

OPSMPEm Resource

From: West, Stephanie
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To: OPSMPEm Resource; OPSMNPEm Resource
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NRC

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"OPSMNPEm Resource" <OPSMNPEm.Resource@nrc.gov>
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U.S. NRC Blog

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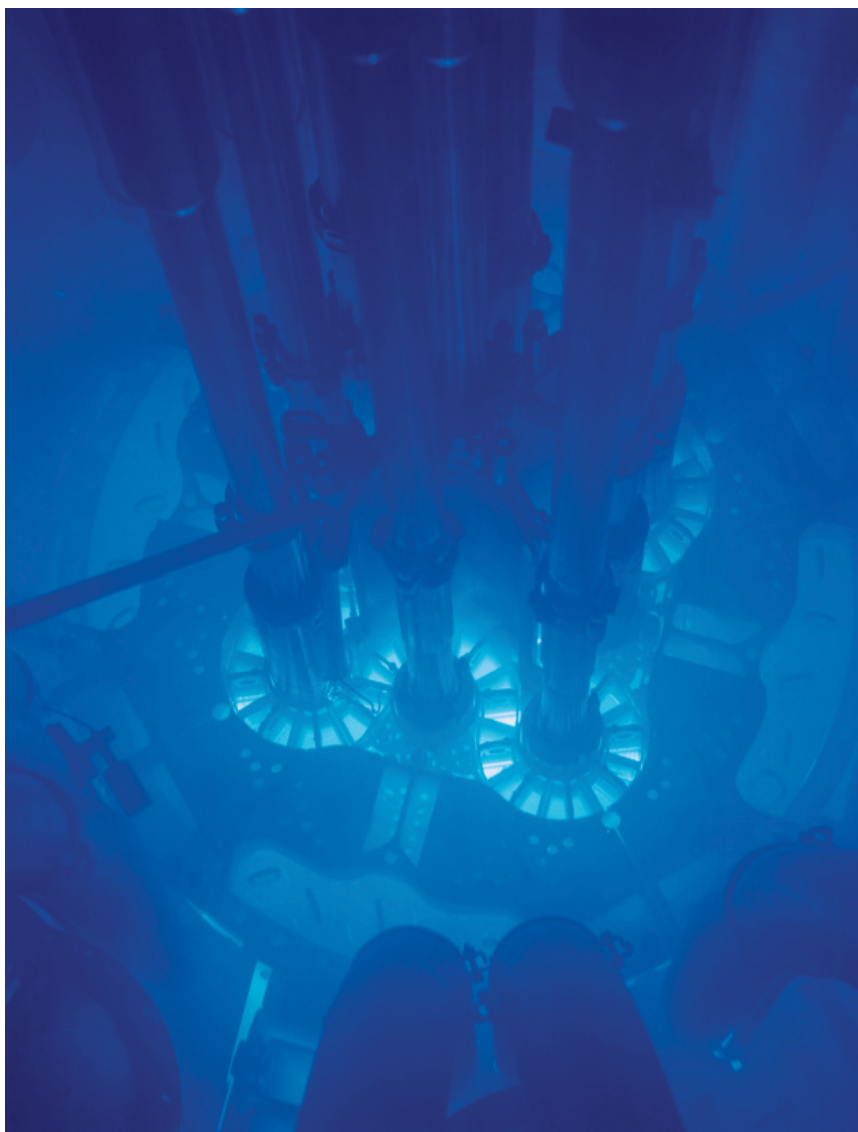
Comments

comment #1594826 posted on 2015-07-03 18:23:57 by CaptD

July 3, 2015: Federal Holidays are welcomed by all those that get the day off! For the rest of US, it is a day of frustration, as others seek to maximize their free time. As for July 4, 2015: Happy B-Day USA

A Monday Quiz -- A Blue Glow

posted on Mon, 06 Jul 2015 13:37:32 +0000



This Advanced Test Reactor runs tests that determine how fuels and materials react when bombarded by streams of neutrons and gamma rays under a variety of pressure and temperature conditions. Information that would normally require years to gather from normal reactor operations can be obtained in a matter of weeks or months. The primary “customer” of the reactor is the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. The NRC licenses 31 research and test reactors in 21 states (as of 2014); eight research reactors are being decommissioned. We also license the operators and conduct some 50 inspections each year. DOE, however, regulates this particular test reactor. **Quiz:** Where is this test reactor located? What scientist (and Nobel Prize winner) gave his name to the blue glow seen in this photo?

Comments

comment #1598214 posted on 2015-07-16 06:01:35 by Nanobody

I don't have an idea. The related link listed below is the only thing that I found. So what's the answer of this quiz?
<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-20442075/the-naval-nuclear-propulsion-program-a-brief-case>

comment #1596107 posted on 2015-07-10 09:09:24 by

Please check out the article at this link: http://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/publications/research_reactor_vulnerability_to_sabotage_by_terrorists This article was published a couple of years after 9/11. The title of the article is “Research Reactor Vulnerability to Sabotage by Terrorists”. I know that power reactor security has been considerably upgraded since 9/11. Has research and test reactor security been considerably upgraded as well? This is very important as these test reactors are located in areas of high population (for example university campuses). Are these test reactors manned 24/7 by not only operators but by armed security personnel as well? Nuke Puke

comment #1596119 posted on 2015-07-10 09:57:47 by Half-TruthSlayer

Excerpt from “Protecting US Nuclear Facilities from Terrorist Attack” by Kirkham & Kuperman 8-15-13 Note: I have placed text in “bold” when references are made to test/research reactors. Sorry my bold text did not come thru. Please check the fourth and last paragraphs especially. Thanks.

The Design Basis Threat (DBT) "The NRC views nuclear security as a balancing of risks and costs, with the understanding that achieving a "zero" level of risk is impossible. Since 2001, the U.S. nuclear industry has spent over \$2 billion on security enhancements to their physical protection systems. However, it is difficult to know if those enhancements have been adequate. As Matthew Bunn writes, "no one really knows how clever a plan, with how many attackers, what weapons, or what capabilities, terrorists might be able to bring to bear. The NRC ostensibly attempts to estimate that through its DBT. But criticism of the NRC's DBT focuses on the number of adversaries, their weapons, and the exclusion of air attacks and some sea attacks. Prior to the revisions following September 11, 2001, the NRC's DBT assumed one team of three individuals, aided by a passive insider who provided information but did not participate in the attack. The numbers were kept relatively low because intelligence agencies generally assumed that they themselves were capable of detecting conspiracies of more than a few members. This assumption was proven wrong by the events of 9/11 when 19 hijackers, acting in four independent teams, planned and executed a plot without prior detection by authorities. Although the details of the revised DBT are classified, one source reports that the assumed number of attackers was only increased to "less than double the old figure and a fraction of the size of the 9/11 group" of 19 hijackers. Another source specifies it as "five or six well-armed terrorists, possibly working in conjunction with an insider or two. This number reflects the NRC's assumption that only one terrorist cell would attack a plant. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), a nuclear industry lobbying group, defends this assumption on grounds that the 9/11 attacks represent four separate attacks of three or four terrorists each, not an attack by nineteen terrorists. Critics say this does not adequately represent the present threat, which should take into account the size of the entire 9/11 attack force, and at a minimum posit an attack from a "squad size" of adversaries (12-14 personnel). The insider threat is downplayed in two ways, say critics. First, although the revised DBT reportedly does consider one or two active (i.e., violent) insiders working with outside attackers, it does not contemplate a larger conspiracy of insiders, which is a common phenomenon in past thefts from highly secure, non-nuclear facilities. Second, when the NRC evaluates the adequacy of security measures at power reactors by requiring force-on-force tests, these exercises may not simulate even the tiny number of active insiders contemplated by the revised DBT. (A related criticism is that at research reactors licensed by the NRC, no force-on-force tests at all are conducted, even if the sites contain HEU (Highly Enriched Uranium), because such facilities are not required to defend against the DBT.) Thus, according to critics, the U.S. government both underestimates the insider threat and fails to assure protection against even that underestimated threat. But a U.S. nuclear industry representative has responded, regarding the force-on-force tests at power reactors, that "in the exercises we assume there will be insider support. We provide adversaries with inside information. This suggests that the tests do contemplate at least a passive insider. The NRC also takes a graded approach to security by requiring a higher level of protection for sites considered to have greater potential consequences from an attack. As a result, the DBT for theft of nuclear material assumes a greater threat than for radiological sabotage. Additionally, the NRC believes terrorists require greater capabilities to commit theft than sabotage, since theft necessarily implies defeating security measures to both enter and exit the facility. Sabotage by a suicidal attacker only requires defeating security measures to enter. Until the NRC requires licensees to guard against a 9/11-sized attack force, critics argue, the NRC is effectively depending on protection by other government forces, but these other forces may not be available or sufficient. For example, according to the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), timelines of the DOE indicate that it would take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours for a SWAT team to respond and fully engage against an on-site attack, which could be too late to avert theft or sabotage. At several NRC licensed research reactors that still use HEU fuel, the primary threat is theft. At power reactors and other research reactors, the main threat is radiological sabotage. The Union of Concerned Scientists projects that a team of well-trained terrorists, after gaining access to a power reactor site, could cause enough damage within a matter of minutes to produce a core meltdown that could disperse enormous amounts of radiation."

comment #1596137 posted on 2015-07-10 11:26:25 by Half-TruthSlayer

Additionally "The NRC is inhibited from imposing strict regulations on research reactors by the U.S. Atomic Energy Act, which allows the NRC to impose 'only such minimum amount of regulation. . . as will permit the Commission to fulfill its obligations under this Act . . .'" As a result, research reactors generally do not have to protect against radiological sabotage or provide an armed response to an attack. How convenient!

comment #1600704 posted on 2015-07-26 12:50:36 by creativebiolabs

I didn't get the idea. I am a little puzzled about the glow.

comment #1596151 posted on 2015-07-10 12:12:05 by Half-TruthSlayer

Some additional information on the security Design Basis Threat (DBT) at nuclear facilities including test/research reactors: Terrorists Read & Heed! Thanks to successful nuclear industry lobbying efforts with our dysfunctional US Congress and our lax nuclear industry regulator (the NRC), the following security-threat restrictions have been placed on all our US nuke power plants (NPPs): • Terrorists can only use a half-dozen or so dirt-bags to attack a NPP. This even though 19 scum-bags attacked us on 9/11. This conveniently allows nuke plants to only have a 10-member armed response force at any time. • Only one or two (at the most) so-called "insiders" can work with and support this terrorist attack force. This even though this restriction does not comport with a conspiracy of insiders which is a common phenomenon in past thefts from highly-secure, non-nuclear facilities. • A nuclear plant owner does not have to defend against an aircraft attack. This is left to other federal agencies. The FAA wanted to have a 24/7 no-flight zone around all US nuclear plants. Thanks to resistance from the aircraft industry and their bottom line, the FAA only requires such a no-fly zone if the national security threat level is raised. Of course an additional good security measure, also never adopted, would be to alter approach and landing patterns at airports near nuke plants (and there are many of them) to vector aircraft away from these plants. That way additional response time would be available in case an airliner was high jacked with the intent of crashing it into a nuke plant. An aircraft does not have to actually penetrate and probably would not be able to penetrate the robust containment structure surrounding a nuke plant's reactor. But the huge amount of fuel in a commercial airliner would ignite a raging fire in the building surrounding the reactor in the containment building, torching all instrument and control connections and destroying safety systems including pumps, valves, and power supplies. Spent fuel damage and reactor core melt would soon follow. • The terrorist attack group cannot possess or use RPGs or 50-caliber sniper rifles, even though these two weapons are commonly used by terrorists. These weapons were originally on a list of weapons provided by the intelligence staff. When the NRC finalized its requirements it eliminated those two weapons, reflecting nuclear industry input. This decision was based, it is alleged, on pressure from the nuclear industry to keep costs down. I am sure terrorists will restrict themselves accordingly. Just like they have taken our major dams off their hit list after the feds posted a huge warning sign on each one of those vulnerable dams. The warning can be easily seen from the air and says words to the effect that this dam is an off-limit target in the event of war.

