

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT

July 17, 2003

SECY-03-0121

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-03-0121 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JULY 11, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Torres, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2003

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

Contact: R. Torres, OEDO by E-mail: rjt@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Final Rule Incorporates Regulatory Guides by Reference Into 10 CFR 50.55a

On July 8, 2003, the Commission published the final rule on Incorporation by Reference of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel and Operations and Maintenance Code Cases (68 FR 40469). This final rule incorporates by reference three regulatory guides which list ASME Code Cases that have been reviewed by the NRC and approved as alternatives to ASME Code provisions required in 10 CFR 50.55a, Codes and Standards. This action permits licensees to apply the listed code cases to the construction, inservice inspection, and inservice testing of nuclear power plants without obtaining prior NRC approval. The effective date of this final rule is August 7, 2003.

Technical Meeting Held in Vienna, Austria

From June 30 through July 2, 2003, Division of Engineering staff met with other industry and regulatory representatives from many countries under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. The purpose of the technical meeting was to: (1) review and comment on two IAEA-sponsored reports on the management of aging degradation mechanisms of boiling water reactor (BWR) vessels and vessel internals important to safety and, (2) exchange information on the related experiences, lessons learned, and research results relating to aging degradation mechanisms of BWR vessels and internals. The presentations were informative and the reports, when finalized, will serve as excellent resource material.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Trousdale County Commissioners Approve Restrictions on Proposed Louisiana Energy Services Enrichment Plant

On July 3, 2003, Trousdale County Commissioners voted to approve restrictions on the zoning of the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) uranium enrichment plant proposed for Hartsville, Tennessee. The restrictions would require no air nor water effluents and a 90-day limit on depleted uranium tails storage. LES had earlier stated that operation of the plant would be impractical under these conditions.

Staff Visit to United Kingdom (U.K.) and Japan to Consult on the Alternative Corrosion Models in the Yucca Mountain Project

From June 25 to July 4, 2003, NRC staff visited Professor R. Newman of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, U.K.; Dr. T. Shinohara of National Institute for Materials Science, Tsukuba City, Japan; and Professor S. Fujimoto of Osaka University, Osaka, Japan. The staff consulted with them on the alternative corrosion models to assess the performance of the Alloy 22 waste package lifetime in the disposal of high-level waste. For the Alloy 22 in the proposed Yucca Mountain repository, the waste package failure by localized corrosion is considered more risk-significant compared to uniform corrosion and stress corrosion cracking failure. The consulted groups had originally developed the criteria for localized corrosion for their industrial partners. There were discussions about the Department of Energy's (DOE's) and NRC's current efforts to develop appropriate criteria, and about U.S. approaches to assessing long-term uniform corrosion and stress corrosion cracking. The outcomes of the discussion will be incorporated in future NRC/DOE technical exchanges meetings.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Holds Annual Public Meeting

On July 8, 2003, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) held its annual public meeting in the NRC Auditorium. ISCORS meets quarterly to discuss and address a wide variety of radiation protection issues of interest to Federal agencies. ISCORS members heard presentations by the National Research Council's Board on Radioactive Waste Management about its ongoing studies and from the Department of Energy about the new Office of Legacy Management. ISCORS also received reports from its various subcommittees. The Cleanup Subcommittee provided a demonstration of its web-based catalog of information on parameters and other data used in pathway modeling for cleanup of sites with radioactive contamination. The Sewage Sludge Subcommittee is nearing completion of its study of radioactively contaminated sludge and ash at publicly owned treatment works. The Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Subcommittee reported that the Environmental Protection Agency had recently issued guidance to its regions on the potential for Technologically Enhanced NORM contamination associated with Mineral and Resource Extraction Industries. Several members of the public attended and participated extensively in the public comment portions of the meeting.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Response Technical Manual Training

On July 8, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response conducted training on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Response Technical Manual in Region III (RIII). A second training session will be conducted for RIII staff members in August 2003.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-03-033, TXU Energy - PLANT SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.
2. PNO-II-03-011, Radiological Assistance, Consulting & Engineering - CONTAMINATION EVENT.
3. PNO-IV-03-032, H&G Inspection - OCCUPATIONAL DOSE IN EXCESS OF LIMIT.
4. PNO-IV-03-034, Monsanto Chemical Plant - FAILURE OF FIXED GAUGING DEVICE RESULTING IN RADIATION EXPOSURES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (LICENSEE WORKERS).

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Final Rule Issued Regarding Facility Security Clearances and Safeguarding of National Security Information and Restricted Data - (Part 95)

A final rule amending the regulations applicable to facility security clearances and the safeguarding of National Security Information and Restricted Data was published in the Federal Register on July 11, 2003. The final rule reflects organizational changes resulting from the creation of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, corrects a minor error, and changes the example of the derivative classification stamp. The final rule became effective July 11, 2003.

