

INFORMATION REPORT

April 19, 2002

SECY-02-0069

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: SECY-02-0069 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 12, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
H. Nieh, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 2002

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

Contact: H. Nieh, OEDO by E-mail: hkn@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

NRC Information Notice 2002-13: Possible Indicators of Ongoing Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation dated April 4, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice on recent Davis-Besse experience to alert addressees to possible indicators of reactor coolant pressure boundary degradation including degradation of the reactor pressure vessel head material.

NRC Information Notice 2002-14: Ensuring a Capability to Evacuate Individuals, Including Members of the Public, from the Owner-Controlled Area dated April 8, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of inspection findings concerning a licensee's capability to evacuate individuals, including members of the public, from the owner-controlled area in the event of an emergency.

North Anna Units 1 & 2

The staff has issued license amendments which replace the North Anna Units 1 & 2 technical specifications in their entirety with new technical specifications based on the improved Standard Technical Specifications (iSTS). The licensee will implement these revised technical specifications within six months.

The North Anna units are the 64th and 65th units that have been approved to convert to the iSTS. Applications for conversion to iSTS for an additional 3 units are currently under review. Licensees for 9 units are planning to make applications in the next two years.

Publication of Final Rule on Revision of the Skin Dose Limit

On April 5, 2002, the Commission published a final rule that revises 10 CFR Part 20 (67 FR 16298). The amendment changes the method of calculating dose to the skin by requiring that the assigned skin or extremity dose be the dose averaged over the contiguous 10 square centimeters of skin receiving the highest exposure, rather than the current requirements to average dose to the highest exposed 1 square centimeter. The intent of this rulemaking is to make the skin dose limit less restrictive when small areas of skin are irradiated, and to address skin dose from all sources, including "hot particles" and small area (<1 cm²) contaminations, under a single limit. Licensees currently monitor workers frequently to avoid reportable dose from "hot particles." The rule will be effective June 4, 2002.

Staff Holds Public Scoping Meetings on the St. Lucie Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

The NRC staff participated in a number of activities last week related to the license renewal application for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2. On Wednesday, April 3, 2002, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS) that is being prepared. The EIS will be a plant-specific supplement to the

"Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). More than 50 people attended each of the meetings, including representatives of the NRC staff, Florida Power and Light (FPL), the nuclear industry, the press, local officials, and members of the public. The scoping period ends on April 30, 2002.

In addition, on April 2 and 4, 2002, the staff and its contractors (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory) visited the St. Lucie site and environs to gather additional information on the environmental aspects of the license renewal application. The team considered the full scope of environmental issues, including aquatic and terrestrial ecology, land use, human health, socioeconomics, etc., as well as FPL's process for identifying significant new information on the Category 1 issues identified in NUREG-1437. The staff will use this information to supplement the St. Lucie Environmental Report while developing the EIS.

Highlight-Station Blackout (SBO) Position

The staff has been engaged in resolving a technical issue associated with the scope of station blackout (SBO) for the purpose of license renewal. The issue raises the question as to whether or not the structures and components involved in the recovery from SBO need to be included within the scope of license renewal, and whether recovery specifically requires restoration of offsite power.

This issue was discussed during a December 12, 2001, public meeting between the staff and industry. Three additional meetings to discuss this issue have been conducted since December 21, 2001. As a result of these discussions, the staff issued a SBO position on April 2, 2002. This position states that license renewal applicants shall identify equipment relied on to meet the requirements of the station blackout rule, 10 CFR 50.63, as it affects scoping for license renewal rule, 10 CFR 54.4(a)(3).

The implementation of this staff position will start with the license renewal applications currently under review. Additional staff guidance for implementation of this staff position at Calvert Cliffs, Oconee, ANO-1, and Hatch will be issued separately.

On April 10, 2002, the staff met with the Turkey Point applicant to discuss their proposed response and provide clarification of the staff position. Based on the discussion, the applicant will include several additional electrical components and structures in the scope of license renewal and perform an aging management review for those structures and components. The applicant plans to submit its response by early next week. The staff will review the materials expeditiously and discuss the results of its review in a supplement to the Turkey Point SER.