comment #1597279 posted on 2015-07-13 14:38:09 by Steven Farkas

Reactor photo is from the Advanced Test Reactor at Idaho National Laboratory.

comment #1595594 posted on 2015-07-07 08:14:41 by Kevin Krause in response to comment #1595443

My answers are based on the most recent wind contracts I have seen: 1) About 300MW of wind turbine nameplate capacity installed and interconnected for \$730 million. 2) Depending on location, 300MW of nameplate should generate around 1,000,000 MWhrs annually. [A disproportionate amount of it at night and in the winter, at least where I live]

comment #1595484 posted on 2015-07-06 16:58:57 by Thomas

ATR is at INL. Cerenkov.

comment #1595487 posted on 2015-07-06 17:24:34 by Paul Lindsey in response to comment #1595443

for \$730M: approx. cost of 112 turbine Ocotillo Express wind farm, not including the \$115M Sect 1603 grant-in-lieu-of-PTC. (published amounts vary from \$300M by Ptern Energy to \$1B per law360.com). Also not included: cost of the Sunrise Powerlink to get power from Ocotillo over the mountains to SDG&E. Amount of power: In the case of Ocotillo Express: 17% c.f. of 265 MW (rated) Power generation from wind is fickle and unreliable. Go to BPA's wind power site and analyze the data. Approx. 30% c.f. with a Std Deviation greater than the average. Plot the data and it looks like a seismograph pen trace.

comment #1595443 posted on 2015-07-06 14:03:41 by CaptD

Ditto the above answers! Here is an update on what is happening at that site: USA's Experimental Breeder Reactor-II now permanently entombed <https://shar.es/1qDhhD> Snip CH2M-WG, Idaho, LLC (CWI) said yesterday that crews with the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Program recently completed pouring more than 3400 cubic yards of concrete grout into the basement of the Experimental Breeder Reactor-II (EBR-II) building to fill in any remaining void spaces and effectively entomb the reactor. Workers also removed and treated the last of the sodium coolant from the reactor's nine heat exchangers. The exchangers were used to cool the liquid metal and direct the steam to a generating turbine to produce electricity when the reactor was operating. ... The three-year, \$730 million project, funded through the DOE's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on early risk reduction and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer. 2 Part Question: How many wind turbines could be purchased and installed for \$730 million? What would the amount of power they would produce annually?

comment #1595472 posted on 2015-07-06 16:04:13 by djysrv in response to comment #1595443

For \$730 million the NRC could probably complete the design review and COL for the nation's first commercial SMR and have change left over :-)

comment #1595473 posted on 2015-07-06 16:05:44 by djysrv in response to comment #1595402

The last time the INL was called the NRTS was in the 1970s when the USGS updated their maps for the Arco desert in Idaho.

comment #1595415 posted on 2015-07-06 11:02:17 by djysrv

Quiz Answers Vavilov-Cherenkov radiation https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherenkov_radiation The Nobel Price winner is Pavel Cherenkov https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pavel_Cherenkov The Advanced Test Reactor is located at the Idaho National Laboratory, on the Arco Desert, about 50 miles west of Idaho Falls, ID. <http://www4vip.inl.gov/research/advanced-test-reactor-research/>

comment #1595419 posted on 2015-07-06 11:16:17 by Jack Coupal

1. Location - ? 2. P.A. Cherenkov (Cerenkov radiation)

comment #1595428 posted on 2015-07-06 11:40:11 by

Yes, correct! Idaho National Laboratory (for more information, go here: <http://www4vip.inl.gov/research/advanced-test-reactor-research/>) The Soviet scientist Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov Moderator

comment #1595399 posted on 2015-07-06 09:42:08 by CHARLES, Chris

ATR is at the Idaho National Laboratory. Cerenkov radiation is named for Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov. Christopher Charles Editor, Nuclear Energy Overview Senior Writer, Communication Services Nuclear Energy Institute 1201 F St NW, Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20004 T: 202.739.8152 M: 202.247.5717 E: cic@nei.org T: @NEI

comment #1595400 posted on 2015-07-06 09:43:24 by John Gilligan

ATR is at INL. Cerenkov.

comment #1595401 posted on 2015-07-06 09:43:49 by Steven Hutchins

It's a picture of the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) at the Idaho National Laboratory, located east of Arco, Idaho. The characteristic blue glow of an underwater nuclear reactor is due to Cherenkov radiation. It is named after Soviet scientist Pavel Alekseyevich Cherenkov, the 1958 Nobel Prize winner who was the first to detect it experimentally.

comment #1595402 posted on 2015-07-06 10:06:38 by Kjell Johansen

NRTS is in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I guess that the Cherenkov radiation probably named by Fermi. By the way, my grandfather and great uncle were engineers at the Norwegian plant that made the heavy water smuggled out of Norway before the German invasion. The heavy water went to Fermi, Rutherford and others for their fission experiments. So, you could say that I have had a nuclear family prior to the first nuclear plant was built. My sister was with the NRC for >25 years and I have been at a nuclear plant since 1983,

comment #1595406 posted on 2015-07-06 10:20:41 by S.L.L.

Idaho National labs and Cherenkov radiation

comment #1595828 posted on 2015-07-08 16:03:12 by NukePuke

Got some sharp folks on this blog. I did not know the location of the test reactor but I do recall the name Cerenkov radiation. Is it sometimes also called "braking radiation"? I think that is the English translation of the German word "Bremsstrahlung". Is it called braking radiation as it occurs when a particle travelling near the speed of light is slowing down in a medium where the local speed of light is less than it is in a vacuum and less than the speed of the particle? Also isn't the amount of Cerenkov radiation "glow" proportional to the amount of radioactivity in spent fuel? Before spent fuel is removed from the water in a spent fuel pool is the characteristic blue glow essentially gone?

Working Together -- The Southern Exposure 2015 Exercise

posted on Thu, 09 Jul 2015 17:35:55 +0000

Roger Hannah Senior Public Affairs Officer Region II [caption id="attachment_6429" align="alignright" width="434"]



NRC officials participate in an exercise at the headquarters Operations Center. The Operations Center will be active with officials participating during the upcoming Southern Exposure 2015 exercise. Every year, NRC managers and staff members in headquarters and the agency's four regions participate in nuclear power plant emergency exercises. The plants are required to exercise their plans every other year, and NRC response team members use these exercises to keep their skills sharp and to identify areas for improvement. The exercises provide valuable experience and make each plant's overall emergency response program better. State and local responders and the plant staff have a crucial role in each of those exercises, but many federal agencies that would be involved in an actual serious nuclear emergency rarely participate. In a little more than a week, the NRC, along with state and local officials in South Carolina, Duke Energy, FEMA and the Department of Energy, will stage a full-scale exercise at the Robinson nuclear plant in South Carolina. It's being called Southern Exposure 2015. This exercise will bring together not only the usual exercise participants, but also many other agencies that would have a role in a real event. In addition to the NRC, FEMA and DOE, federal agencies participating include the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Labor, the Interior, Transportation, Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency. Southern Exposure 2015 will begin on Tuesday, July 21, with activities much like the exercises the NRC regularly sees. On Wednesday, July 22, the NRC will be joined by those other federal agencies in a broad response to the simulated events at the Robinson plant. The NRC and the other federal agencies will work closely with state and local officials and Duke Energy's plant operators and managers to achieve the objectives of the exercise. Victor McCree, the Regional Administrator for Region II, will serve as the NRC's Site Team Director for Southern Exposure 2015, leading the NRC team in South Carolina. The NRC will also support the exercise with staff in the regional office in Atlanta and headquarters in Rockville, Md. While McCree has participated in countless exercises, he acknowledges this one is unique. It's a rare opportunity, he said, to work with so many organizations across federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector. People living and traveling near the Robinson plant during the exercise may hear and see actions associated with the simulated response. These could include response vehicles, field monitoring teams and low-flying aircraft, but the exercise should not affect normal traffic or other activities in the area. While the likelihood of a severe nuclear accident in this country is low, the Southern Exposure 2015 exercise is designed to allow all the organizations involved, federal, state and local, to address the simulated accident's effects on the economy, environment and public health – and be better prepared to respond if the events were real.

Comments

comment #1596104 posted on 2015-07-10 09:00:19 by

I am glad you plan to have a fully integrated exercise in the near future at this power reactor site. Do you have similar, smaller scale emergency exercises for the 31 test reactors located in 21 different states near large population centers? Security-related exercises involving the theft of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) and sabotage would be most appropriate. But as I understand it these test reactors are not even required to have an emergency plan let alone test it periodically. Also they are not required to have a plan to protect their reactors from a so-called security "Design Basis Threat" like power reactors must?! If so, the NRC is grossly negligent in their purported mission to protect the health and safety of the public! Nuke Puke

comment #1596126 posted on 2015-07-10 10:23:18 by X-posed

Interesting name choice for the exercise -- isn't "exposure" what we'd want to avoid?

comment #1596150 posted on 2015-07-10 12:11:11 by Garry Morgan

In your exercise scenario please inform those pesky gas, "hot particles" and contaminated coolant emissions to pay particular attention to the 10 mile zone, I'm sure the wind, weather and radioactive emissions will obey command and control's every wishes. Maximum sarcasm intended for your unrealistic Emergency Planning Zones. .

comment #1597229 posted on 2015-07-13 10:32:03 by Half-TruthSlayer in response to comment #1596283

Gosh what a good comment Garry! The NEI and the nuke industry are pulling all the strings! Need to upgrade this site to have a "like" button. This comment deserves a number of them!

comment #1599706 posted on 2015-07-22 23:17:38 by Terri Gentile

While the likelihood of a severe nuclear accident in this country is low, In the event, it would be a disaster

comment #1596283 posted on 2015-07-10 21:55:39 by Garry Morgan in response to comment #1596010

The 3rd official flag of the confederacy would be appropriate, "The Blood Stained Banner." Please insure the NEI special interest flag is not flown higher than the Stars & Stripes.

comment #1596010 posted on 2015-07-09 21:10:56 by Ken Clark

Will there be a Confederate flag flown outside the exercise headquarters?

comment #1596011 posted on 2015-07-09 21:14:12 by CaptD

If the NRC managers and staff members in headquarters were smart, they would surprise everyone and choose another NPP, which would make the exercise more realistic! I suggest they use San Onofre NPP, since it is now just being Decommissioned and they can try and determine why Unit 3 suffered FEI while Unit 2 did not. BTW: We know what the answers and have sent them to the NRC but the NRC still is not publicly accepting them. This exercise would be a perfect time to revisit what happened at San Onofre on 01/31/12 when Unit 3 started leaking reactor core coolant! More here: [#SanOnofreGate](#) The new hashtag that will allow you to keep up to date on the ongoing investigation into the \$5 billion SCE-CPUC ripoff of SoCal ratepayers, caused when SCE's in-house replacement steam generator program (RSG) design team decided to get a 50.59 instead of a 50.90, thanks to their cozy relationship with NRC Region IV. Here is a great trade article where one of SCE's Engineers together with a colleague that worked for MHI bragged about all the "improvements" they made, any of which should have triggered a 50.90 review but the NRC remained mum. Note: It came out the very same month that Unit 3 started leaking ☹ reactor core coolant. Improving Like-For-Like Article: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/347889/col-nrc-tech-paper.pdf>

Enhancing NRC Public Meetings

posted on Tue, 14 Jul 2015 13:56:42 +0000



Lance Rakovan Senior Communications Specialist The NRC holds a lot of public meetings – more than 1,000 a year. Sometimes we seem to hit the mark with stakeholders. Sometimes not so much. In any event, we are always looking to make our meetings better. I recently co-chaired a group of NRC staff members who were tasked with providing the agency's Executive Director for Operations (EDO) with a list of recommendations to make our public meetings better. We took a comprehensive look at the NRC's public meeting policies, processes, and guidance, including their implementation, and made recommendations to improve those aspects of our work. The group provided its report to the EDO earlier this year ([ML15029A456](#)). Who was part of the group? The group's members included representatives of the two offices that conduct by far the most NRC public meetings (the offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and New Reactors); members from all four NRC regions, including a public affairs officer; and many others. The task group members brought to the table extensive public meeting experience. The task group considered additional public input provided through sources such as:

- Years' worth of feedback received through the NRC's Public Meeting Feedback Form;
- The results of extensive public outreach- and meeting-related interviews and surveys involving the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station; and
- Input received during previous public meetings addressing public involvement.

