

INFORMATION REPORT

June 3, 2002

SECY-02-0091

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0091 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 24, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA by Debra J. Corley Acting For/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

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05/29/02

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 24, 2002

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: M. Layton, OEDO by E-mail: mcl@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Tritium Production Program

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) is presiding over a proceeding involving Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) license amendment requests to produce tritium at Watts Bar and Sequoyah. We the People of Tennessee (Ann Harris) and Jeannine Honicker filed petitions to intervene with the ASLB. On March 6, 2002, We the People of Tennessee, with assistance from Dr. Kenneth Bergeron, filed a motion with the ASLB to dismiss both TVA's license amendment requests. The Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) answered contentions to these petitions in early April 2002. NRR is preparing a staff position on Dr. Bergeron's comments about risk-informing our review of TVA's license amendment requests. The first pre-hearing ASLB conference, oral arguments, and an ASLB decision on holding a hearing will probably occur by June 2002.

TVA's license amendment requests involve 17 plant-specific Interface Issues and license changes that the NRC must review and approve before TVA can insert tritium-producing burnable absorber rods into the Watts Bar or Sequoyah reactors. The NRC's technical staff has completed 13 of the 17 safety evaluations for Watts Bar and is reviewing Sequoyah's submittal. The staff plan to complete its reviews of these Issues by August 2002 for Watts Bar, and September 2002 for Sequoyah, as TVA requested. On May 13 and 14, 2002, two NRC quality assurance staff performed an onsite review of WesDyne's TPBAR fabrication facility in Columbia, South Carolina, to address one of the Interface Issues.

Meetings attended during the week of May 13, 2002

On May 15, 2002, representatives from SPLB, SPSB, EMEB, RGEB, and RES held a public meeting with NEI and EPRI to discuss issues related to the extension of the containment integrated leak rate test interval for plants that have implemented 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B. NEI plans to propose a permanent interval increase to, perhaps, as much as 20 years. Discussions were held on the applicability of performance data to determine the frequency of a large flaw in the containment liner and possible corrosion mechanisms. NEI presented their plan and a proposed schedule to use an expert elicitation process to develop a refined frequency and size of a large containment leakage path. It was agreed that a telephone conference or a meeting will be held prior to industry conducting its expert panel meeting in June 2002.

Materials Reliability Program (MRP) Alloy 600 Issue Task Group Meeting

On May 23, 2002, the Materials Reliability Program (MRP) Alloy 600 Issue Task Group presented to the NRC, during a public meeting, the status and interim results of ongoing work intended to address technical issues discussed in NRC Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles" and NRC Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity." Specifically, the MRP made presentations on Alloy 600 crack growth rates, probability of leakage, critical flaw size, residual stress analysis, probabilistic fracture mechanic model,

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reactor pressure vessel head degradation, and a proposed reactor pressure vessel head penetrations inspection plan. The NRC asked the MRP to submit the technical basis documents for the presented information to allow for formal staff review.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Meeting with the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor in Moscow

On May 13-17, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN) in Moscow, Russia. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: (1) to discuss regulatory/licensing issues relevant to the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program, for which the Department of Energy (DOE) is providing assistance to GAN, and (2) to coordinate DOE's and the NRC's regulatory assistance being provided to GAN. DOE funded NRC attendance at the meeting.

DOE discussed the status of current and future work to be performed by GAN and funded by DOE, including the development of Russian Federal regulations. At the meeting, NRC personnel made presentations about NRC regulations governing construction authorization and the operating license for the Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF), NRC's draft Safety Evaluation Report concerning construction of the MFFF, and the quality assurance requirements applicable to the MFFF.

Meeting with Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Regarding Future Amendment Application for Blended Uranium Preparation Facility

On May 20, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS), Inc. NFS presented the plan for submitting a license amendment application for the second part of the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU) project. NFS reviewed the licensing activities to date concerning the BLEU project, and presented an overview of the BLEU preparation facility process, and of its nuclear criticality safety analysis.

NFS also presented a summary of their internal change control process and how, according to NFS, it conforms to the facility changes and change process regulations in 10 CFR 70.72 and NFS' license condition S-25. NFS concluded that only two parts of the BLEU preparation facility did not meet the criteria in S-25 and in 10 CFR 70.72 for internally-authorized changes. Therefore, NFS proposed to submit a license amendment application in July 2002 for those 2 processes.

NRC staff pointed out that NRC has not reviewed the Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) Summaries for those previously authorized activities, and, therefore, NFS needs to submit ISA Summaries for all processes in the BLEU preparation facility as part of the amendment application. The staff is sending a letter to NFS reiterating its position.