Clinton Power Station

Clinton Power Station (CPS) submitted an application for a 20 percent power uprate on June 18, 2001. The NRC staff has completed its review of the application and issued the license amendment on April 5, 2002, following publication of the final Environmental Assessment in the *Federal Register*. CPS is currently shut down and performing modifications to achieve approximately 7 percent of the approved uprate when starting up from this refueling

outage. In the next refueling outage in the spring of 2004, CPS will perform the remaining modifications to achieve the remaining 13 percent of the approved power uprate.

Hydrogen Events At Hamaoka and Brunsbuttel

Recently, hydrogen deflagration or detonation events occurred at foreign boiling-water reactor (BWR) plants. Hamaoka is a BWR design in Japan which had experienced a rupture of steam condensing line pipe. Brunsbuttel is an advanced BWR design in Germany which experienced a rupture of a reactor vessel head spray line. The staff is reviewing the potential applicability of these types of events to U.S. BWRs, developing an information notice, and continuing to interact with the industry, vendors, stakeholders, and foreign regulators and utilities.

NRC Places Draft Proposed Fire Protection Rule Language on the Web

On April 2, 2002, NFPA 805 draft proposed rule language was posted on the NRC's public rulemaking web site, <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. The original draft rule language, posted for public comment in December 2001, remains on the Ruleforum web site for comparison purposes. The draft proposed rule language is the result of consideration of public and industry comments. The proposed rule is scheduled to be provided to the Commission in July 2002.

Davis-Besse Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Repair Concept Meeting

On April 10, 2002, the staff held a public meeting with representatives of First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), owners of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, to discuss the proposed repair concepts for the reactor pressure vessel head. The NRC staff listened to the presentation and raised numerous questions for the licensee to consider prior to submitting their formal repair plan.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On April 10, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Reactor Fuels Subcommittee to discuss the mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility (MFFF) that Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) is proposing to build on the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The function of the facility would be to convert weapons-grade plutonium to MOX fuel for commercial reactors. The meeting began with DCS presentations on: (1) the impact of recently announced Department of Energy (DOE) changes regarding the use of alternate feedstock, on the MFFF; and (2) the electrical/instrumentation and control (I&C) systems. The staff made subsequent presentations on: (1) the effect of the DOE-announced changes on the staff's review; (2) safety analysis; (3) radiological consequences; (4) chemical safety; and (5) fire protection.

The staff plans to make additional presentations to the ACRS as the design of the facility and staff's review progress.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Holds Quarterly Meeting

On April 9, 2002, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) held its quarterly meeting at NRC Headquarters. NRC, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Office of Management and Budget, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration staff representatives participated in the meeting. Among the agenda topics were Agency views on: (1) EPA's draft of the "Federal Guidance for the General Public"; and (2) the National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements scrap metal report. The Committee also heard a detailed presentation on the evaluation of radiation exposures from publicly owned sewage treatment plant sludge. An ISCORS subcommittee will be developing this year's guidelines for addressing radioactive materials in sludge, based on survey results and dose assessments.

Staff Participates in Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Waste Safety Standards Committee

On March 25-28, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in the thirteenth meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) held in Vienna. The WASSC is a standing body of senior regulatory officials with technical expertise in radioactive waste safety. The WASSC provides advice and guidance, to the IAEA Secretariat, on a continuous program for reviewing and revising IAEA's radioactive waste safety standards, relevant regulatory issues, and activities for supporting the application of the radioactive waste safety standards. As part of this effort, the WASSC had a joint session, with the Radiation Safety Standards Committee, on topics and documents common to waste safety and radiation safety (medical applications, industrial products, and control of sources). Staff from the Department of Energy also participated in the meeting.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE B

The key document discussed in the joint session was DS161, "Specification of the Radionuclide Content in Commodities Requiring Regulations for the Purposes of Radiological Protection." An overview of its development was provided. Four ad hoc working groups were set up to facilitate reaching agreement on issues in the guide.