This information was instrumental in the task group's work and informed decisions the group made. Now that the report is done, what are the next steps? NRC staff members are currently creating and revising our policies and guidance, including our policy statement on public meetings. Our intent is to engage the public by sharing draft products for comment and holding a public meeting once some of the improvements recommended by the task group have been made. We hope that you will participate in those activities and continue to provide your input through the Public Meeting Feedback Form (fill out a hard copy at a meeting or provide your input electronically by clicking on "meeting feedback form" for meetings on the [public meeting schedule](#)) as well as through discussions with NRC staff. Our goal is to provide the public with useful information on our activities and to conduct business in an open manner, while at the same time ensuring that we can carry out our mission. As the agency takes action on the recommendations, we'll update you via the blog on proposed improvements, progress we're making, and how the public can be involved with initiatives.

Comments

comment #1598268 posted on 2015-07-16 10:08:18 by Nuke Puke in response to comment #1597781

Well, Engineer-Poet lets add censorship to secrecy in all things nuclear. Our freedom of speech is the last hope we have not only against Koch & Buffett but against other 1 per centers that support nuking us further. I guess we should look to you to determine who is knowledgeable and who is not?!

comment #1598290 posted on 2015-07-16 12:04:30 by Nuke Puke in response to comment #1598268

While Engineer-Poet is working to limit input, especially input that is contrary to his playbook, the NRC should consider the following: Public Meeting Feedback In seeking how to improve NRC public meetings, the NRC in an NRC Blog mentioned that the NRC used a "Years' worth of feedback received through the NRC's Public Meeting Feedback Form". Of the 1000 or so public meetings held during that time frame, how many completed public feedback forms were submitted that you reviewed? Also how many "public" meetings were held during that year that really weren't public? That is they were either partially or completely closed to the public? Of course you realize that each time you exclude the public from meeting participation you erode our trust in you. You also cause us to speculate on just why you would do such a thing?! It raises a red flag not only to us but to those who may not have the best interests of the USA at heart. What are you hiding? For example, you have excluded the public from some meetings regarding post-Fukushima flooding analyses performed by US nuclear plants. I suspect in those cases that the flooding analyses results may be alarming and show nuclear power plant vulnerabilities. If so, keeping this information from the public including county and state emergency response personnel seems quite inappropriate. There were a couple of these closed meetings that included representatives of state and federal elected officials. Naturally these folks can be trusted but members of the public cannot. NRC secrecy is of great concern to me.

comment #1600701 posted on 2015-07-26 12:45:45 by creativebiolabs

NRC?

comment #1597887 posted on 2015-07-15 07:36:05 by drbillcorcoran

NRC, UCS, ANS, NEI, and other stakeholders having divergent perspectives should post YouTube videos on how to prepare for an NRC public meetings. Proper Prior Planning Practically Prevents Pathetically Poor Performance Failing to plan is planning to fail. Good seamanship of meetings: Never take your vessel anywhere you haven't already been with your brain.

comment #1597781 posted on 2015-07-14 23:44:43 by Engineer-Poet

The NRC should work to discourage or bar "input" from activist pressure groups and their agents (especially those which are financed by anonymous donors or money-laundering foundations) in favor of knowledgeable members of the public (e.g. James Hansen). It is currently possible for the Koch brothers and Warren Buffett to donate to a foundation which finances an "environmental" group to stand against a nuclear plant which threatens their fossil-fuel mining or transport business. These wealthy donors have far too much influence against the true public interest. It is long past time to take that influence away.

comment #1598568 posted on 2015-07-17 11:09:17 by Engineer-Poet in response to comment #1598268

While Engineer-Poet is working to limit input

Given [his own problems with sticking to the truth](#), it does not surprise me that Nuke Puke defends the obscenity of agents of fossil-fuel interests calling themselves "environmentalists" and peddling falsehoods to the Commission and the public in PUBLIC hearings. Such people do not represent the public, they represent oligarchy. If those people want to speak in NRC public hearings, let them declare who they actually speak for (under penalty of perjury). If the wealthy want to use mouthpieces anonymously they are quite able to buy ads in the media, pay for their own rallies, etc.

Of the 1000 or so public meetings held during that time frame, how many completed public feedback forms were submitted that you reviewed?

That's not my job. Are you EMPLOYED to do this? Who is your employer, and what is their agenda? Let's have some truth from you.

Of course you realize that each time you exclude the public from meeting participation you erode our trust in you.

[Each time you turn a public meeting into political theater with hecklers doing their best to silence anyone outside their camp](#) you erode public trust in the process. Tell us who your employers are and what they pay you to do, then we can decide whether to trust you or not. (For the record I have never been to an NRC hearing or meeting, and have never set foot in Vermont. I'm also semi-retired and have no financial interests in anything nuclear, though I do have some interests in wind farms via mutual funds.) I have no objections to the agents of oligarchy speaking in NRC meetings and hearings so long as they properly represent the facts, themselves and who they're speaking for. Allowing people to lie about matters of fact, including who they represent, erodes public trust. The agents of "political theater" like Gary Sachs and his band of agitators should be specifically expelled by no-trespass order.

comment #1599589 posted on 2015-07-22 10:53:13 by Engineer-Poet in response to comment #1599199

please do not judge the rest of us folks, who have grave concerns about nuclear power, based on the actions of reprobates like him.

Why not? Gary Sachs is the "bad cop" to your "good cop". You both have the same goal. I want to see you admit that you were wrong about the NRC's enforcement authority and its use of it. Somehow, for all your "concern" and "expertise", you did not (admit to) knowing about the NRC keeping Ft. Calhoun shut down until its problems had been corrected, and more significantly, *until its safety culture had been greatly improved*; you were claiming the exact opposite, but you have not walked that back. For all your "concern" and "expertise", you don't seem to understand that more people died in each of the San Bruno gas-line explosion and several recent New York gas explosions than died from radiation in ALL the meltdowns

of commercial light-water reactors in the WORLD, EVER. I call that "more than adequately safe". Yes we can do better, but that's good enough to use it to replace the dangerous stuff (like natural gas and [ugh!] coal) while we work on the next generation. How about getting right with the truth?

comment #1597632 posted on 2015-07-14 12:51:05 by CaptD

BTW: Since the NRC has the stated mission to improve its public outreach, it should immediately improve its blog system to eliminate the moderation delays, that more than anything will help improve the public discussion about what the NRC is and is not doing. Three key issues regarding public meetings: 1) Assign a percentage of scheduled meeting time for questions and discussion, far too many NRC meeting have far too little public input. 2) Provide WWW coverage, with the ability to ask questions for every public meeting, which will enable orders of magnitude more of the public to get involved. 3) Provide HD quality video of the meeting as what is currently being provide is poor, considering what is current technology available.

comment #1597695 posted on 2015-07-14 17:48:06 by djysrv

The nuclear utilities regulated by the agency have a strong stake in NR C meetings not being disrupted by political theatre or publicity stunts. The agency needs to think about how it managed meetings which are both civil and safe for all who want to participate in making their views known.

comment #1599199 posted on 2015-07-20 09:34:51 by Nuke Puke

@ Engineer-Poet (E-P) I don't recall being in Vermont either E-P, but I hear it is a beautiful state and really we both should visit it sometime. E-P, I haven't been to an NRC hearing or meeting since I worked in the nuke industry many years ago. And then it was for NRC meetings that I had to attend as a representative of a small nuclear utility in the Midwest. We both should try to attend an NRC meeting on a strictly voluntary basis! I am fully retired E-P and I highly recommend it. You should upgrade to it from your "semi-retired" status as soon as you can. I had to look up this Gary Sachs you mention E-P. He should have been thrown out of the meeting. But please do not judge the rest of us folks, who have grave concerns about nuclear power, based on the actions of reprobates like him. But do these agitators (and the evil ones that may be behind him), pay good money for "expert" nuclear testimony on their behalf? I could use the extra money E-P. I am on a fixed pension and the extra change would come in handy. Just kidding E-P (unless the price is right!). PS In researching the behavior of some activists at NRC meetings as Engineer-Poet has brought to my attention, I think: People who show disrespect and contempt for others draw attention, not to the issues that supposedly concern them, but to themselves and their contemptible behavior. There are so many attention whores out there, prostituting for people's acknowledgment. Jason Myers Ignoring a child's disrespect is the surest guarantee that it will continue. Fred G. Gosman Moderator Note: Some verbiage removed to adhere to comment guidelines.

Updating Nuclear Materials Transportation Regulations

posted on Thu, 16 Jul 2015 14:32:51 +0000

Michele Sampson Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch The idea of transporting nuclear materials can make people nervous. It's easy to imagine worst-case accidents on the highway or involving a train. But stringent safety requirements, as well as coordination among federal agencies, international regulators, and state and local officials, help to ensure these shipments are made safely. This structure provides many layers of safety.



From time to time, the requirements are updated to address new information. The International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. Department of Transportation recently updated their requirements. The NRC just amended ours to reflect those updates, as well as to make some [changes](#) we felt were needed based on recent experience. You can read the [Federal Register notice](#) on the final rule, published June 12. While the rules are revised periodically, the fact remains that nuclear materials are transported safely all the time. By far the majority of shipments involve small quantities of nuclear materials. Millions of these shipments are made each year and arrive at their destination without incident. Smaller shipments must be made in compliance with DOT regulations for shipping hazardous materials. The greater the potential risk of the contents, the more stringent DOT's packaging requirements are. The DOT regulations limit how much radioactivity can be transported in each package. That way, no transport accident involving these small shipments would pose a serious health threat. But what about larger amounts of radioactive materials? What about spent nuclear fuel? In addition to having to meet DOT requirements, more radioactive cargo such as spent fuel must meet NRC regulations for nuclear materials packaging and transport in [10 CFR Part 71](#). These regulations include very detailed requirements for shipping under normal conditions, as well as stringent tests to show the packages can withstand severe accidents. These are the regulations we just finished updating. If you would like to learn more about the transportation of spent fuel and radioactive materials, see our [backgrounder](#).