NRC Staff Participates in the Seneca Nation of Indians Cultural Sensitivity Training

On May 15, 2002, the Seneca Nation of Indians provided Cultural Sensitivity Training for representatives of the NRC. NRC's Chairman requested this training opportunity following a visit of the Department of Energy's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The Seneca Nation is situated approximately 20 miles downstream of the WVDP. As such, the Seneca

Nation is a key stakeholder in the decommissioning of the West Valley site. Senior management and staff from the Office of the Executive Director for Operations, the Office of State and Tribal Programs, and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards participated in this training. The training included: (1) an overview of the Seneca Nation's cultural values and relationship to the environment; (2) a tour of the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory; (3) a discussion of the history of the Seneca Nation and the Seneca and Iroquois Government; and (4) a discussion of Seneca Sovereignty and Federal Trust responsibility.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

4th Gas Turbine - Modulus Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) Utility Advisory Board (UAB) Meeting at the Hilton Embassy Row Hotel in Washington, D.C.

On May 21, 2002, RES and NRR staff attended the publically open part of the 4th Gas Turbine - Modulus Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) Utility Advisory Board (UAB) meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting was chaired by Entergy Nuclear. The meeting focused on the GT-MHR Working Group Interim Report and commercialization of the modular helium reactor for both electrical power generation, and hydrogen production. Areas of interest from a regulatory perspective included: (1) the utilization of the Russian GT-MHR design and testing experience to potentially fulfill certain NRC licensing requirements for a US built GT-MHR, (2) fuel manufacturing and test requirements for licensing application, (3) the extent of testing required prior to issuance of a combined operating license, (4) licensing requirements for a planned combined cycle (electricity and hydrogen production) demonstration plant in the U.S., with different primary and secondary design characteristics than the demonstration plant in Russia, and (5) consideration of additional postulated accident scenarios given differences between the Russian and US designs. The staff expects future interactions on these issues during the GT-MHR pre-application review that is currently underway. The UAB endorsed and financially supported the GA initiative to enter into pre-application review with the NRC on their GT-MHR design.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Presentation to National Aeronautics and Space Administration

On May 17, 2002, staff from the Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) participated in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) International Health Education Series on Nuclear Terrorism. The series was one of three covering nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. DIRO's presentation was part of Session 5, "Homeland Security Infrastructure and Measures Against Nuclear Terrorism." In its presentation, DIRO discussed incident response capability at NRC, and security issues at nuclear power plants. The major topics included: (1) responsibilities during events; (2) security issues at plants; and (3) NRC activities related to incident response, security, and the response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. A second presenter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) discussed the FBI's activities in nuclear terrorism.

Federal Radiation Policy Coordination Committee Protective Action Guide Subcommittee Meeting

On May 23, 2002, Division of Incident Response Operations staff attended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) meeting of the Federal Radiation Policy Coordination Committee (FRPCC) Protective Action Guide (PAG) Subcommittee. EPA sent a revised water PAG chapter to the Subcommittee for comment. The subcommittee agreed that the potassium iodide (KI) guidance should include emergency workers. There was no consensus on how the recovery PAG should proceed.

Top Officials (TOPOFF) 2 Exercise Planning Conference

The Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) staff participated in the TOPOFF2 Exercise Initial Planning Conference on May 21, 2002. TOPOFF2 is the second Congressionally-mandated, counter-terrorism exercise involving senior U.S. government officials, multiple Federal/State/local agencies, and Canadian government agencies. The Departments of Justice and State co-chair the preparations and conduct of TOPOFF2. The initial planning conference, attended by representatives of the participating agencies, provided an update of TOPOFF2 preparations, venues, and schedule. The exercise will occur in May 2003 and will be preceded by a series of seminars and pre-exercise activities. The principle exercise scenario events will take place in the Seattle and Chicago areas. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will have limited participation in TOPOFF2 and expects to include response to a threat scenario at a nuclear facility. DIRO staff are developing the nuclear facility threat scenario for TOPOFF2 and will continue participation in the TOPOFF2 exercise process.

Pilgrim Full-Participation Exercise

Entergy Nuclear Generation Company conducted a full-participation exercise at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station on May 22, 2002. NRC Headquarters, NRC Region 1, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, local communities, and the licensee participated in response

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to the series of simulated emergency events. NRC response involved Standby, Initial Activation, and Expanded Activation. NRC participation, led by the Chairman, included full staffing of the Headquarters (HQ) Executive Team, Reactor Safety Team, Protective Measures Team, Liaison Team, and Operations Support Team. Region 1 participation included staffing of the Base Team and a Site Team. HQ exercise objectives were considered to be met. The staff of the Division of Incident Response Operations are coordinating development of lessons learned from the exercise.

