

INFORMATION REPORT

September 11, 2002

SECY-02-0165

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0165 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Layton, OEDO

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M. Layton, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 6, 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.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	STP	*
NMSS	4	OPA	17
RES	8	IP	18
NSIR	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	*
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

NEI Fire Protection Information Forum

On August 27-30, 2002, representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Regions I and IV, and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research made presentations at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Fire Protection Information Forum in Seattle, Washington. Some of the topics covered included NRC Management Overview of Fire Protection Issues, Manual Actions, NFPA 805 Rulemaking, SDP Improvement, Circuit Analysis Resolution Plans, Hemyc and MT3 FireTesting, Regional Perspectives, and Risk Requantification.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-15, NRC Approval of Commercial Data Encryption Systems For the Electronic Transmission Of Safeguards Information dated August 28, 2002

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to provide guidance to addressees on obtaining NRC approval of commercial data encryption systems for the electronic transmission of safeguards information (SGI). This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of addressees.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection

On August 26-30, 2002, a member of the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety management attended, and presented a paper at, the International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection, held in Geneva, Switzerland. Approximately 450 individuals, representing nearly 80 countries and 12 organizations, attended the conference. The United Nations' International Labor Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the European Commission sponsored this conference. The conference considered issues related to radiation risks in the workplace; monitoring of occupational exposure; occupational radiation protection programs in medicine; natural radiation exposure in the workplace; radiation protection programs in industrial and research facilities, nuclear power plants, and other fuel cycle facilities; and the probability of causation of occupational harm.

Environmental Council of the States Subcommittee on Long-Term Stewardship Workshop

The Division of Waste Management staff attended a workshop conducted by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Subcommittee on Long-Term Stewardship in Washington, DC, on August 28-29, 2002. The Subcommittee was recently established to enhance coordination and exchange of information among Federal agencies, States, and Tribes involved with long-term stewardship. The purpose of this workshop was to allow attendees to provide a status of their long-term stewardship programs and to discuss final comments on a draft agreement on long-term stewardship principles. Other attendees, aside from NRC, were the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the General Services Administration, and numerous representatives from States and Tribes. The ECOS Subcommittee has invited NRC to participate, regularly, in its Subcommittee meetings. The staff will monitor future Subcommittee meetings, to determine the potential benefits of NRC participation, and its future level of participation with ECOS.

Technical Project Planning Workshop on the Shallow Land Disposal Area

On August 26-27, 2002, Division of Waste Management staff attended a Technical Project Planning workshop on the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) in Parks Township, Pennsylvania, that was sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The SLDA is a NRC licensed site, and it is also designated as a Formerly Utilized Remedial Action Program site. Congress has directed USACE to clean up radioactive waste at SLDA, consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and USACE. During this workshop, USACE provided information regarding the site history, past site characterizations, information on the waste in the trenches, field investigations, and previous remediation. At the start of the workshop, USACE also led a site tour for attendees, including the licensee (BWXT); the site's previous owner (ARCO); the Township Supervisor; and the NRC staff member. At the workshop, USACE provided a tentative schedule for issuance of a Record of Decision by mid-2005, a year earlier than previously scheduled. Key issues discussed at the workshop were the limited waste characterization information for the material buried in the waste trenches, and

planning for safe disposal of the material. USACE will continue its coordination with the participants as it completes its SLDA study phase, preceding a Record of Decision.

Certificate of Compliance for the FuelSolutions™ TS125 Transportation Package.

On August 28, 2002, NRC staff issued BNFL Fuel Solutions a Certificate of Compliance No. 9276, Revision No. 0, for the FuelSolutions™ TS125 Transportation Package. This package consists of a TS125 transportation cask and impact limiters, together with a FuelSolutions™ W21 or W74 canister with its payload. The allowable contents of the W21 canister are pressurized-water-reactor spent nuclear fuel assemblies. The allowable contents of the W74 canister are Big Rock Point spent nuclear fuel assemblies. This certificate makes the FuelSolutions™ spent fuel management system a dual- purpose system, certified for both storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Agreement on Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Between the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEA)

On September 6, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research forwarded an Agreement to Turkey for signature between the NRC and the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEA) relating to cooperation in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program.

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the TAEA of Turkey will continue cooperation in the thermal-hydraulic code applications and maintenance program (CAMP) on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. This Agreement will remain in force for a period of five years.