Comments

comment #1598276 posted on 2015-07-16 11:07:37 by Nuke Puke

Thanks for the update. Just how many spent fuel shipments have been each year in the US since the year 2000? How many of these spent fuel shipments were necessary to remove spent fuel from the 93 nuclear sites in the US? How many of these shipments supported either a temporary or

permanent, centralized, and remote storage location? I know getting all this spent fuel removed from the backyards of millions of people must be a very high NRC priority. Especially so with the rise in international terrorism. Thanks.

comment #1598343 posted on 2015-07-16 16:10:16 by CaptD in response to comment #1598276

Great questions all! It would also be good to know what casks were used for what types of storage since far too many casks are having problems and N^o cask has been approved for High Burn-Up Fuel ... High Burn-Up fuels and the problems generated by allowing its use:
<http://sanonofresafety.org/nuclear-waste/> ♣ Issues with dry cask storage for San Onofre Nuclear (Waste) Generating Station
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLr0WR5oSjU&feature=em-share_video_user

comment #1598393 posted on 2015-07-16 20:43:37 by richard123456columbia

For the public it would be helpful to have reports of the worse shipping accidents that have occurred. I know of one but must of being many because of money spent on newer packaging.

comment #1598444 posted on 2015-07-17 01:18:34 by Erica Gray

The spent fuel pools have been reracked/reconfigured, are filled to the brim and are holding more spent fuel than they were originally designed. To make matters worse, the NRC put the cart before the horse when they allowed the industry to use high burn up fuel, before having a real understanding on how this fuel will behave in continued storage and transportation. There needs to be a ban on production of nuclear waste until there is scientific evidence/proof that the waste will be safe and that there is a permanent location to store it. Shipping nuclear waste via highway or rail to temporary sites is ridiculous.

comment #1598561 posted on 2015-07-17 10:22:47 by in response to comment #1598276

The responsibility for establishing national policy for storage and disposal of spent fuel lies exclusively with Congress and the President. The Department of Energy is responsible for its implementation. Spent nuclear fuel shipments from the NRC-licensed nuclear power reactors over the past few years have been limited to a few rods or assemblies for research or testing. The NRC's regulations in Part 71 also apply to shipments of fresh fuel to the power reactors and of spent fuel from research reactors. Hundreds of shipments here in the U.S. and abroad have safely been completed using NRC-reviewed packages for these types of fuel. Maureen Conley

comment #1598565 posted on 2015-07-17 10:49:10 by in response to comment #1598343

Actually, quite a few casks have been approved for the transport and storage of high burnup spent fuel. This post focuses on transport of spent fuel. Information on the types of casks storing spent fuel at different reactor sites can be found in Appendix P of our Information Digest, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/v26/sr1350v26-sec-7.pdf> Maureen Conley

comment #1598566 posted on 2015-07-17 10:50:01 by Nuke Puke in response to comment #1598561

Thanks for the prompt informative response Ms. Conley. What is the NRC's position on a centralized remote storage location for spent fuel in this country? Although Congress, the President, and the DOE are responsible for spent fuel storage and disposal, as you stated, in the interest of public safety, what has the NRC done to influence these entities to get moving on this critical safety issue?

comment #1599382 posted on 2015-07-21 10:40:51 by Nuke Puke

Thanks for the response Mr. McIntyre. Just Incredible It is just incredible that a federal agency with the sole mission of protecting public safety and health has no position on the proper storage of spent fuel. It is obvious to even the layman that getting this spent fuel shipped away from nuclear plant sites is the proper and safe thing to do. Allowing spent fuel "constipation" to occur at 93 nuclear sites all over this country is just grossly negligent! Since the NRC has a passive role with regard to establishing a centralized (away from populated areas) storage location for spent fuel, are you hiding the truth from us? If the NRC had an active role in demanding such a safe centralized location would that tip the hand of terrorists, for example, that storing all this spent fuel in overloaded spent fuel pools all across the country really poses a public safety and national security issue for the US? Of course I am suspicious because the NRC keeps stuff from us all the time. The NRC, alone among all agencies, has a special classification above confidential called "safeguards information" by which thousands of additional items are kept from the public. Recently some nuclear power plant flooding analyses results were kept from the public. Only the Corps of Engineers and the nuclear utility owners were allowed to attend these NRC meetings. This kind of secrecy erodes public trust. Nuclear is the only source of energy production that has failed to provide for a safe means to take care of the wastes generated from its use. And this is high level radioactive waste. This shameful foot-dragging and neutrality on such a significant safety issue has got to stop!

comment #1599368 posted on 2015-07-21 09:04:27 by Moderator in response to comment #1599242

The question you raise about whether spent fuel should be consolidated into a central storage facility or eventually disposed of in some place or manner is a policy question for Congress, the administration (Department of Energy) and ultimately the industry. The NRC, as the independent regulator, does not advocate one policy option over another. Our job is to ensure that whatever option chosen is implemented safely. The two potential applicants for a license to construct and operate a centralized storage facility are Waste Control Specialists in Andrews, Texas, and the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance in New Mexico. There have been several news reports about their intentions that you can find through Google. On your third question, following the 9/11 attacks, the NRC conducted several studies to assess the vulnerabilities of nuclear power plants and spent fuel pools to terrorist attacks. Here iare some Q&As that reference those studies: <http://www.nrc.gov/security/faq-security-assess-nuc-pwr-plants.html#1> . Many of the mitigation strategies identified have since been incorporated into NRC regulatory requirements, and are even expanded upon in the context of natural phenomena in response to lessons learned from Fukushima. More general information about physical security of nuclear facilities is available here: <http://www.nrc.gov/security/domestic/phys-protect.html> . Dave McIntyre

comment #1599242 posted on 2015-07-20 14:43:43 by Nuke Puke in response to comment #1599208

I so appreciate the opportunity to dialog with you Ms. Moderator. Will you provide the names of the potential applicants that have approached you with regard to a centralized interim storage facility. They ought to be recognized for their efforts to address a long-standing safety issue. You use the

term "stand ready" to review applications submitted to the NRC. Of course I was hoping for an active role on your part not this passive one. Isn't "Stand ready" a PC term for "Stand by" or even "Not taking a stand"?! Even the nuclear industry folks in this case have taken a strong stand and made a strong case for getting a centralized storage facility ASAP. As their regulator why are you standing by on such a critical public safety and national security issue?! Of all federal agencies you have the unique technical expertise to forecast just how devastating a terrorist attack on an overloaded spent fuel pool could be at any one of 93 sites across the US. Perhaps you already have performed such an analysis and it has been kept secret? At least let us know if you have analyzed this unlikely but dangerous scenario. Thanks.

comment #1599208 posted on 2015-07-20 10:45:35 by Moderator in response to comment #1598566

As you note in your comment, the policy decisions related to spent fuel disposal do not lie with the NRC. However, we have met with potential applicants to provide information on our regulatory requirements and stand ready to review applications for centralized interim storage when they come in. Maureen Conley

comment #1600999 posted on 2015-07-27 20:07:50 by Public Pit Bull in response to comment #1599832

Thanks Chris. I guess I shouldn't take the NRC to task or even attempt to hold them accountable for anything, especially putting public safety first and foremost. That mission statement of theirs, well, they really don't mean it. Is there any point at which we should properly take care of this high level waste that is piling up all over our country?! Who will have the balls to stand up for our country and the public? Certainly not the NRC, they might be taken to court for trying to do the right thing. Yes Chris there is usually more resistance when you take a stand than in just sitting back and doing nothing. At least in Japan when all spent fuel pool cooling was lost they did not have their pools overloaded to three times their original capacity like those in the US. The threat of terrorism is I think very real these days and our overloaded spent fuel pools make juicy targets. Someone needs to stand up for the public. So I will just keep on pinning on the NRC to live up to their real reason for existence.

comment #1599600 posted on 2015-07-22 11:55:44 by Nuke Puke

Sorry, the safe, away-from-reactor storage of spent fuel is not just a "policy option", it is a public safety and national security issue. Ignoring the growing spent fuel pool overloading and "constipation" problem at 93 sites in the US is not a "policy option", it is a complete abrogation of your responsibility to put public safety first. When you do not take a stand you really do not stand for anything NRC. How can you say that you are an "independent" regulator? Do you even know the meaning of the word? You are more "dependent" or even "codependent" than "independent". The NRC is not an agency either, you have become an agent of the nuclear industry, the White House, and Congress. The NRC is not a nuclear industry watchdog, you are industry's lapdog!

comment #1599832 posted on 2015-07-23 11:43:38 by Chris in response to comment #1599382

It is interesting that you take the NRC to task over trying to remain unbiased regarding any waste storage reviews it might be asked to perform. And yet, I bet that you would be one of the first to call for any Commissioner to recuse him/herself were they shown to have taken up a past position on some issue that is counter to yours. In truth, the NRC's approach is the best. If the NRC were to take up an official policy position regarding what it believes is the "safest" approach towards spent fuel disposal, any future decision it makes on the subject could be challenged in court by the side negatively affected by that decision. This would only serve to add additional delays towards deployment of a storage solution (and not to mention wasting tax payer money). The reality is that there is not one "safest" method of disposal. Many of the proposed methods can be implemented safely or not safely. It just depends on the actual details of implementation and how much money the country wants to spend. As the NRC reps have attempted to explain to you, and you seem to completely ignore, the subject of what disposal approach the country should take is the responsibility of Congress and the Executive Branch (i.e. DOE). The NRC's sole role - mandated by law, mind you - is to determine whether the proposed approach is being implemented safely. It can only do that effectively if it keeps an open mind and limits its attention to the specific proposals put before it to review. I suspect that no amount of beratement of the NRC on your part will change that. Your beef is really with DOE. I wonder if they have a blog where you can post similar comments.