NRC Visit to North American Aerospace Defense Command

On May 24, 2002, staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) visited the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), a binational United States and Canadian organization charged with the missions of aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America, to facilitate NRC's participation in an exercise with NORAD on June 4, 2002. While visiting NORAD, NSIR staff observed an exercise and discussed the existing cooperation between NRC and NORAD. NRC and NORAD staff developed a better understanding of each organization's role in a response to our extent that involves both parties.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-02-024, Huntington Memorial Hospital, THEFT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.
2. PNO-IV-02-025, Schlumberger Technology Corporation, LOSS OF CONTROL OF A WELL LOGGING SOURCE POSSIBLY RESULTING IN EXPOSURES TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Small Agency Council Procurement Committee

On May 22, 2002, Mary Lynn Scott, DCPM/ADM, chaired a meeting of the Small Agency Council Procurement Committee at the National Endowment for the Arts. Speakers included Julie Basile, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, providing an update on the Administration's procurement projects and activities; Teresa Sorrenti, Director of the Acquisition Operations and Electronic Commerce Center for the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service, providing an overview on Federal-wide E-Procurement projects (including the Federal Procurement Data System replacement project which she chairs); Diane Frasier, Head of the Contracting Activity and Director of the Office of Acquisitions Management and Policy for NIH; and Joann Wingard, Manager of the Contractor Performance System, providing a demonstration of the system. This three-part series was designed to give procurement staff an in-depth look at the President's Integrated Acquisition initiative and other e-procurement initiatives. The three-hour meeting was attended by 25 individuals representing 15 agencies.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
May 17, 2002 through May 23, 2002:

Daily Plant Status Reports, 3-23-02 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0270)

Allegation, RIV-2001-A-0077 (FOIA/PA-2002-0271)

Investigation, R3-2001-001 (FOIA/PA-2002-0272)

IMPAC listing (FOIA/PA-2002-0273)

OIG Investigations 97-46-J and 97-75-J; 1978 OIA Investigation of VA reimbursement for graduate study expenses; and docket no. 50-309 (FOIA/PA-2002-0274)

Investigation 4-2001-027; OE-01-164, reports, transcripts, and selected documents submitted to NRC (FOIA/PA-2002-0275)

NUREG-1608, "Categorizing and Transporting Low-Specific Activity Materials and Surface Contaminated Objects" (FOIA/PA-2002-0276)

OI file on named individual (FOIA/PA-2002-0277)

Hicksville, NY, all records related to specified locations from 1952 to present (FOIA/PA-2002-0278)

Connecticut Yankee, all records, maps, surveys, correspondence, reports, licensing documents re: land occupied by power plant (FOIA/PA-2002-0279)

Connecticut Yankee, spent fuel pool and its components, all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0280)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Arrivals		
ARAGUAS, Chris	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	NRR
BELCHER, Stefanie	SUMMER HIRE (TECHNICAL)	RII
DIECKER, Jane	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
FONG, Christopher*	CO-OP	RII
FORREST, EDWIN*	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
GEROND, George	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
GOYAL, Raju	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
HARPER, Kathryn	SUMMER HIRE (TECHNICAL)	RII
HELD, Wesley	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
HILL, Kendra	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RES
JOYCE, Regina	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	NMSS
LIN Cindy	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	NMSS
MOSS, Brandon	STUDENT LAW CLERK	ASLBP
NOELKE, Christine	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PAIGE, Jason	STUDENT CLERK	NRR
REITER, Michael	STUDENT CLERK	OI
WALKER, Shamica	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NMSS
WITTMAYER, Jennifer	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC

*Effective 05/20/02

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Media Interest

There was press interest in the testimony Chairman Meserve and Commissioners McGaffigan and Diaz gave to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding Yucca Mountain.

Formation of an NRC lessons-learned task force to review reactor vessel head degradation at the Davis-Besse plant received press interest.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-059	NRC Proposes to Remove Some Financial Information Requirements for Reactor License Renewal
02-060	NRC Task Force to Assess Lessons Learned from Davis-Besse Reactor Vessel Head Degradation
02-061	NRC Staff Approves Transfer of Operating License for Vermont Yankee to Entergy Corporation
02-062	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet June 6-8 in Rockville, Maryland
02-063	NRC Orders Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants and GE Fuel Storage Facility to Enhance Security
Regions:	
I-02-040	NRC, Entergy to Discuss Performance Issues at Indian Point 2
III-02-029	NRC Cites D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station for Violation of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
IV-02-025	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Entergy Operations, Inc.

