LOST STATIC ELIMINATOR SOURCES.
3. PNO-I-02-012, District Hospital Partners, L. P., POTENTIAL PERSONNEL OVEREXPOSURE INVOLVING AN INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY DEVICE.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Acquisition Training and Certification Program

On May 7, 2002, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted a mandatory Acquisition Certification and Training Program module entitled "Overview" with 24 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.

Solicitation of Public Comments on Agency Guidelines for Ensuring Information Quality

A document requesting public comment on the NRC's draft Information Quality Guidelines was published in the Federal Register on May 3, 2002 (67 FR 22463). The Guidelines contain the Commission's policy and procedures for ensuring the quality of information before it is disseminated to the public and procedures by which an affected person may obtain a correction of information that does not comply with the Guidelines. The comment period on this action closes May 30, 2002.

Debt Collection Procedures (Part 15)

A final rule that amends the regulations concerning the procedures used to collect debts that are owed to the NRC was published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2002 (67 FR 30315). The amendments conform NRC regulations to the legislative changes enacted in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures contained in the Department of the Treasury's Federal Claims Collection Standards. The final rule becomes effective June 5, 2002.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
May 3, 2002 through May 9, 2002:

General Information on the NRC (FOIA/PA-2002-0250)

Historical Plant Reactor Status Reports (FOIA/PA-2002-0251)

Indian Point 2, DPV/DPO, 1-1-2000 through 4-1-2002 involving steam generators, electrical systems, and safety systems (FOIA/PA-2002-0252)

Bush Administration Energy Task Force, referred by Dept. of Commerce (FOIA/PA-2002-0253)

Chairman Meserve letter to Ed Markey re: abandonment and loss of nuclear devices, supporting documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0254)

Investigation - Southern California Edison report to NRC, September or October, 2001, and all subsequent documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0255)

Removal of information from web site, reading rooms, libraries, etc. due to 911, all documents; and web site rebuilding (FOIA/PA-2002-0256)

FOIA/PA-2002-0099, all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0257)

TIA-2001-016, "NRC policy questions on use of risk techniques" (TAC MB3732) (FOIA/PA-2002-0258)

Decommissioning Plan for Whitaker Corporation, Greenville, PA (FOIA/PA-2002-0259)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Arrivals		
GALIK, Daniel	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY OFFICER	OCIO
KEEFER, Randy	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RI
MILLER, Glenn	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
Departures		
SCHNETZLER, Bonnie*	Security Specialist	NSIR

*Effective 05/03/02

Office of State and Tribal Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors Annual Meeting

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) held its 34th Annual Meeting on May 5-8, 2002 in Madison, Wisconsin. During the meeting, new leadership assumed their duties as follows: Cynthia Cardwell, Texas as the CRCPD Chair, Paul Merges, New York as Past Chair and Richard Ratliff, Texas as the Chair-Elect. The selection of Ronald Fraas from Kansas as the new Executive Director for CRCPD, was also announced. He will be replacing Charles Hardin who is retiring and has served as the Executive Director for more than 20 years. CRCPD passed four resolutions, including support for the use of Potassium Iodide (KI), support for NRC's prompt development of national standards for control of solids, request that Congress recognize State authority over sources of ionizing radiation in DOE facilities and concern with the use and marketing of CT scans to screen healthy people. Sessions and training on radiological counter terrorism which included NRC speakers were highlights of the Annual Meeting. Several of the States indicated their efforts in response to the terrorist attacks and included: pamphlets for public education, staff terrorism training seminars, task force activities, issuance of advisories and development of a threat level classification system. NRC staff also participated in panels on decommissioning and managing long, lived, low-activity radioactive and mixed waste. Joel Lubenau, (retired NRC and NRC nominee), presented the John C. Villforth Lecture on Safety and Security of Radioactive Material.

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ENCLOSURE L

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Media Interest

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. officials met with NRC staff on May 7 and 9 to discuss the degradation of the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head, their root cause analysis and repair plans.