Safeguarding The Nation's Secrets

posted on Tue, 21 Jul 2015 14:00:58 +0000



Robert L. Norman Sr. Program Manager, Safeguards Information
health and safety, the NRC uses information security procedures to prevent sensitive information from getting into the wrong hands. The NRC puts sensitive information in three categories: classified, Safeguards Information (SGI), and Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI). Each category has specific marking requirements and security procedures. Although the NRC is the only agency with the authority to set requirements for protecting SGI, most agencies have requirements for the protection and designation of unclassified sensitive information. You've

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health and safety, the NRC uses information security procedures to prevent sensitive information from getting into the wrong hands. The NRC puts sensitive information in three categories: classified, Safeguards Information (SGI), and Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI). Each category has specific marking requirements and security procedures. Although the NRC is the only agency with the authority to set requirements for protecting SGI, most agencies have requirements for the protection and designation of unclassified sensitive information. You've

probably heard the terms Top Secret, Secret, and Confidential; these are categories of classified information. Each category has a corresponding federal security clearance level needed for access. Executive Orders, Security Classification Guides and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, lay out criteria for protecting information and identifying what nuclear information is classified at a particular level. A breach of classified information could threaten national security. SUNSI, while generally unavailable to the public, does not require a federal security clearance. This category of information contains various types of information, including Personally Identifiable Information and attorney-client privilege. SUNSI is protected by the Privacy Act, NRC and other federal agency regulations. While classified information and SUNSI are broad categories, SGI is much narrower. The SGI designation covers the physical protection of nuclear facilities and materials. This includes operating reactors, spent fuel shipments, and radioactive material at certain levels. Nuclear facilities require high security measures. Armed guards, physical barriers, and surveillance systems are just some of the ways we protect nuclear plants. Information about these detailed security measures is carefully guarded. Without SGI protection, people could use this information to attempt to circumvent physical barriers and break into security systems. Section 147 of



the Atomic Energy Act requires the NRC to regulate SGI. The NRC is in charge of deciding what qualifies as SGI and how to protect it. A specially trained group of personnel, called SGI Designators, create and/or check documents for SGI. Even though a federal security clearance isn't needed for access, SGI is treated similarly to Confidential information. Individuals must pass a background check and have a "need to know" to access SGI. The use of SGI has often come into question. The Office of the Inspector General conducted an audit in 2004 of the NRC's protection of SGI. According to the audit, the Confidential classification could protect SGI without seriously affecting costs. However, NRC staff concluded the proposal would require the government to perform thousands of expensive federal security clearances and change how information is stored and encrypted. A switch to a lower designation, such as standard official use only, would put security at risk. Current regulations already protect SGI without breaking the bank. Another OIG audit revisited the topic in 2012. This audit discussed giving people outside of the NRC and its licensees access to SGI. The OIG recommended setting up a specific plan for granting outsider access. Based on the recommendations, outsiders will still need to undergo background checks and have a "need to know." The NRC strives to be as open and transparent as possible. However, when it comes to safeguarding sensitive information for the good of the country, and our licensees, information protection will always take priority over transparency.

Comments

comment #1600908 posted on 2015-07-27 11:39:50 by Garry Morgan

Quote: "...information protection will always take priority over transparency..." Of course it will, even if the protection is inappropriate. The silence is disclosing the message, 'shhh, we got secrets that are killing the unsuspecting citizens, that is why they are secrets.'

comment #1599846 posted on 2015-07-23 13:07:43 by Garry Morgan in response to comment #1599557

Thanks Doc, this discloses another classification, "Attorney Client Privilege" I did note this link in a search concerning "the Oconee/ Jocassee Dam vulnerability concealment" <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1425/ML14258A077.pdf> This link disclosed another classification on page 170 of the PDF - " EX 5 (3) Withhold All, Attorney Client Privilege." Criminal or inappropriate activity such as negligence, on whose part? Another linked article where engineers make some profound statements, "... a reliability and risk engineer with the agency's (NRC) division of risk analysis, alleged that NRC officials falsely invoked security concerns in redacting large portions of a report...The redacted information shows that the NRC is lying to the American public about the safety of U.S. reactors...Although it is not a given that Jocassee Dam will fail in the next 20 years...it is a given that if it does fail, the three reactor plants will melt down and release their radionuclides into the environment.""
<http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2012/10/nrc-whistleblowers-higher-risk-of-nuclear-melt-down-in-u-s-than-fukushima.html> Very revealing. It seems that by the NRC's own admission, someone in the agency made the decision to inappropriately withhold safety information. In so doing they intentionally deceived the public, the only question that remains, what was the outcome of the OIG investigation for inappropriate classification of safety information which would save human life, or is that classified? Has the policy of inappropriate classification of public safety related information been corrected?

comment #1599393 posted on 2015-07-21 12:16:41 by Garry Morgan

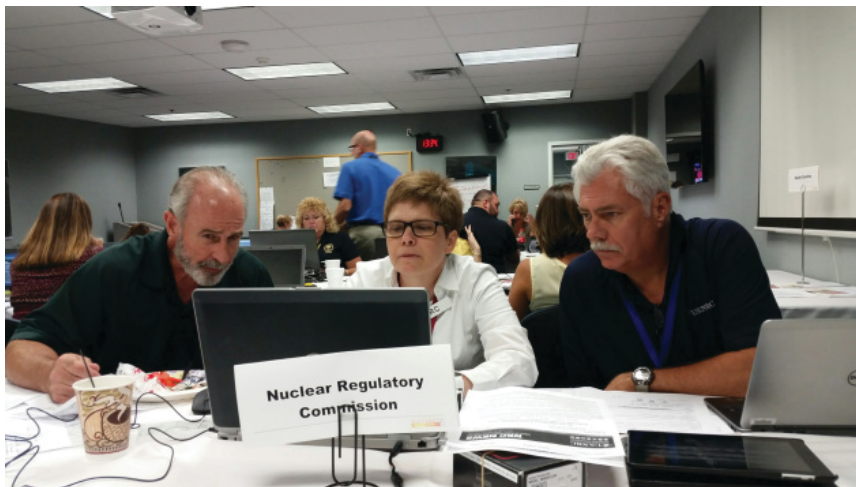
A question of balance? It is my opinion that the NRC and nuclear power operators have grossly abused the system of security classifications. There is a place for information safeguards, it is not community safety and the hiding of operative failures on the part of nuclear operators and you, our regulator. Never should information regarding safety of nuclear facilities be classified as "proprietary information," IE WANO and INPO safety reports which directly demonstrate safety and Human Reliability shortcomings of nuclear operators and NRC failures. The NRC supports this inappropriate classification. SHAME ON YOU for hiding safety reports, it is wrong and is demonstrative of the NRC's support of the nuclear industry instead of 100% support of safety and disclosure of safety issues. You are the regulator not INPO and WANO, it should be made plain to all involved that all public safety issues will be disclosed, that is not the case. Another bothersome issue is the withholding of security inspections, particularly physical and force on force inspections. It is my opinion that your tests of the security of nuclear facilities are minimalistic and weak. I recognize the importance of not disclosing security weaknesses, unfortunately there is a question of trust and information that may be disclosed. Trust is earned, and ladies and gentleman of the NRC, you have not earned it, in my opinion. Primarily because of the lack of appropriate disclosures of safety related information. Utilizing contracted personnel for physical security and the lack of disclosures of failed oversight regarding tests of security does not facilitate trust. This is a nuclear industry wide problem, not just the NRC. There is further concern when the public hears statements from Congress which amount to threats of defunding the NRC because of your regulatory responsibilities. How is the public to know that your mission of protection and safety of the public is accomplished without appropriate disclosures?

comment #1599557 posted on 2015-07-22 08:00:04 by drbillcorcoran

What happened with the Oconee/ Jocassee Dam vulnerability concealment episode?

Putting Crisis Communication Plans to the Test

posted on Wed, 22 Jul 2015 18:25:08 +0000



Public Affairs staffers Roger Hannah, Stephanie West and Joey Ledford work together in the Joint Information Center during the national level exercise dubbed Southern Exposure 2015. It included dozens of federal, state and local agencies working together under a scenario of a simulated nuclear power plant accident in South Carolina. For the full story, go [here](#).

Comments

comment #1599814 posted on 2015-07-23 10:13:25 by Nuke Puke

Proper Communications a Must I think it is good to feature PR folks responding to a simulated nuke emergency. For PR folks have dropped the ball so often in not only dealing with a real disaster but with just about every nuclear issue with which

they are involved. Of course TMI was a disaster and the communications during the event were delayed, incorrect, and eroded public trust in the industry and the NRC. The 2011 Fukushima disaster left its mark on many Japanese. "There's nobody that they trust any more for information", said Dr Evelyn Bromet at the University of New York. The NRC communications to Americans on Fukushima were just as bad as they were during TMI. This after all the "improvements" in emergency communication plans since then. In his book, Fukushima, Dave Lochbaum details the confusion and mixed signals transmitted by NRC PR folks during the Japanese disaster. Hopefully this exercise demonstrates a marked improvement in those communications!

comment #1599674 posted on 2015-07-22 19:00:26 by CaptD

Figures that a photo of three NRC Public Affairs staffers would be THE image shared with the public about this "Exercise", where they have to gather elbow to elbow to see what is going on... How many "observers" from the public were present, I bet NONE.

A Decommissioning of a Different Sort: NRC Resident Inspector Office at Vermont Yankee Shuts Down

posted on Thu, 23 Jul 2015 14:57:58 +0000



Neil Sheehan Public Affairs Officer Region I

Something happened last week at the [Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant](#) that might not merit headline news but is nonetheless worth highlighting: The lights were turned off for the last time in the NRC's Resident Inspector office at the site. As is well known by now, Vermont Yankee permanently ceased operations last December, bringing to a halt power production that had begun in November 1972. Since 1978, when the Resident Inspector program was launched, the NRC has had two such inspectors assigned to the site. Among other things, these inspectors have kept close watch on day-to-day activities, responded to events, performed inspections and reviews and served as a vital conduit of information to the NRC. But commensurate with the reduced safety risk associated with a permanently shutdown reactor, the NRC has ended its daily inspector presence. The NRC had kept a Resident Inspector at the Vernon, Vt., site to allow us to maintain on-site scrutiny during the early stages of the transition from an operating plant to one entering

decommissioning. (Vermont Yankee will be using the [SAFSTOR approach](#), which will involve placing the unit in storage for many years before embarking on major decontamination and dismantlement work.) Although the Resident Inspector office has closed, NRC's review activities have not come to a halt. Rather, the agency will continue to perform inspections at the plant on a periodic and targeted basis. For instance, whenever there is major work taking place, such as the demolition of a nuclear-related building or the removal of spent fuel stored in the plant's spent fuel pool into dry casks, an NRC inspector will be present. In addition, NRC will conduct inspections at the site at regular intervals to check on the plant's safety status and any key developments until all spent fuel has been removed from the site and the plant's NRC license is terminated. Anyone seeking to contact the NRC regarding Vermont Yankee can continue to do so by calling the agency's Region I Office via its toll-free phone number at 1-800-432-1156 and asking for the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety or by e-mail at OPAI@NRC.GOV. Vermont Yankee is not unique with respect to this change involving the Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant. Three other plants that have shut down in recent years have also seen this changeover.

Comments

comment #1599888 posted on 2015-07-23 15:52:04 by Half-TruthSlayer

Too bad the NRC still has to have some involvement at a nuclear site even with the reactor there long shutdown. As long as spent fuel is there you must remain involved. At utility/taxpayer expense. There are now 25 reactors shutdown across the country. And the spent fuel sits there causing not only NRC involvement but the costly involvement of utility personnel to guard it from sabotage. What a waste, all because the NRC has not provided for a safe centralized storage location. store this waste. the costly

comment #1599889 posted on 2015-07-23 16:00:49 by George Courser

Are we supposed to take heart here - with onsite presence of the most toxic substances ever generated left to the control of defunct and failing corporations? Here's the NRC bailing out on responsibility with a part-time status. Any abdication of control of deadly radioactive compounds is not welcome news to the at-risk public. Tell us again just how SAFE San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is... gcourser@hotmail.com

comment #1599908 posted on 2015-07-23 17:56:20 by CaptD

The NRC should also have Resident Decommissioning Inspectors since there will be RISKS that need to be monitored for decades and trusting Utility Operators of these decommissioned Reactors to do the job is simply "Poor Judgement" by the NRC, no matter what the Utilities say.

comment #1600244 posted on 2015-07-24 20:18:04 by Public Pit Bull

The inaction by the NRC on this spent fuel problem is inexcusable! Almost 2,000 years ago a Roman official washed his hands of the blood of an innocent man. In their own sick way today's NRC is washing its hands of our innocent blood.

comment #1600268 posted on 2015-07-24 22:16:07 by Crystallography

Thanks for your sharing! This should be paid attention.

comment #1600102 posted on 2015-07-24 09:52:33 by Nuke Puke in response to comment #1599888

Sorry for the messed up prior message. Let me try to clear up Half-TruthSlayer's last post. Dereliction of Duty Too bad the NRC still has to have some involvement at a nuclear site even with the reactor there long shutdown. As long as spent fuel is there the NRC must remain involved. At utility/taxpayer expense. There are now 26 reactors shutdown across the country. And the spent fuel sits there causing not only NRC involvement but the costly involvement of utility personnel to nurse-maid it, check it, and guard it from sabotage. What a "waste", all because the NRC has not provided for a safe centralized storage location. Not having a safe centralized location for spent fuel puts us all at considerable risk, not only from radiological sabotage but from a Japanese-type nuclear disaster. The NRC is waiting for others to act on this problem while they sit back and watch these dangerous nuclear stockpiles grow all over the US. They are the ones that know the dangerous consequences from a spent fuel accident. The NRC should be cited for dereliction of duty with regard to their stated mission of protecting public health and safety!