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Russian Visit

A delegation from the Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Authority of Russia (RF Gosatomnadzor), headed by Alexander Gutsalov, First Deputy Chairman, visited the NRC during the period May 20-24, 2002, to review program results since the last meeting of the delegation, and to agree on activities for the upcoming year. The delegation also met with the Chairman, Commissioners, the Executive Director for Operations and appropriate members of the NRC staff. This was the tenth annual meeting between the two agencies. Emphasis will be placed on reactor licensing and oversight, PRA studies, analytical simulators and emergency response in the upcoming year.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0080	5/13/02	Proposed Rulemaking–Risk-Informed 10 CFR 50.44, “Combustible Gas Control in Containment” (WITS 20010003)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0086	5/16/02	SECY-02-0086 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 10, 2002
2. SECY-02-0074	5/3/02	National Materials Program: Pilot Projects
3. SECY-02-0087	5/23/02	Weekly Information Report Week Ending May 17, 2002
Memoranda		
1. M020516A	5/20/02	Staff Requirements - Meeting with World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO)
2. SRM-COMSECY-02-0024	05/23/02	Staff Requirements - COMSECY-02-0024 - Renewal of Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Charter

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Ryan Buboltz dated May 7, 2002, extends congratulations upon completion of requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting.
2. Letter to Dario Herrera, Chairman, Las Vegas Board of County Commissioners, dated May 6, 2002, responds to request for public meetings to discuss the safety and security issues surrounding Yucca Mountain and the transportation of 77,000 tons of the nation’s high-level nuclear waste to Nevada.
3. Letter to Paul Leventhal, Nuclear Control Institute, dated May 6, 2002, concerns the application from Transnuclear, Inc., to amend an NRC license.
4. Joseph S. Mahaley, DOE, dated May 7, 2002, responds to requests for NRC’s urgent attention to deficiencies identified in the Nuclear Material Management and Safeguards System as discussed in an audit report prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Inspector General.

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy, and Plant Operations - Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Plant Operations and on Fire Protection - Notice of Meeting.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Region II Visit from the Office of the Inspector General

On May 20-22, 2002, a representative from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) visited the Region II Office to meet with any Region II employees as part of the OIG's initiative to improve liaison with the regional offices.

Region II Management Attending a Management Retreat

On May 21-22, 2002, the Regional Administrator and Region II managers conducted a management retreat to plan for challenges as identified in self-assessments and in the latest regional operating plan report. Two key initiatives were to use information created on disks rather than hard copies and to use a newly developed Strategic Workforce Plan to discuss changes needed to move the organization toward the goals in the Plan.

Florida Power Corporation's Crystal River Nuclear Plant

Representatives from Florida Power Corporation's Crystal River Nuclear Plant were in the Region II Office to provide a Crystal River Emergency Exercise Overview. Individuals who will be participating in the May 29 and 30 Crystal River Exercise participated in the meeting.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 2002

Region III Addresses Two Differing Professional Views

Region III addressed a Differing Professional View (DPV) regarding BWR Mark I and Mark II Emergency Core Cooling System residual heat removal pumps, specifically the potential that these pumps could fail during a loss of coolant accident without the loss of off-site power due to gas ingestion, vapor locking, or cavitation because of gas bubbles generated by the blow-down. Based on a review of the ad hoc DPV panel report, the Regional Administrator, Jim Dyer, agreed with the panel's recommendation that this issue could benefit from further review as a candidate generic issue. This issue will be referred to NRR in accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0970, "Potentially Generic Items Identified by Regional Office."

The region also addressed a DPV regarding a number of issues concerning the loading and handling of spent fuel dry storage casks at Dresden Units 2 and 3. The ad hoc DPV panel identified several regulatory and compliance issues warranting further staff consideration. Following review of the panel's report and the NRC staff's Request for Additional Information (RAI) from the licensee, the Regional Administrator agreed with the panel's recommendations to develop additional information on six issues. However, he modified two recommendations calling for further inspections regarding the stress on reactor building components. Since the licensee's response to the RAI is under review, he modified the recommendations to await completion of the staff's review. Appropriate follow-up action will be determined at that time.

Operator License Certificates Presented at LaSalle

On May 22, 2002, Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, presented certificates to 17 newly licensed individuals at LaSalle. Initial licensing examinations were administered in April 2002 to 6 reactor operator, 9 senior reactor operator instant, and 2 senior reactor operator upgrade candidates. All 17 individuals passed all portions of the examination and were issued licenses effective May 13, 2002.