Milestone Reached in Cooperative Research on Analysis of High-Burnup Fuel

A milestone involving international cooperative use of reactor fuel performance codes has recently been reached by NRC and the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). Two computer codes were involved. One is NRC's FRAPTRAN transient fuel rod behavior code, which was developed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The other is the Technical Research Center of Finland's (VTT's) GENFLO fast-running thermal-hydraulic code, from which a FRAPTRAN-specific version has been developed with support from STUK. Recently, staff from VTT and PNNL successfully ran these codes in a coupled manner. The goal of this effort is to analyze fuel rod behavior during boiling water reactor (BWR) power oscillations related to a postulated anticipated transients without scram (ATWS) and other transients. Such power oscillations were identified as an issue in a July 6, 1998, Commission memorandum on the NRC program plan for high-burnup fuel. Previously, neither the thermal-hydraulic models in FRAPTRAN nor the fuel behavior models in NRC's thermal-hydraulic codes were adequate to analyze this complicated transient. A combination of advanced models for fuel behavior and thermal hydraulics was needed for the analyses that can now be done by NRC staff and contractors with the FRAPTRAN-GENFLO coupled codes.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Drug Testing Advisory Board (DTAB) Meeting

On September 4, 2002, a representative of the Reactor Safeguards Policy Section, Division of Nuclear Security, participated in the quarterly DTAB meeting held in Washington, DC. The meeting focused on validity testing guidelines that are being finalized by HHS for urine specimens.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-02-033, Alco Corporation, ACCIDENT INVOLVING DAMAGE TO A MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.
2. PNO-III-02-034, Duane Arnold Energy Center, SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE AND REPAIR DRYWELL LEAKAGE.
3. PNO-IV-02-025C, Schlumberger Technology Corporation, LOSS OF CONTROL OF A WELL LOGGING SOURCE RESULTING IN EXPOSURES TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - INITIATION OF AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM.
4. PNO-IV-02-047, Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co., EARTHQUAKE OF A MAGNITUDE OF 4.6 APPROXIMATELY 40.0 MILES NORTHEAST FROM SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR PLANT.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Geological and Seismological Characteristics for Siting and Design of Dry Cask Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations and Monitored Retrievable Storage Installations; Extension of Comment Period (Part 72)

A document extending the comment period for a proposed rule that would amend the licensing requirements for dry cask modes of storage of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and power reactor-related Greater than Class C waste on an independent spent fuel storage installation or in a monitored retrievable storage installation was published in the Federal Register on September 5, 2002 (67 FR 56876). The proposed amendments would update the seismic siting and design criteria including geologic, seismic, and earthquake considerations. The comment period on this action has been extended to October 22, 2002.

Electronic Maintenance and Submission of Information (10 CFR Chapter I)

A direct final rule that amends NRC's regulations to clarify when and how licensees and other members of the public may use electronic means to communicate with the agency was published on September 6, 2002 (67 FR 57803). The amendments are necessary to implement the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. The NRC is also updating its guidance on how to submit documents to the agency electronically. The direct final rule becomes effective December 5, 2002.

The companion proposed rule for this direct final rule was published on September 6, 2002 (67 FR 57119). The comment period closes October 21, 2002.

General Accounting Office (GAO) Protest

We received a GAO protest on August 30, 2002, under RFQ ADM-02-162 for the installation of a turn-key Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) with one UPS unit. The protester asserts that the award was made to a bidder whose product was \$27,000 higher in price but not technically superior. NRC is preparing a response to GAO which is due September 30, 2002.

General Services Administration (GSA) SmartPay Conference

The Agency Program Coordinator for the Purchase Card Program, a member of the Division of Contracts staff, attended the fourth annual GSA SmartPay Conference on innovative, technologically advanced and proven best practices for managing the Federal government's card programs on August 27-29, 2002, in San Francisco. Sessions attended focused on fraud prevention, management of charge card infrastructures, and payment improvements.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
August 30, 2002 through September 5, 2002:

Davis Besse nuclear power plant, communications between NRC offices from 9-1-01 and 6-1-02 re: Bulletin 2001-02 and between NRC and stakeholders, FirstEnergy, etc. (FOIA/PA-2002-0395)

First Alert Inc., (now BRK Brands, Inc.) all records, permits, licenses, inspections, reports, violations (FOIA/PA-2002-0396)

Job performance documentation on named individual (FOIA/PA-2002-0397)

Material License Tracking System (MLTS) (FOIA/PA-2002-0398)

Hicksville NY research and production facility, owned and operated by Sylvania Corning Nuclear Corp., all documents; FOIA requests pertaining to this facility (FOIA/PA-2002-0399)

All facilities having applied for licenses for gama cameras used in single-photon emission computer tomography (FOIA/PA-2002-0400)

Implementation of U.S. Attorney General John Ascroft's 10/12/01 memorandum on Freedom of Information Act, all records (FOIA/PA-2002-0401)

South Texas Project and Comanche Peak, Event Notification Reports prior to 1999 (FOIA/PA-2002-0402)

Table C-7 in NUREG/BR-0150 (FOIA/PA-2002-0403)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Arrivals		
ABANKWAH, Dora	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
GREEN, Stephen	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
KUNDRAT, Christine	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
LEWIS, Shani	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RI
O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michele	EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR	NSIR
PRESCOTT, Paul*	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
RAMIREZ, Frances	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
RASMUSSEN, Richard**	SENIOR REACTOR ANALYST	NRR
RODRIGUEZ, Veronica	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RI
ROQUE-CRUZ, Carla	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
STEADHAM, Timothy	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
WAGAGE, HANRY	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
Retirements		
BOYLE, Regis	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
CLAXTON, Gary	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR TASK LEADER)	OI
CROWLEY, Billy	SENIOR REACTOR INSPECTOR	RII
FRATTALI, Sandra	SAFEGUARDS PROGRAM MANAGER	NRR
MCDOWELL, William	TEAM LEADER	OIG
NAVAL, Luz	DEBT COLLECTION SPECIALIST (ACCOUNTANT)	CFO
RODRICK, Ed	SENIOR RELIABILITY & RISK MANAGER	RES
Departures		
PASSINE, Joan	SECRETARY	RII