UPDATE: Reducing Proliferation Risks AND Treating the Sick

posted on Tue, 28 Jul 2015 14:53:13 +0000

Steve Lynch Project Manager Research and Test Reactor Licensing Branch The United States does not produce a medical isotope used domestically in millions of diagnostic procedures each year. We're talking about technetium-99m, or Tc-99m — which has been called the world's most important medical isotope. Tc-99m is created from another radioisotope, molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), which, in some cases, is produced using highly enriched uranium. A supply shortage that delayed patient treatments several years ago, coupled with the desire to reduce proliferation risks, prompted the world community to find better ways of securing the future supply of this isotope. In 2012, Congress passed the American Medical Isotope Production Act to support private U.S. efforts to develop non-HEU methods for medical isotope production and begin phasing out the export of HEU. The National Nuclear Security Administration has been promoting domestic Mo-99 production using different technologies through formal cooperative agreements with commercial partners. These partners and several other companies have said they are interested in producing Mo-99 in the U.S. They have proposed using several different technologies, ranging from non-power reactors to accelerator-driven, subcritical solution tanks. To support the transition to new technologies, the NRC is prepared to receive and review applications for construction permits, operating licenses, and materials licenses for new facilities, as well as license amendments for existing non-power reactors. In fact, we are now reviewing two construction permit applications and a license amendment request. We licensed a small-scale technology demonstration project earlier this year. Companies, facilities, and technicians involved in producing and administering Tc-99m to patients may also need to be licensed by either the NRC or an [Agreement State](#). (There are 37 Agreement States, which have formal agreements with the NRC allowing them to regulate certain nuclear materials, including medical isotopes.) For more information on the role of the NRC and other agencies in regulating the use and production of medical isotopes and other nuclear materials, visit the NRC [webpage](#). *Kara Mattioli also contributed to this post.* This is an update to the original blog post, which originally ran in October 2013

Comments

comment #1601176 posted on 2015-07-28 15:47:27 by Moderator in response to comment #1601132

Your comment prompted us to search for a preferred spelling for the word. It appears both on our website and elsewhere online under both spellings. While technetium appears to be the more common spelling, technicium is used by a number of authoritative sources, including this 2014 EPA report on radiation assessments: <http://epa-sdcc.ornl.gov/RadRiskCommunityGuide.pdf> In this case, we kept the spelling chosen by the original author of the blog. Moderator

comment #1601564 posted on 2015-07-30 13:57:07 by Moderator in response to comment #1601557

Please take a look at page 2 of the EPA document at that URL. Moderator

comment #1601557 posted on 2015-07-30 13:06:21 by John Coupal in response to comment #1601176

I'm confused. That EPA URL you supply includes only the spelling, technetium. Where does that alternate spelling appear in it? And, what other authoritative sources employ the alternate spelling? All this may seem petty, but I'm sure it can confuse those of us familiar with the radionuclide and those who are not.

comment #1601312 posted on 2015-07-29 10:23:05 by Public Pit Bull

Tombstone Regulation This is yet another example of the NRC waiting for others to act on a serious nuclear issue. As one commenter has already pointed out using Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) in the first place to produce a medical isotope was "foolish and counterproductive". Now the NRC has waited until Congress finally acted to address this issue and now the NRC waits for others to step up to the plate to actually address this national security issue. Did the NRC ever take a position or lobby Congress to address this issue before Congress finally acted? Or as I suspect, did the NRC let others carry the water for them? Our passive NRC does not take a stand for public health and safety as their mission statement reads. The NRC has the technical expertise to support doing the right thing, they simply don't use that expertise to lobby for safety improvements. The sad situation is that our passive NRC has not taken a stand on other issues as well. • High Level Waste (HLW)-this nation's 93 spent fuel pools contain three times the amount of spent fuel they were originally designed to contain. They contain three times the amount of spent fuel that resided in those damaged spent fuel pools in Japan. Yet our NRC has taken no position on this growing safety problem in the US. • Nuclear Plant Safety Upgrades-about three fourths of the US nuclear fleet have been granted lifetime extensions by the NRC. These plants were required to analyze their plants for needed safety upgrades. Many safety improvements were identified in this process. The NRC did not require any of these plants to actually implement those safety upgrades. • Post-Fukushima Upgrades-the nuclear industry successfully lobbied the NRC to only address mitigation strategies in the event of a Fukushima disaster here in the US. The NRC did not require US nuclear plant owners to implement prevention strategies. Thank God the old NRC required both prevention and mitigation strategies as a result of the Three Mile Island disaster in '79. In discussing this with a friend of mine who is very familiar with NRC practices, he said the NRC is only a "tombstone regulator". Many people have died from nuclear disasters at Chernobyl and Fukushima. My friend said that until many more people die from a nuclear disaster in the US, the NRC will not act. How tragic and sad!

comment #1602027 posted on 2015-08-01 12:12:11 by John Coupal in response to comment #1601176

OK, trying not to beat a dead horse. That spelling on page 2 of the URL appears to be a typo that wasn't caught. EPA's later detailed pages on Tc-99 spell it with a second "t", not a "c".

comment #1601132 posted on 2015-07-28 11:09:29 by John Coupal

minor correction: the isotope is spelled technetium-99m

comment #1601142 posted on 2015-07-28 12:09:41 by adrossin

This policy on HEU was one of the most foolish and counterproductive policies that U. S. ever initiated.

Lining Up New Protections with New Flood Info

posted on Thu, 30 Jul 2015 16:03:08 +0000



Lauren K. Gibson Project Manager Japan Lessons Learned Division

The NRC is moving forward on connecting two important lessons we learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan: [protecting key safety functions](#) and reevaluating flood hazards. The agency's ongoing work would require U.S. nuclear power plants to ensure their protection strategies account for updated flood levels. The Commission has [approved](#) the staff's plan for completing the reevaluated flooding hazards review. The staff's plan also covers how U.S. plants must account for the new hazards in their mitigation strategies for beyond-design-basis events. The plan requires U.S. plants to determine which flood hazard data could affect their strategies. We believe this approach is the quickest way to provide the most significant flood protection improvements. The NRC assesses plants' re-evaluated flood hazards to see whether the re-evaluated hazards were properly calculated. Plants need these assessments to evaluate their strategies against the re-evaluated hazard. We're still reviewing some plants' work; we're issuing interim letters so those plants know how to follow the rest of the staff's plan. The plants examine whether their strategies work under the new hazard conditions and make any appropriate adjustments. For example, a strategy might require a pump in a location submerged by the new possible flood level. The plant would then consider options such as relocating the pump. These assessments and adjustments would be substantially complete by 2016. The second part of completing the flooding hazard work involves either a focused evaluation or a broader integrated assessment of the plant's protection capabilities. The specific work depends on:

1. Which hazards, if any, cause flood levels higher than the plant's original level.
2. Whether the plant's flood protections have available physical margin. (For example, if the new flood hazard level is six feet and a plant's existing wall is seven feet tall, the wall has available physical margin to handle the new flood level.)
3. Whether the higher flooding levels disable the plant's ability to cool the reactor core or spent fuel pool, or protect containment.

If the local intense precipitation hazard is the only cause of a higher level, then the plant performs a focused evaluation. If other flooding hazards are involved, but the plant has available physical margin and can maintain safety functions, then the plant only needs a focused evaluation. The focused evaluation would identify any physical or procedure changes needed to address the new flood level. We would review and inspect these changes to ensure they resolve the issue. The remaining plants would perform an integrated assessment, looking at all flooding hazards and identifying any changes needed to protect the plant from the new hazard. We'll review these assessments and decide if voluntary plant actions would be effective or if the NRC must order plant changes. You can find out more information about [Recommendation 2.1—Flooding](#) on the Japan Lessons Learned portion of the NRC website.

Comments

comment #1601875 posted on 2015-07-31 19:34:44 by CaptD

Again: Nature can destroy any land based nuclear reactor, any place anytime 24/7 since Nature does not follow NRC guidelines! What happens if the flood waters (ie. 7 foot in the above example) suddenly becomes 12 feet, is the NRC going to issue SCUBA equipment to millions? This is why many consider what the NRC is doing is simply placating the Nuclear Industry who then complains about every safety modification required...

comment #1601608 posted on 2015-07-30 17:51:22 by Half-TruthSlayer

Why then NRC are you keeping some flooding analyses results from us? You have held secret meetings on certain results. Seems like we can always trust you to share the good news. But what about the bad? So much for openness and transparency NRC!

comment #1601565 posted on 2015-07-30 14:10:32 by Michael J. Palmer

The most unsafe thing in Nuclear Power Plants today are the tubes on the outside of the valve to Equalize and release Thermal Binding on any steam application on Nuclear Valves. I have solved Thermal Binding and gotten rid of unsafe tubes on the outside of the valves. In an Earthquake or Tidal Wave something can damage the tubes on the outside of the valves and you just lost control of the Nuclear Power Plant. It solves Thermal Binding and CCOP and goes BEYOND DESIGN BASIS EVENT. Over 2000 Nuclear Engineers have joined my LinkedIn. The USNRC asked the world to solve Thermal Binding in a 1995 Brief. It never did. This is it.

Celebrating a Facebook Milestone

posted on Wed, 05 Aug 2015 14:06:02 +0000



Stephanie West Public Affairs Specialist for Social Media

Now we can start measuring the life of our official [NRC Facebook page](#) in years. One year ago we published our very first Facebook post. In that welcome message we said we were excited about using our new platform to enhance interaction with the public. We think we've had some success in this area. Our posts are certainly viewed and shared by the Facebook community, our links are clicked, and some of our posts prompt comments. So far, about 1,900 people have liked our page, and more than 17,000 have engaged with our content in some way. Though some ideas for content have been less popular than others, we're enjoying the process of learning what our audience finds most interesting. For example, we've discovered that people are most engaged with our Facebook posts that highlight and link back to this blog. That's important to us because we see that our strategy to cross-pollinate our social media platforms is effective. It broadens our audience. After all, we want to reach as many people as possible. Also well-received are posts that leverage the popularity of social media trends like Throwback Thursday and those that shine a spotlight on the people who make up our organization. We're learning that our audience is best served by a mix of content that covers both the serious and complex nature of our mission, and which allows us to be a little more lighthearted. Check out the post we published on July 15 recognizing National Ice Cream Month, and how the NRC has a hand in making this delicious treat. We've been using social media for several years now, but we are just getting our feet wet with social networking. So we'll keep plugging away trying to refine our communications on Facebook and our other platforms to best inform, engage and expand our community.