Other documents reviewed during the meeting included: DS67, "Safety Guide on Regulation of Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources in Medicine, Agriculture, Research, Industry and Education;" DS113, "Safety Guide on Quality Management Systems for Regulatory Authorities;" DS62, "Safety Guide on Strategy for the Source & Environmental Monitoring of Radionuclides;" and DS309, "The Format and Content of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants."

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Pebble Bed Modular Reactor

The staff issued a letter to Exelon Corporation on March 26, 2002, providing a preliminary assessment of the licensing approach that they have proposed for the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR). In the assessment, the staff summarized the main considerations which contributed to its assessment, provided information about Exelon's proposal, and presented comments and reaction to the proposal. The staff has focused upon the merits of the approach as a potential process for ensuring compliance with existing regulations and identifying PBMR-specific regulatory requirements.

The staff concluded that the licensing approach proposed by Exelon, if adequately implemented, is a reasonable process for ensuring that the Commission's regulations are met and for identifying PBMR-specific regulatory requirements. However, it is recognized that implementation of Exelon's proposed licensing approach or any other approach requires additional design and probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) information that Exelon has not yet provided. A detailed PRA is required for implementation of Exelon's proposed risk-informed regulatory approach and the staff will continue to assess the issues of treatment of uncertainties, margins of safety, and defense-in-depth. Furthermore, the degree to which the staff may be able to rely on PRA information for the PBMR will be a consideration due to the more limited operating experience for such designs. The staff will continue to assess Exelon's proposal during the remainder of the PBMR pre-application review. The broad policy/technical issues that would need to be assessed in the development of safety requirements for designs significantly different than the current generation of light-water reactors will be discussed in an upcoming paper to the Commission by summer 2002.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-02-006B, Davis Besse, First Energy Nuclear Operating Co., REACTOR VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION (SECOND UPDATE).
2. PNO-IV-02-020, Technical Welding Laboratory, Inc., OVEREXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Nuclear Energy Institute: Petition for Rulemaking

A notice of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-75) filed by the Nuclear Energy Institute was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2002 (67FR 16654). The petition requested amendment to the NRC's Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) regulations to allow the use of an alternative maximum pipe break size for the largest pipe in the reactor coolant system in ECCS evaluation models for Light Water Nuclear Power Reactors. The comment period expires June 24, 2002.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
April 5, 2002 through April 11, 2002:

Daily Plant Status Reports, 3/18/02 through 3/21/02 (FOIA/PA-2002-0216)

FOIA Request Log, January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 (FOIA/PA-2002-0217)

Site Assessment - So. Crawford Ave. & 166th Place, Markham, Illinois (FOIA/PA-2002-0218)

Site Assessment - NY - 44th & 5th Ave., 510 5th Ave., City of NY, NY County, NY (FOIA/PA-2002-0219)

NMSS Users' Needs - memorandum from NMSS dated October 31, 2001, re: document dated 3/22/02 on ACNW public web site (FOIA/PA-2002-0220)

FY2003 IT budget submission in response to OMB Circular A-11, Exhibit 53, 300B (Capital Asset Plan & Justification) and most recent long-range IT plans (FOIA/PA-2002-0221)

Materials Licensing Tracking System (active and retired) (FOIA/PA-2002-0222)

Allegation No. RIII-00-A-208, all documents (FOIA/PA-2002-0223)

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE G

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Proposed Rule Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

On April 16, 2002, the Chief Financial Officer approved a proposed rule that amends 10 CFR Part 16, "Salary Offset Procedures for Collecting Debts Owed by Federal Employees to the Federal Government". These proposed amendments to the Commission's debt collection regulations are necessary to conform NRC regulations to the legislative changes enacted in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures presented in the Federal Claims Collection Standards issued by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice. The proposed action is intended to allow the NRC to improve its collection of debts due the United States by Federal employees.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Arrivals		
ENNIS, Jerry	CONSULTANT	RII
FORDER, Jamie	SECRETARY	HR/CSU
KEPLINGER, Jean	SECRETARY	RII
MITLYING, Viktoria	PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER	RIII
Retirements		
HOOD, Sandra	SECRETARY	OGC
Departures		
DEAN, Bernetta*	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR

*Effective 04/05/02

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Media Interest

There was interest in a repair plan proposed by FirstEnergy Corp. for the damaged reactor vessel head at its Davis-Besse reactor in Ohio.