*Transferring from RIII

**Transferring from RI

September 6, 2002

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-103	NRC to Hold Public Meetings to Discuss New Environmental Information on Proposed MOX Nuclear Facility
02-104	NRC to Host Open House September 17 in Nevada
02-105	NRC Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel to Meet September 18-19 in Las Vegas
02-106	Nuclear Security Enhancements Since September 11, 2001
Regions:	
II-02-044	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Robinson Nuclear Plant License Renewal
III-02-050	NRC Oversight Panel to Hold Three Meetings on Davis-Besse Reactor Vessel Head Damage in Oak Harbor, OH

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Japanese Visit

On September 4, 2002, Ms. Junko Ogawa, Senior Chief Communicator, Public Relations Department, Japan Atomic Power Company (JAPCO), met with staff from the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), for an overview briefing on NRC, nuclear waste and transportation matters. She was interested in NRC's community outreach program. Ms. Ogawa is touring the U.S. as a guest of the Department of State's International Visitor Program. JAPCO has plans to build two APWRs, the first in the world. Ms. Ogawa was unsure what effect the current TEPCO troubles will have on her company and public support for nuclear power in Japan.

Meeting with U.S.-Russia S&T Agreement Interagency Working Group

On September 6, the U.S.-Russia S&T Agreement Interagency Working Group met to discuss plans for the December 5, 2002 JCM between U.S. Science Advisor to the President, John Marburger and Russian First Deputy Minister of Industry, Science, and Technology (MIST), Mikhail Kirpichnikov. There will be a planning meeting, possibly in Moscow, on November 3rd or 10th between the Russian and U.S. experts. Three possible topics for the JCM include (1) high energy physics (2) information technology/technology commercialization, and (3) U.S. needs/interests. Agencies were asked to revise their proposals in preparation for the next meeting. NRC has submitted a proposal on reactor materials and pressurized thermal shock (PTS).

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0135	7/17/02	Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 63: Specification of a Probability for Unlikely Features, Events, and Processes
Commission Voting Record on 02-0135	9/4/02	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0162	9/5/02	SECY-02-0162 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 30, 2002
Memoranda		
1. M020904	9/4/02	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-02-0135 - Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 63: Specifications of a Probability for Unlikely Features, Events, and Processes; II. SECY-02-0145 - Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (Savannah River Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility); Board's Certified Question Regarding Procedure

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Governor Tom Ridge, Office of Homeland Security, dated September 5, 2002, highlights some of the significant accomplishments made by the NRC and its licensees since September 11, 2001.
2. Letter to Governor Tom Ridge, Office of Homeland Security, dated August 26, 2002, responds to request for support for the Office of Homeland Security's new Coordination Center.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Designation of Presiding Officer, NFS Erwin (Material License Amendment).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Massachusetts Management Review Board

On September 5, 2002, the Management Review Board (MRB) approved the recommendations made by a five member team for the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review conducted June 24-28, 2002 of the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program. The MRB found the Commonwealth's program adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC regulations. The Commonwealth was found satisfactory in six of the seven indicators reviewed and satisfactory with recommendations for improvement for the seventh indicator, "Response to Incidents and Allegations". This is the second IMPEP review done of the Massachusetts program and the first to evaluate a four-year period. The next IMPEP review for the Massachusetts program will be conducted in FY 2006.

September 6, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Navy Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) Quarterly Meeting in Virginia

On September 6, 2002, the Deputy Regional Administrator and other staff members from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety attended the Navy RSC Quarterly Meeting in Crystal City, VA. The RSC discussed recent inspection findings, the upcoming NRC program review of the Navy oversight program, and the annual ALARA review.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Visit

On September 4, 2002, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, accompanied the Director, Division of Inspection Program Management, and Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, to the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant. They toured portions of all three units and discussed the Unit 1 restart/recovery activities.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

Visit to Cooper and Fort Calhoun by Commissioner Dicus (accompanied by the Regional Administrator)

On September 4, 2002, Commissioner Dicus visited the Cooper Nuclear Station site with the Regional Administrator. On September 5, 2002, the Commissioner and the Regional Administrator visited the Fort Calhoun Station. Meetings were held with both Cooper and Fort Calhoun licensee management.

September 6, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 6, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 64

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	09/24/02 2154 RHOB	10:00	Dr. Paperiello	Combating Terrorism: Preventing Nuclear Terrorism	Rep. Shays/Kucinich Natl Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations Government Reform

September 6, 2002

ENCLOSURE R