Comments

comment #1602945 posted on 2015-08-05 14:15:47 by David Black

As a member of the nuclear industry, it's nice to know that the NRC is focused on National Ice Cream month.

A Road Trip through the NRC Website

posted on Tue, 11 Aug 2015 15:42:45 +0000



Ivonne Couret Public Affairs Officer

It's summer, so you're probably going on a road trip somewhere. While perhaps not as interesting as a jaunt to Yosemite or Niagara Falls, a "road trip" through the [NRC website](http://www.nrc.gov) won't involve a lot of bickering in the back seat or repeated stops at gas station rest rooms. So here we go. First stop is the subject area tabs -- **NUCLEAR REACTORS**, **NUCLEAR MATERIALS**, **RADIOACTIVE WASTE**, **NUCLEAR SECURITY** and **SAFEGUARDS**, **PUBLIC MEETINGS** and **INVOLVEMENT**, **NRC LIBRARY**, and **ABOUT NRC**. This is where you will find the links to web pages for more information on NRC programs and current regulatory activities. These subject area tabs aim to be a source of general information organized by topic in an accessible fashion. Second stop is the **FACILITY LOCATOR**. This is where you can find facilities near you by NRC region, or state, including operating power reactors, nuclear material facilities, research and test reactor sites, major nuclear fuel facilities licensed by the NRC, as well as all kinds of sites undergoing decommissioning. These locations are listed by state or by site name. Third stop is the link to **ADAMS**, the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, the official recordkeeping system. This is where you can access our online libraries or collections of publicly available documents. Here you can also find agency correspondence to Congress or plant reports. Fourth stop is the **PUBLIC MEETING CALENDAR**. This page allows you to search both currently scheduled meetings and previously held meetings dating back to October 1, 2003. For example, if you want to see a list of meetings for the next month in your state, enter a start date and an end date and select your state from the drop down list. You can also find copies of past presentations and agendas. Fifth stop is the **COMMISSION MEETING WEBCASTS**. This page allows you to view live or archived Commission meeting webcasts, or other NRC meeting webcasts hosted on the NRC webcast portal. So here you can watch meetings and participate virtually in the regulatory process from the convenience of your computer. The final stop is a special overlooked spot --the **WHAT'S NEW** section. Here you can find direct links to recent regulatory documents posted on our website. You can find them listed by the date added to the site in chronological order and as well as past month and year, such as the April 24, 2015, posting of [NUREG/BR-0523 Mitigating Strategies: Safely Responding to Extreme Events](http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/docNREG/BR-0523). There is still so much more to discover. Try using the [upgraded search tool](#) to find other areas. And we're updating the Student Corner section soon, so stay tuned. We hope you, enjoy both your real summer road trip and your trip through the NRC website Thanks for visiting!

Comments

comment #1604317 posted on 2015-08-11 15:28:55 by CaptD

I can't wait to be able to use the NRC site to find out more about the San Onofre Replacement Steam Generator Debacle? In short, how do I locate all the information that has been submittal to the NRC, the ASLB and others at the NRC about San Onofre without hitting a wall that says that it is being decommissioned and all investigations are closed while the NRC is spend BIG money trying to look into FEI, which is what the Debacle at San Onofre is all about?

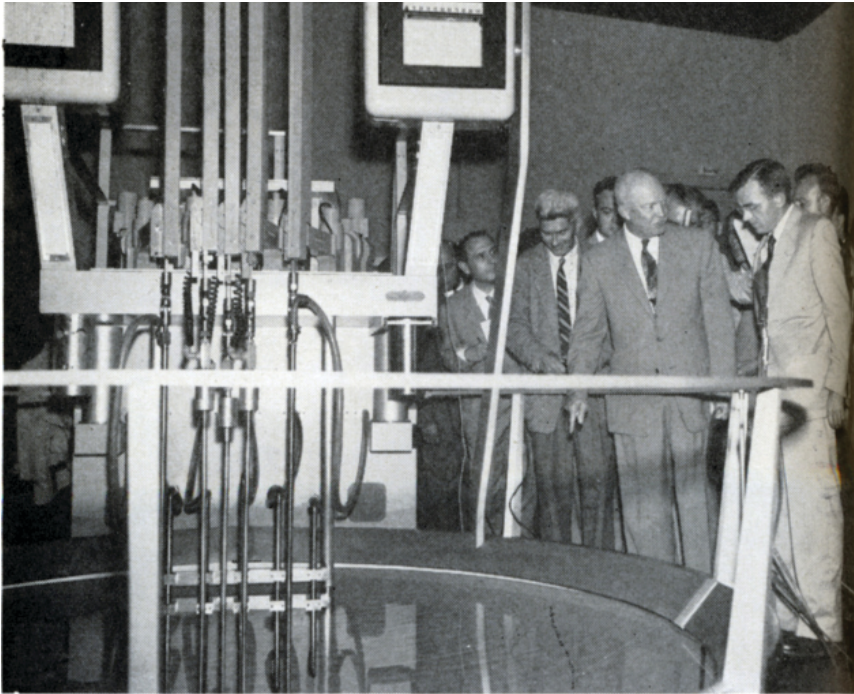
comment #1604332 posted on 2015-08-11 16:59:45 by Moderator in response to comment #1604317

This might be helpful: <http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/power-reactor/songs/tube-degradation.html> Moderator

comment #1604340 posted on 2015-08-11 18:07:29 by Nikohl Vandel

Throwback Thursday – RTR Gets a Presidential Viewing

posted on Thu, 13 Aug 2015 14:08:16 +0000



President Dwight Eisenhower tours the Oak Ridge National Lab's "swimming pool" research reactor, flown from the U.S. to Geneva for the United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. This concept soon became a model for numerous research reactors around the world. Now check your history books. What year was this?

Comments

comment #1606978 posted on 2015-08-22 11:21:51 by Half-TruthSlayer in response to comment #1605844

All 50 reactors in Japan remain shutdown. Nuclear power had provided 30% of Japan's electricity. Despite rising energy costs in Japan, they have been able to get by without nuclear power. In the US around 100 nuclear plants provide 20% of our electricity. As the NRC has done nothing to prevent an identical disaster here in the US, we could lose 20% of our power supply overnight. In addition since the EPA has issued an overreaching rule that phases out coal-fired power plants and even penalizes lower-pollutant emitting natural-gas power plants, our nation's entire electric grid could collapse. The public does not need an enemy when we have the NRC and the EPA. Another example of a government that's here to help us?!

comment #1606974 posted on 2015-08-22 11:02:30 by Half-TruthSlayer in response to comment #1605844

The number of people who have died as a result of having to evacuate the areas around Fukushima now exceeds 1,000. Particularly hard hit are seniors and the disabled. Some people simply die because they lose hope. They can never return to their homes. In some cases displaced folks can't even return long enough to pick up personal belongings and heirlooms. No other disaster has such long-lasting effects on people and the environment. All of Japan's nuclear reactors are still shutdown as a result of the disaster and it has been over 4 years. Costs for electricity have skyrocketed. Talk aboutva double whammy. Nuclear simply no longer makes sense!

comment #1604694 posted on 2015-08-13 11:19:56 by David

I think it was 1955.

comment #1604710 posted on 2015-08-13 12:41:50 by Moderator in response to comment #1604685

Yes, correct. 1955. Moderator

comment #1604685 posted on 2015-08-13 10:23:28 by Steven

As a result of President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program, the United Nations in August 1955 conducted the first International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva, Switzerland.

comment #1604974 posted on 2015-08-14 15:01:03 by CaptD

Yet another view of what has been happening since Ike: Government Has Been Covering up Radiation Danger for 67 Years
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/radiation-danger-covered-up-ever-since-nuclear-weapons-invented/32390>

comment #1605844 posted on 2015-08-17 12:25:11 by Nukesince69 in response to comment #1604974

What a useless article from global research. Bombs and NPP, like forest fire and home fireplace or 10,000 gal. gasoline tank explosion and my cars engine. Guess I should not move to Denver and get 800 mRem per year, I'm sure I will be much healthier getting 300-500 mRem in SC. I still wonder what that 1,000 mRem I got in a half hour in 1970 did, nothing.....LNT actually kills people, such as the 800-1,000 people that died leaving Fukushima so they would avoid 2-5 Rem per year for a few years or the ones that die because they refused a CT scan.

On the Wild Side at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants

posted on Wed, 19 Aug 2015 14:41:18 +0000

Neil Sheehan Public Affairs Officer Region I Examples abound of the ways in which nature abhors a vacuum. Raptors will set up shop on a skyscraper ledge, just as they will on a cliff, if it suits their needs. Coyotes have been increasingly spotted in urban settings, even roaming about the streets of [Manhattan](#). Last year, surveillance cameras captured images of a mountain lion strolling the [Hollywood Hills](#) after dark. [caption id="attachment_6506" align="alignright" width="630"]



This falcon is resting on equipment at the TMI nuclear power plant site. Photo courtesy of TMI[/caption] Nuclear power plants are also home to a variety of wildlife. Despite the industrial nature of these facilities, they are usually situated on large tracts of land encompassing hundreds of acres. They are also adjacent to bodies of water in order to tap into that H₂O for cooling purposes. All of that property and access to water can entice a variety of animals and birds to take up residence on the sites. And they do just that. Information supporting this can be found in the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Reports (PSDARs) for U.S. nuclear power plants that have ceased operations. In the report for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, which was submitted to the NRC in December 2014, it's noted that the main emissions stack includes an attached nesting box for peregrine falcons. The box was installed by the company in 2009 at the request of the Audubon Society. It's been a rousing success, as according to the report "there have been two consecutive years of four young born and successfully fledged since 2012." Current decommissioning plans call for the Vernon, Vt., plant to be placed in storage for several decades prior to the initiation of major dismantlement work. However, when the time comes to remove the stack, the plant's owner will need to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to removing the nesting box since the peregrine falcon is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Peregrine falcons can also be found at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, in central Pennsylvania. The PSDAR for TMI-2, where a severe accident occurred in 1979 and which won't be taken apart until the neighboring TMI-1 permanently shuts down and is also ready for that work, shows peregrine falcons have nested on the TMI reactor building since 2002. [caption id="attachment_6508" align="alignleft" width="300"]



An osprey can be seen in flight at a nuclear power plant site. [/caption] Meanwhile, the plant's meteorological tower, which collects important weather data, has been home to an osprey nest every year since 2004. Ospreys, also referred to as fish hawks (with a wing span from around 5 feet), like to be around water, so it's not surprising that TMI, situated on the Susquehanna River, is a place they call home. A variety of wildlife can be found in the vicinity of the Crystal River 3 nuclear power plant, located on the Gulf Coast of Florida. That plant's PSDAR, which the NRC received in December 2013, identifies the following threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of

the site: Two species of fish -- Gulf sturgeon and smalltooth sawfish; five species of sea turtles -- green turtle, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, leatherback and loggerhead; one crocodilian species -- American alligator; and one marine mammal -- Florida manatee. But on the site itself, only one state-listed threatened species, the bald eagle, and one state-listed endangered species, the wood stork, are found, according to the report. The PSDAR adds that three other species can "potentially occur" on the property: the gopher tortoise, the eastern indigo snake and the piping plover. In the case of all of these plants and the others around the country, precautions must be taken to minimize the impacts of operations and decommissioning activities on these species and their habitats, consistent with federal and state laws.