Contract Awards

A firm fixed-price type contract no. NRC-10-03-173 was awarded on a competitive basis to Techniarts Engineering, Inc. of Silver Spring, MD on July 3, 2003 for the upgrade of the public address systems at NRC headquarters. The contract calls for completion of the upgrade within 45 days of award and includes options for 4 years of follow-on maintenance and system enhancements, if needed. The total value of the contract including all options is \$94,400. The contract was awarded using streamlining techniques of only two members on the Source Evaluation Panel and simplified evaluation criterion (past performance).

A cost-plus-fixed-fee task ordering contract no. NRC-03-03-038 was awarded on a competitive basis to Information Systems Laboratories Inc. on July 9, 2003 for work involving technical assistance in support of the Nuclear Reactor Regulation's (NRR) programs and activities pertaining to systems safety and analysis. The period of performance is three years with two one-year option periods. The total estimated cost of the contract, inclusive of option years, is \$3,541,565.00. Simplified techniques used included a deadline for proposer questions, simplified evaluation criteria (experience and past performance), and award without discussions.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
July 4 through July 10, 2003:

IA 98-001, OI report 1-96-015, interviews by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation dated 5-20-96 & 6-21-96, enforcement conference 2-13-98, with named individual, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0344
Rep. Richard M. Burr, NC, publicly available records of communications 11-1994 to present	FOIA/PA-2003-0345
Daniel Hynes, publicly available records of communications, 11-1998 to present, Comptroller of the State of IL; 1994-1998, Hogan, Marren & McCahill	FOIA/PA-2003-0346
Marson Blair Hull, Hull Trading Co., Matlock Capital, and Sixteen To One Inc., 1977 to present, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0347
OI report 3-1999-016S, exhibit 5, Employee Concerns Program Investigation Report, 2-16-99	FOIA/PA-2003-0348
Materials Licensing Tracking System, all active and retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2003-0350
Peach Bottom & Three Mile Island, all fitness-for-duty tests performed, 1990 - 2003	FOIA/PA-2003-0351

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Arrivals		
COHEN, Ronald	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
COZENS, Kurt	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
COYLE, James	SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
DREISBACH, Jason Scott	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
EDWARDS, Robert M.	SUMMER FACULTY	RES
JOSE, Benny	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
KLEIN, Alexander	SR. FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER (PRA)	NRR
PETERSON, Gordon	CHIEF, COST ANALYSIS TEAM	OCFO
PRIBLE, Amy	STUDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST (SUMMER)	ADM
RIVERA, Rodolfo	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG
STUTZKE, Martin	SR. RELIABILITY & RISK ANALYST	NRR
Departures		
GREEN, Fredrick	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NSIR
HESS, Marc	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG
KIM, Lance*	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RES
OPRENDEK, Marie	CLERK	RI
TORRES-CORDOVES, Jeannette	CLERK	RES

* Effective 6/30/03

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Media Interest

Senior management appointments at NRC headquarters and Region III.

New problems with Davis-Besse's sump pumps raise concerns of further delays in restarting the troubled reactor.

House of Representatives approval for increased funds for the Yucca Mountain Project.

Increased security measures at nuclear power plants, with special focus on planned force-on-force exercise at Indian Point.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-087	NRC Appoints Six People to Senior Headquarters and Regional Management Positions (7/7)
03-088	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Elects Chairman and Vice Chairman (7/8)
03-089	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Kewaunee (7/9)
03-090	NRC Approves License Amendment for Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (7/9)
03-091	NRC to Hold Public Meeting July 17 on Reactor Vessel Leakage at South Texas Nuclear Power Plant (7/10)
Regions:	
II-03-035	Brady Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at McGuire Nuclear Plant (7/10)
IV-03-030	NRC Staff Issues Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities to Former Radiation Safety Officer in Idaho (7/7)
IV-03-031	NRC Public Meeting on July 15 on Updating Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal (7/8)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Meeting with Electricite de France (EdF)

On July 9, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) management and staff met with Michel Francony, Vice President for Operations, Bernard Roche, Head, Nuclear Affairs, and other EdF staff to brief them on the NRC approach to risk informed regulation for nuclear power plants.

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0068	5/1/03	Interagency Jurisdictional Working Group Evaluating the Regulation of Low-Level Source Material or Materials Containing Less than 0.05 Percent by Weight Concentration Uranium and/or Thorium
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0111	7/3/03	SECY-03-0111 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 27, 2003
2. SECY-03-0104	6/23/03	Organizational Effectiveness Assessment for the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
3. SECY-03-0105	6/24/03	Early Site Permit (ESP) Application Readiness
4. SECY-03-0116	7/10/03	SECY-03-0116 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 4, 2003

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Robert H. Leyse: Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. - Notice of Appointment of Adjudicatory Employee.
3. Amersham Corporation (now known as AEA Technology QSA, Inc.); Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.
4. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes - Notice of Meeting.
5. ASLBP Designation of Presiding Officer - Fansteel, Inc.

