

INFORMATION REPORT

January 5, 2001

SECY-01-0004

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-01-0004 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING DECEMBER 29, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA Debra J. Corley Acting For/
John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Bergman, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 29, 2000

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

Contact: T. Bergman, OEDO by E-mail: tab@nrc.gov.

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

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Indian Point Units 1 and 2 - License Transfer

In a letter dated December 12, 2000, Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison) and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) submitted a request for the transfer of: (1) Indian Point Unit 1 (IP1) Operating License DPR-5 to Entergy Nuclear IP2 to possess and use, and to ENO to possess, use, and maintain IP1 in accordance with its possession only license; and (2) Indian Point Unit 2 (IP2) Operating License DPR-26 to Entergy Nuclear IP2 to possess and use, and to ENO to possess, use, and operate IP2. This request follows Con Edison's November 9 announcement that it was entering into an agreement with ENO for the sale of IP1 and IP2. In the December 12 letter, Con Edison and ENO requested that the NRC complete the review on a schedule that would permit issuance of a transfer order and confirmatory amendments to support a closing date of May 11, 2001. The purchase agreement also specifies that a closing will not occur during a plant outage.

10 CFR 2.206 Petition

In a letter dated December 4, 2000, the Citizens Awareness Network, Public Citizen, Westchester Peoples Action Coalition, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Environmental Advocates submitted a petition, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206, to have the IP2 operating license revoked due to systemic mismanagement. The petitioners assert that the breakdown in Con Edison management is illustrated through the inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the Final Safety Analysis Report. The petitioners also assert that problems at IP2 extend beyond the replacement of the steam generators and that Con Edison's response to the problems is insufficient since it does not address the systemic mismanagement and the root causes. The NRC staff is currently reviewing the information provided as the basis of the petition to determine if immediate action is warranted.

Summer

NRC Headquarters, Region II, and the licensee, held a public meeting on December 20, 2000 at the Regional Offices in Atlanta. At this meeting, the licensee described the extent of cracking, the cause of the cracking, and the repair. The meeting was video conferenced at NRC Headquarters. During the meeting, the licensee presented a number of conclusions to NRC staff based on their assessment of (a) the root cause and extent of the cracking in the weld in the "A" reactor coolant pipe, and (b) the non-destructive testing of the nozzle welds in all six coolant pipes. The primary root cause was presented to be the construction weld process in which grinding out the inside of the weld with a bridge pass on the V.C. Summer reactor vessel "A" hot leg nozzle-to-pipe weld created high welding residual stresses in a material (Alloy 182/82) and in an environment which could cause Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking.

The NRC staff determined that additional, more detailed information, regarding the data and analyses upon which the licensee based these conclusions was needed. One of these conclusions was "reasonable assurance exists that the other nozzle welds in the reactor coolant system are acceptable, with margin for 2 years, 9 months until Refuel 14."

December 29, 2000

ENCLOSURE A

A public meeting will be conducted prior to re-start.

Public Meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 License Renewal

On Tuesday, December 12, 2000, the NRC staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) it has prepared regarding license renewal for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), 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). Approximately 30 people attended the meetings, including representatives of the NRC staff, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee), the Georgia Department of National Resources, a radio station, industry, and members of the public. Several individuals spoke at the meetings, with some expressing serious concerns with extending the operating life of the two nuclear units at HNP, while others voiced support for the action. The comment period on the draft EIS ends on January 24, 2001.

After the comment period ends, the staff will resolve the comments received and develop the final EIS.

Improved License Renewal Guidance Documents

The staff held a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on December 21, 2000, to discuss industry comments on the improved license renewal guidance documents: Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report, Standard Review Plan for License Renewal, and Regulatory Guide for License Renewal. The staff issued these draft documents for public comment on August 31, 2000. The industry provided significant comments and the purpose of the December 21, 2000, meeting was for NEI to identify those issues that the industry would elevate to NRC management. The schedule for providing these final documents for Commission approval is April 2001. At the meeting, NEI identified approximately 70 issues for NRC management attention.

Issuance of Regulatory Guide 1.186 "Guidance and Examples for Identifying 10 CFR 50.2 Design Bases"

On December 26, 2000, a notice of availability of issuance of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.186 was published in the Federal Register (65 FR 81550). The RG provides guidance to licensees and applicants on the definition of design bases as defined in the NRC regulations in 10 CFR 50.2. The RG endorses Appendix B to NEI 97-04.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Public Meeting with Department of Energy on Yucca Mountain Issues

On December 19-20, 2000, Division of Waste Management staff met with Department of Energy (DOE) staff and contractor representatives on the status of Yucca Mountain activities. Also present or participating by video-conference were representatives of the state of Nevada, Nye County, Clark County, and the Nuclear Energy Institute, as well as public interest group representatives. DOE described its quality assurance (QA) implementation efforts, including the status of data and software qualification and other QA corrective actions. DOE outlined its plans for future activities in the area of resolution of key technical issues. DOE also provided information on transition planning for the assumption of duties by its new Management and Operations (M&O) contractor, Bechtel/Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Bechtel/SAIC formally assumes the M&O role in February 2001.