There was continuing media interest in the threat of terrorists stealing radioactive devices to make "dirty bombs."

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
Regions:	
I-02-032	NRC to Meet with PPL to Discuss Susquehanna Plant Performance
I-02-033	NRC to Meet with Company to Discuss Performance of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant
I-02-034	NRC to Take Part in Meetings on Decommissioning Criteria for Former Reprocessing Facility in West Valley, N.Y.
I-02-035	NRC to Meet with Company to Discuss Nine Mile Point Performance
III-02-017	NRC Makes Preliminary Finding of "High Safety Significance" For Cooling System Problem at Point Beach Nuclear Power Station
III-02-018	NRC Staff to Meet with Wisconsin Rapids Firm to Discuss Apparent Violation in Loss of a Gauge with Radioactive Material
III-02-019	NRC to Meet with Exelon Generation Co. April 18 to Discuss LaSalle Nuclear Power Station Safety Performance
III-02-020	NRC to Meet With Nuclear Management Co. April 19 to Discuss Palisades Nuclear Power Station Safety Performance

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) Follow-Up Visit to North Anna

A four person IAEA-led team visited the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant during the week of April 8. The purpose of the visit was to determine the status of actions taken by the plant in response to the findings of the OSART mission conducted January 22-February 10, 2000. Two key findings relevant to NRC relate to adoption of ICRP-60 and emergency preparedness practices. Prior to their departure, the team will draft a follow-up report which both the plant and the NRC will have the opportunity to comment on before it is made final.

GAN Visit to Region IV and Comanche Peak

During the period of April 1-13, two inspectors from the Russian regulatory agency, Gosatomnadzor (GAN), visited Region IV to learn about the NRC oversight program and the planned performance-based inservice inspection at the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant. The delegation then observed the inspection at the plant. The visitors were Vladimir Pogorelov, head of GAN's Inspection Division at GAN headquarters and Anatoli Sapeguine, Chief Inspector of Don Regional Office (location of the Novoronezh nuclear power plant). Irina Spevakova accompanied them as interpreter. William McNeill was the Region-based host and conducted the inspection; NRC headquarters staff accompanied the visitors throughout the visit to support Mr. McNeill.

At the plant (which was shut down for re-fueling), the delegation observed the inspection of the reactor vessel head, six inspections of piping (using either ultrasonic or penetrant techniques) and remote testing of welding in the core. The visitors also visited the Outage Control Center, the control rooms for Units 1 and 2, the equipment area for instrumentation and control and the turbine hall. An onsite NRC inspector explained the steam generator inspections.

The visit by GAN officials satisfies one of the commitments made during the last annual assistance planning meeting with GAN in December 2000.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-02-0057	3/29/02	Update to SECY-01-0133, "Fourth Status Report on Study of Risk-Informed Changes to the Technical Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (Option 3) and Recommendations on Risk-Informed Changes to 10 CFR 50.46 (ECCS Acceptance Criteria)"
2. SRM on SECY-01-0133	4/10/02	Status Report on Study of Risk-Informed Changes to the Technical Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (Option 3) and Recommendations on Risk-Informed Changes to 10 CFR 50.46 (ECCS Acceptance Criteria)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0061	4/5/02	SECY-02-0061 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 29, 2002
2. SECY-02-0059	4/15/02	SECY-02-0059 - Use of Design Acceptance Criteria for the AP1000 Standard Plant Design
Memoranda		
1. M020320B	4/11/02	Staff Requirements - Meeting with the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated April 5, 2002, apprises of an organizational change the NRC is undertaking to enhance the safeguards and security programs.
2. Letter to the White House, OHS, DOE, FEMA, FBI, DOJ, DOT, CIA and DOD dated April 5, 2002, apprises of an organizational change the NRC is undertaking to enhance the safeguards and security programs.
3. Letter to Senator Harry Reid dated April 2, 2002, provides response to request for information on how NRC evaluates the safety of containers used to transport spent nuclear fuel by rail and road.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