Comments

comment #1606460 posted on 2015-08-20 06:51:54 by in response to comment #1606308

Why would they be living in a "higher Radiation zone", Nuclear plants are regulated and monitored more than any other industry in the world... more unmonitored radiation at your house than near a nuclear plant!!

comment #1606481 posted on 2015-08-20 08:50:48 by Moderator in response to comment #1606303

PIDS -- Perimeter Intrusion Detection System -- is one element of each nuclear power plant's multi-layered security defenses. Birds can land on fences or nearby and cause a perturbation in the system. Other animals could also impact it. There is software that can be used to help screen out "nuisance" alarms. However, if an alarm is generated when a bird lands or due to other wildlife activity, it would need to be assessed visually to determine if there's a threat or not. Neil Sheehan

comment #1606709 posted on 2015-08-21 12:02:07 by biodiversivist

Turkey Point in Florida has it's share of wildlife: <http://www.energytrendsinsider.com/2015/03/03/turkey-point-power-station-and-its-ecosystem/>

comment #1606308 posted on 2015-08-19 12:59:10 by stock in response to comment #1606303

I would assume they die slowly, after having their gonads mutated and having mutated offspring, smaller than normal too. Funny how the abandoned nuclear plants are waiting for 60 years to "cool down" so there are less radionuclides to deal with. Yet we "celebrate" that some of our rare, and national icon, wildfire is living in a higher radiation zone. All this as the NRC is trying to push through the hormesis lie, which goes.....radiation is good for you, why deprive people of the benefits of radiation in their bodies.

comment #1606302 posted on 2015-08-19 12:29:08 by Jorge andrade

what happen with PIDS and nuisance alarm ? How to control the birds to avoid alarms pids ?

comment #1606303 posted on 2015-08-19 12:33:30 by John Coupal

I assume that all wildlife attracted to nuclear power stations die. And die painfully and quickly. I'm just trying to fit in with the zeitgeist of posters here.

comment #1606287 posted on 2015-08-19 11:20:08 by Half-TruthSlayer

I feel better. Glad someone is keeping an eagle eye on nuclear power cause it's not the NRC!

comment #1606280 posted on 2015-08-19 10:54:32 by Kris Altizer

Great post! We have white-tail deer, bald eagles, and hundreds of geese at VC Summer Station!

comment #1606624 posted on 2015-08-21 01:40:12 by stock in response to comment #1606308

Anon, did you really say that?

The Freedom to Demonstrate Demonstrated in Crow Butte Hearing

posted on Tue, 25 Aug 2015 14:03:42 +0000

Victor Dricks Senior Public Affairs Officer Region IV [caption id="attachment_6518" align="alignright" width="499"]



Demonstrators voice their opinion ahead of an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearing. Both opponents and supporters of the [Crow Butte](#) Resources, Inc.'s uranium recovery facility near Crawford, Neb., faced off this week during a hearing before the [Atomic Safety & Licensing Board](#). The hearing, presided over by three ASLB judges, involves a challenge to the renewed license issued to the facility in late-2014. The ASLB is an independent body within the NRC that conducts adjudicatory hearings and renders decisions on legal challenges to licensing actions. The ASLB judges are hearing evidence this week addressing nine contentions filed by opponents of the facility from several local residents and the Western Nebraska Resources Council, known as consolidated interveners, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The hearing is being held in the Crawford Community Center. Four of the contentions are related to the safety review and five are related to the environmental review. The contentions challenge the adequacy of the evaluation and protection of historical resources at the site, and the NRC's analysis of the facility's impacts on surface water, groundwater and the ecosystem. The hearing will run until all evidence has been heard. In filings with the ASLB, the Oglala Sioux Tribe said it will argue that NRC failed to adequately follow all legally required processes before issuing a 10-year license extension for the facility, causing the tribe "irreparable harm," as a result. [caption id="attachment_6525"



Iris Paris of Crawford, Nebraska, greets ASLB judges for their hearing today. Expert witnesses scheduled to speak on behalf of the interveners include Dennis Yellow Thunder and Michael Catches Enemy of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, as well as an archaeologist, a biochemist and three hydrologists. The ASLB hearings come just weeks after a documentary film titled "Crying Earth Rise Up" produced by Lakota grandmother Debra White Plume premiered here in Crawford. The 57-minute film presents a case against uranium mining. Owned by the Canadian Cameco Corp., Crow Butte Resources has been conducting in situ recovery of uranium for nuclear power plants at its site four miles east of Crawford for 20 years. Cameco is the largest operator of uranium mines in the United States. The company has submitted applications for three uranium recovery site expansion projects, which are in various phases of NRC

review. The ASLB has 90 days after the conclusion of next week's hearing to affirm, modify or reverse its decision to renew the operating license for Crow Butte.

Comments

comment #1607725 posted on 2015-08-25 11:14:44 by Nikohl Vandel

I do encourage the reclamation and recovery of uranium from our spent fuel, reading more about this project -- whatever happens, ZERO impact on the local communities and environment should be the operational standards for any nuclear project. And, #solidarity with the Sioux positions.

comment #1607726 posted on 2015-08-25 11:16:33 by Nikohl Vandel

Reblogged this on [Niki V.all.ways.My.way.](#) and commented: Uranium, in general, a miracle that causes more problems right now than its worth.

comment #1607728 posted on 2015-08-25 11:20:27 by Punyamp3

this article is good :)

comment #1608694 posted on 2015-08-28 19:34:01 by Alex Brant-Zawadzki in response to comment #1608649

Thank you for your swift and thorough reply. I enjoyed reading the NRC blog entry on Debra White Plume's efforts.

comment #1608601 posted on 2015-08-28 12:28:02 by Alex Brant-Zawadzki

Has there been much media presence or interest? What has the tone of the questioning been like? How on Earth can it be appropriate for a company to operate on a Temporary License for eight years? Thank you for this thoughtful piece.

comment #1608649 posted on 2015-08-28 16:13:04 by NRC in response to comment #1608601

Reporters from three weekly newspapers and three video documentary producers attended the meeting. The tone of the questioning by the ASLB judges was rigorous, detailed and technical concerning the hydrology and geology of the site. The company has been operating under an NRC-issued license for 25 years. That license was renewed for another 10 years in November 2014. NRC licensing rules permitted opponents to subsequently raise additional contentions, which were the subject of this week's hearing. Victor Dricks

comment #1608602 posted on 2015-08-28 12:29:24 by beezling

Reblogged this on Rapsclionism and Scallywaggery.

comment #1607875 posted on 2015-08-25 20:19:34 by charles ostdiek

thanks, victor, are these hearings being recorded? if so, where will links to the recordings be published? --charles ostdiek cochair, green party of the u.s. cochair, nebraska green party

comment #1608040 posted on 2015-08-26 11:56:34 by Moderator in response to comment #1607875

No, the hearings are not recorded. Victor Dricks

REFRESH -- Astounding and (Perhaps) Little Known Facts about the NRC and Radioactive Materials

posted on Thu, 27 Aug 2015 16:01:05 +0000



Brenda Akstulewicz Regulatory Information Conference Assistant Nuclear and radiation-related trivia is anything but trivial. It can be unexpectedly interesting – and you may find some of it surprising. This is a REFRESH of some little known “factoids” compiled from folks throughout the NRC. * In the 1930s, a failed experiment by a Swiss physicist for detecting gas using a radioactive source led to the discovery of smoke detectors when the scientist lit a cigarette and the detector registered a reaction. The NRC approved 70 different smoke detector designs in 2012. * It is estimated if only one NRC technical reviewer did each design certification application review, it would take 32 years to complete the review.



* Some lightning rods contain Radium-226 to make them more effective. * The NRC's first Chairman, Bill Anders, was an astronaut on Apollo 8's mission to the moon. * NRC Inspectors from Region IV get a lot of frequent flier miles. They review activities in remote locations such as Guam, Saipan and the northern reaches of Alaska, among other locations. * The NRC was the first federal agency to give the public electronic access to all of its public documents through the groundbreaking system known as ADAMS (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System). * The final safety evaluation report for the ESBWR design certification document contains about 3,800 pages. * The fastest growing use of nuclear materials in medicine is for diagnostic and cancer treatment procedures in veterinary medicine. * The indicator lights in early appliances — such as clothes washers and dryers, coffeemakers, and



stereos — used Krypton-85, a radioactive isotope. * The NRC performs classified reviews of new Naval Reactor submarine and aircraft carrier reactor plants and provides advice to the Navy on the designs. This practice was initiated by President Kennedy in the 1960s. * Three women have held the title of Chairman -- Allison Macfarlane, Shirley Jackson and Greta Dicus. * In 1992 Hurricane Andrew struck the Turkey Point nuclear power plant in Southern Florida, which prompted the NRC and FEMA to enter into a "Memorandum of Understanding" regarding emergency preparedness.



* NRC's longest serving commissioner was Commissioner Edward McGaffigan. He served 11 years (from 1996-2007) after appointments twice by President Clinton and once by President Bush. He died while still serving on the Commission. * On average, NRC expends 6,160 hours of inspection effort at each operating reactor site each year. *This post originally ran in Summer 2013.*

Comments

comment #1608355 posted on 2015-08-27 13:58:48 by Engineer-Poet

I would like to know why thorium, which has no uses in e.g. nuclear weapons, requires a highly restrictive and expensive NRC license even for possession of a sample of a few hundred grams.

comment #1609318 posted on 2015-08-31 15:11:08 by Moderator in response to comment #1608485

Each year, the NRC publishes its Congressional Budget Justification [NUREG-1100](http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/plans-performance.html). This publication describes the agency's programs in the performance plan, the budget estimates for these program activities, the distribution of the budget. For more information visit the website at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/plans-performance.html>.

comment #1608371 posted on 2015-08-27 14:47:54 by Moderator in response to comment #1608355

Thorium is source material, regulated under Part 40. There are exemptions (40.18) for "unimportant quantities" contained in certain products (gas mantles, optical lenses, dosimeters), and "small quantities" (1.5kg) for commercial and industrial firms, research and educational institutions and government agencies (40.22). Also, anyone is allowed to possess unrefined and unprocessed ore in which the source material is less than 1/20 of 1% by weight, provided they don't process it. David McIntyre

comment #1608382 posted on 2015-08-27 15:19:22 by Engineer-Poet in response to comment #1608371

Source material for what, and how would anyone use it? I looked at the cost of a license to possess a small sample. As I recall, it was over a thousand dollars and had a limited term. For a sometime-lecturer who likes to have samples of things to pass around a room full of people, such costs are prohibitive; this amounts to an effective ban. This is probably why there are no suppliers any longer.

comment #1608485 posted on 2015-08-27 23:35:16 by stock

How many FTE NRC employee are there, include the subcontractors. Mahlao

comment #1608555 posted on 2015-08-28 07:51:48 by Joe

Wasn't Dixie Lee Ray also a Chairman (although it was AEC at the time)?

comment #1608570 posted on 2015-08-28 09:06:49 by John Coupal

As one who has worked in the clinical nuclear medicine field, your statement that veterinary medicine is heavily into employing such diagnostic and therapeutic agents is intriguing. From diagnostic bone scans in humans to those in racehorses is minimal stretch, except for accommodating patient mass, which is very do-able with today's technology. Thanks for the info!

comment #1608572 posted on 2015-08-28 09:26:59 by NRC in response to comment #1608555

Yes, Dixy Lee Ray was Chairman of the AEC. In this blog post, we are highlighting those who've held the position at the NRC.