There was media interest in the possible restart of Browns Ferry 1.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
Regions:	
I-02-037	NRC to Meet with Company Regarding Finding at Susquehanna Plant
II-02-028	NRC Draft Report Finds Surry License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable; Public Input Sought at Meetings in Late May
IV-02-024	NRC Proposes \$6,000 Fine for High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc.

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Hungarian Visit

Mr. Peter Babics, Director of License Renewal, Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority, Mr. Sandor Ratkai, Director of Development and Analysis, Paks Nuclear Power Plant, and Mr. Istvan Lenkei, Deputy Director for License Renewal, Paks Nuclear Power Plant, spent April 29, 2002, through May 3, 2002, in the United States engaged in plant life extension discussions. They met with NRC staff for two days, with discussions focusing on aging management and license renewal. They spent one day meeting with Constellation Nuclear Services, where they were briefed on the license renewal application of Calvert Cliffs. They concluded their week by touring the North Anna nuclear power plant, and observing a public meeting to discuss inspection of the North Anna license renewal program.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0060	03/29/02	Proposed Policy on Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings
2. SRM on SECY-02-0060	05/08/02	same
3. Voting Record on SECY-02-0060	05/08/02	same
4. SECY-02-0068	4/19/02	Proposed Rule on Financial Information Requirements for Applications to Renew or Extend the Term of an Operating License for a Power Reactor
5. SRM on SECY-02-0068	5/10/02	same
6. Voting Record on SECY-02-0068	5/10/02	same
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0073	05/02/02	SECY-02-0073 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 26, 2002
2. SECY-02-0070	4/24/02	Publication of Revisions 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.174 and SRP Chapter 19 and Notice of a Staff Plan for Endorsing Consensus Probabilistic Risk Assessment Standards and Industry Peer Review Programs
3. SECY-02-0076	5/8/02	Semi-Annual Update of the Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment (FLIRA)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Kucinich dated April 30, 2002, concerns the recent discovery of a cavity in the reactor pressure vessel head at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

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ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Plant Operations.

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ENCLOSURE O

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

Duke Energy Corporation - Pre Oconee Exercise Meeting

On May 6, 2002, the Emergency Response Coordinator was at the Oconee Nuclear Plant to participate in the initial NRC/Oconee Exercise Meeting for the scheduled September 17, 2002 exercise.

Westinghouse Electric Company-Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On May 7, 2002, Region II held a closed Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Westinghouse Electric Company. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the apparent violation involving two examples of failure to follow procedures which led to the unauthorized transfer of 278 grams of uranium to BWX Technologies, Inc.

Department of Energy 2002 Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Forum

On May 8, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects, participated in the Department of Energy 2002 Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Forum, "Taking ISM to the Next Level." The conference was held at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque, NM.

Atlanta Federal Executive Board Annual Awards Ceremony - Several Employees nominated from Region II, NRC Office

On May 9, 2002, the Regional Administrator and other managers and staff participated in the Atlanta Federal Executive Board Annual Awards Ceremony. Fifteen Region II employees were nominated for these prestigious awards, which are given to outstanding employees in the Federal Government for service in the Atlanta area. Competition for these awards is with over 30,000 employees from multiple Federal Agencies. One Region II employee was a finalist for an award for Volunteer Service.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 10, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 53

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	05/16/02 SH-216	9:30	Secretary Abraham	S.J.Res. 34, Approving Yucca Mountain for the Repository	Senators Bingaman/Murkowski
Combs	05/22/02 SD-106	9:30	Governor Guinn, Nevada Representatives	S.J.Res. 34, Approving Yucca Mountain for the Repository	Senators Bingaman/Murkowski Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	05/23/02 SH-216	9:30	NRC, NWTRB, GAO	S.J.Res. 34, Approving Yucca Mountain for the Repository	Senators Bingaman/Murkowski Energy and Natural Resources

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