4. Letter to Congress dated March 25, 2002, provides NRC's response to the General Accounting Office report entitled "Nuclear Regulation - Progress Made in Emergency Preparedness at Indian Point 2, but Additional Improvements Needed."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Nuclear Energy Institute; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking... Notice of receipt
2. Final Rule - Revision of the Skin Dose Limit, 10 CFR Part 20

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE O

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

The Regional Administrator Attends the Agency Action Review Meeting

On April 9-11, 2002, the Regional Administrator attended the Agency Action Review Meeting in conjunction with the Reactor Oversight Program in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety Attends the International Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART) exit meeting at the Virginia Electric Power and Light Company's North Anna nuclear plant

On April 12, 2002, the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety attended the International OSART exit meeting at the Virginia Electric Power and Light Company's North Anna nuclear plant in Mineral, Virginia.

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V. C. Summer Refueling Outage Meeting

On April 8, 2002, representatives from South Carolina Electric and Gas Company attended a V. C. Summer Refueling Outage Meeting in the Region II office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss major activities, modifications, and shutdown safety considerations.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 8-12, 2002, Region II Branch Chiefs in the Division of Reactor Projects held the NRC ROP Annual Assessment meetings for the Virgil C. Summer, Brunswick, Crystal River and Shearon Harris nuclear plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Special Inspections at Shearon Harris Nuclear Station

On April 9, 2002, Region II initiated a special inspection at Shearon Harris to review a gas accumulation in the emergency core cooling system suction piping. The team is evaluating whether the charging safety injection pumps would have performed their safety function.

State of Alabama IMPEP

A team of NRC and Agreement State staff conducted an IMPEP review of the State of Alabama Agreement State program. The Deputy Director, State and Tribal Programs, and the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, participated in the Exit Meeting on April 12.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

Differing Professional View in Region IV

The Regional Administrator reviewed and responded to the recommendations of an Ad Hoc Review Panel which was constituted in accordance with Management Directive 10.159 to address a differing professional view (DPV). The DPV, raised by a Region IV staff member, concerned the bases for the regional disposition of a fitness-for-duty (FFD) issue involving a Region IV licensee. The panel's recommendations included: (1) obtaining clarifications of 10 CFR Part 26 requirements relative to the specific issue; (2) reassessing, as necessary, the original conclusions based on the clarifications or interpretations of 10 CFR Part 26; (3) assessing whether the draft proposed rule should contain specific requirements regarding the Medical Review Officer (MRO) evaluation of successive chemical tests for illegal drugs; and (4) reconsidering the need for MRO non-medical training or certification requirements. Actions to address the first two recommendations will be developed by the region, while the second two recommendations have been forwarded to the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response for its consideration and appropriate response.

April 12, 2002

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 12, 2002

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 49

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	04/17/02 SD-226	10:00	TBA	Should the Office of Homeland Security Have More Power?	Senators Schumer/Sessions Administrative Oversight & the Courts Judiciary
Combs	04/18/02 2123 RHOB	9:30	NRC, Secretary Abraham, Gov. Guinn (R-NV), NEI, GAO, US PIRG, NARUC, and others	Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Madden	04/25/02 2167 RHOB	10:30	TBA	Transporting Nuclear Waste to Yucca Mountain	Reps. Petri/Borski Highways and Transit Reps. Quinn/Clement Railroads Transportation and Infrastructure

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ENCLOSURE R