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Indian Point - Organization Change

Effective July 2, 2003, Paul Rubin, previously Manager of Site Operations at Indian Point, has been appointed the Manager of Work Control and Outage Planning at the site, replacing Rodney Cavalieri, who is retiring. Until a new Manager of Site Operations is identified, Tony Williams and Eugene O'Donnell (Indian Point Unit 2 and Unit 3 Operations Managers, respectively) will report directly to Chris Schwarz, General Manager Plant Operations.

Cultural Diversity Day Activities

Region I celebrated Cultural Diversity Day on July 9, 2003. Uncle Sam's Singers, an interagency chorus from the Philadelphia area, opened the activities, followed by remarks by the Regional Administrator outlining the reasons for the celebration. With the theme, "Diversity in Sports," speakers included Rebecca Dengler, a leading Ladies Professional Golf Association teaching professional; a Region I staff member with a first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, accompanied by demonstrations of the martial arts by several students; and Bill "Ready" Cash, a catcher for the National Negro Baseball League from 1939 - 1955. The formal presentations were followed by a "barbeque on the green" prepared by Region I staff. The event was very well attended and received by Region I staff. The Director, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights attended the ceremonies, and met with Region I managers on July 8 to review Regional successes and challenges related to maintaining a diverse workforce.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Statewide Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference and Workshop

On July 8-9, 2003, the State Liaison Officer participated in the Statewide Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference and Workshop conducted in Marathon, Florida.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Plant Performance Meeting

On July 9, 2003, representatives from Tennessee Valley Authority were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Sequoyah plant performance, initiatives in response to recent performance concerns, and planned major projects.

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Predecisional enforcement conference

On July 16, 2003, the Region III staff met with Nuclear Management Co. for a predecisional enforcement conference to discuss apparent violations involving the licensee's Fitness-For-Duty program at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station. The conference was closed to public observation because it involves the findings of an NRC Office of Investigations report that has not been publicly disclosed.

NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel Public Meetings

On July 9, 2003, the NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel held two meetings at the Oak Harbor High School in Oak Harbor, Ohio. The first meeting was between the panel and FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. officials to discuss the status of activities at the Davis-Besse plant in response to the reactor vessel head degradation. The second meeting was an evening public session to review NRC activities involving Davis-Besse and to respond to questions and concerns from the public.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

Grand Gulf Management Change

On July 8, 2003, Entergy Operations, Inc. announced that Mr. Jeff Forbes will be the Site Vice President at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station effective August 4, 2003. He was formerly a Vice President with Nuclear Management Corporation (NMC). Mr. Forbes replaces Mr. George Williams who will return to his position as Regional Vice President of Operations Support at Entergy Operations, Inc. Headquarters in Jackson, MS.

NRC, Region IV, and Entergy Operations, Inc., Personnel Conducted a Regulatory Conference to Discuss Risk Related to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Non-compliance at Arkansas Nuclear One

On July 10, 2003, NRC and Entergy Operations, Inc., personnel participated in a regulatory conference held in the Region IV office. The conference was held to better understand the licensee's position on the risk associated with crediting manual actions in lieu of complying with Appendix R. Key risk analysis assumptions and fire modeling assumptions were presented by NRC and the licensee.

July 11, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 11, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 22

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	07/15/03 2359 RHOB	10:00	Markup	FY04 Energy and Water Development	Reps. Young/Obey Appropriations
Portner	Wk of 7/14/03 SD-124	TBA	Markup	FY04 Energy and Water Development	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Appropriations
Gerke	07/15/03 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Federal Information Systems Integration and Consolidation	Reps. Putnam/Clay Tech Policy, Info Policy, Inter- Governmental Relations & Census Government Reform
Gerke	07/16/03 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Exploring Ideas for Improving Federal Reorganization, Management and Spending	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Gerke	07/16/03 2154 RHOB	2:00	GAO	GAO Human Capital Reform: Leading by Example	Reps. Davis/Davis Civil Service & Agency Organization Government Reform
Combs	07/17/03 2123 RHOB	9:30	DOE	DOE Radioactive Waste Cleanup	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Gerke	07/17/03 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Problems with TSP Website	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform

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ENCLOSURE R

Gerke	07/24/03 TBA	TBA	TBA	Past, Present, and Future of the Competitive Sourcing Initiative	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Gov't Mgmt, the Fedl Workforce Governmental Affairs
Combs	TBA	TBA	Chairman Diaz, DOE Bechtel, NEI	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Power Energy and Commerce
Keeling	TBA SD-342	TBA	Joe D. Whitley	Confirmation to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security	Senators Collins/Lieberman Governmental Affairs

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ENCLOSURE R