Holtec HI-STAR 100 Cask System Amendment 1

On December 21, 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Amendment 1 to the Holtec HI-STAR 100 Cask System. The amendment, which became effective on December 26, 2000, revised the limits for the currently approved fuel arrays and permits storage of additional fuel arrays as well as fuel inserts and damaged fuel canisters. The amendment was submitted to NRC on November 24, 1999.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Proposes Draft Standardized Technical Specifications

On December 21, 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission forwarded to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) a proposed set of draft standardized technical specifications (STS) that are intended to provide a uniform and consistent standard for use in developing technical specifications for cask certificates of compliance. The ongoing effort to develop STS is intended to reduce unnecessary burden while increasing efficiency and maintaining an adequate level of safety. The draft STS was provided to NEI to facilitate discussion in a public meeting scheduled in Rockville, Maryland, on January 23, 2001.

Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company Files Lawsuit

On December 21, 2000, the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Hartford to obtain injunctive relief that would force the town to negotiate with the company for the purposes of creating an independent spent fuel storage installation at the Connecticut Yankee facility. The move comes three weeks after the town's Planning and Zoning Commission rejected a zone change that would have created a special zone for the waste storage. The company is taking the position that federal regulations supersede any local rules and allow for the waste facility to be constructed. The Spent Fuel Projects Office is reviewing an application for approval of a spent fuel storage cask under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72 Subpart L, that would accommodate the Connecticut Yankee spent fuel. The staff made a presentation on dry spent fuel storage in Haddam, Connecticut, in September 2000.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

AGU Session on Quantifying Predictive Uncertainty of Hydrogeologic Models

RES staff and contractors participated in a special session of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) on "Quantifying Predictive Uncertainty of Hydrogeologic Flow and Transport Models" at its Fall 2000 meeting held in San Francisco on December 18, 2000. The session was organized and co-chaired by Professor Shlomo Neuman, an RES contractor, and Dr. Mary Hill of the U.S. Geological Survey. This session brought together environmental scientists from the United States and Europe to present their research findings on the development, testing, application, and analysis of methods that quantify uncertainty of predicted hydraulic heads, flows, and concentrations. Tom Nicholson of RES presented a paper on "Technical Issues Being Addressed in NRC's Research on Hydrogeologic Uncertainty." Dr. Philip Meyer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, presented findings from his RES-funded research on "Hydrologic Uncertainty Assessment for Decommissioning Sites." The session topics addressed new approaches for identifying sources of (and reducing) parameter and conceptual model uncertainty, as well as various methods used in uncertainty analyses. Ongoing RES research to quantify and propagate uncertainties in performance assessments will benefit from application of the insights and information gained at this special AGU session.

Draft Regulatory Guide on Implementation of 10 CFR 72.48

RES has issued Draft Regulatory Guide DG-3020, "Guidance for Implementation of 10 CFR 72.48, Changes, Tests, and Experiments." This guide is being developed to provide guidance that is acceptable to the NRC staff for licensees and certificate holders on their evaluation of changes proposed to facilities or cask designs licensed under 10 CFR Part 72.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
December 22, 2000 through December 28, 2000:

U.S. Steel, Duquesne, PA facility, all licenses related to possession and use of nuclear materials, all inspection reports, and identified violations. (FOIA/PA-2001-0078)

U.S. Steel, Homestead, PA, & Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp./LTV Steel Corp., Aliquippa, PA, licenses related to possession and use of nuclear materials, with supporting documentation. (FOIA/PA-2001-0079)

Shearon Harris plant, inspection report no. 50/400/00-03 dated 10/30/00. (FOIA/PA-2001-0080)

December 29, 2000

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Arrivals		
BROWNE, Colin	CLERK	ADM
DRUCKER, David	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
HALL, Jocelyn	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
NUBGAARD, Rod	BRANCH CHIEF	OCFO
UMANA, Jessica*	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST (COOP)	NMSS
Retirements		
ALBERT, Charlotte**	SECRETARY (OA)	IRO
BRILL, Robert**	INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL ENGINEER	RES
CAMPION, MaryJo	SECRETARY (OA)	RI
FENNELL, Joseph	TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN	RI
HILL, William***	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	SECY
SOONG, Sean***	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
WIENS, Leonard***	SR PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
Departures		
DINKFELD, Daren	ADMINISTRATIVE INTERN	RI
MARTIN, David	CLERK	RIII
WILLIAMS, Shawn	ADMINISTRATIVE INTERN	RI

* Returning to Duty

** Effective 12/31/00

*** Effective 01/01/01

December 29, 2000

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Media Interest

There were some inquiries from the press when it was revealed that the individual charged with shooting seven people in Massachusetts was a licensed reactor operator at the now-decommissioned Maine Yankee nuclear plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-187	NRC Extends Date for BWX Technologies, Inc. to Submit Decommissioning Plan for Parks Township Disposal Area
00-188	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, on January 16-18
00-189	ACRS Subcommittees on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, Materials and Metallurgy to Meet in January
Regions:	
II-00-73	NRC Staff Determines Violation at Summer Nuclear Plant to be of Low to Moderate Safety Significance
III-00-71	NRC to Meet with USEC Officials January 3 to Discuss Planned Portsmouth Plant Closure

December 29, 2000

ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 29, 2000

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-00-0159	7/26/00	Final Rule Amending the Fitness-For-Duty Rule
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0235	12/21/2000	Weekly Information Report - Week ending December 15, 2000

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Andrew C. Kadak, Kadak Associates, Inc., dated December 22, 2000, provides an interim response concerning revision of the definition of high-level radioactive waste to include Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste.

December 29, 2000

ENCLOSURE O