

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coord
Subject: March Monthly Report
Date: April 14, 2008

Beans:

Training: 2
Drills 0
Meetings: 4
Technical Assistance: 1
Public Assistance: 2
SAIC 1

Web Page Hits: There were 53 RAD hits in March.

Coming Attractions:

IRTC – D&D RAD 4/3
URSB 4/11
NEPAC 4/17
SAIC 4/21 4/28

Facility Updates:

Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station

Davis Besse operated at full power for March.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Perry plant operated at full power until March 12 when the plant reduced power to isolate a suspected leak in a fuel pin assembly. The leak was isolated and the plant returned to full power on the 20th of march and remained there the rest of the month.

Beaver Valley Unit I

Beaver Valley Unit I started March at 82 percent power for water box cleaning and returned to full power on the 5th. The Unit operated at full power for the rest of March. On the 14th a non-licensed employee failed a drug test and was suspended from access to the plant site.

Beaver Valley Unit II

Beaver Valley Unit II operated at full power for March.

Fermi II

Fermi operated at full power for March. On March 13, Fermi reported that the Reactor Building (RB) to Suppression Chamber (Torus) vacuum breaker isolation valves would not perform their design function. The vendor subsequently identified this as a problem with extended overpressure testing and internal hydraulic lockup that needed to decay for several hours.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Meetings:

3/13 IRTC RAD in Soil – A USEPA sponsored webcast on insitu soil contamination monitoring.

3/19 Working Group – Agency status reports, plant updates, and planning for the April URSB meeting. This meeting has been changed to the 11th on a Friday instead of the normal time to accommodate OEMAs schedule.

3/19 After Action A review of the open items and dealing with the issues for the next exercise. All open topics are now assigned and the lead agencies will complete as needed.

3/25 RAT Forms Met with Bill Palmer and Jeff W to go over the forms that we will present at the Spring RAT Training

3/26 Beaver Valley Systems Training – biennial training prior to the graded exercise.

3/28 RAT Steering Teleconference to finalize agenda and details of the Spring RAT Training.

3/17 SAIC

Office Issues:

The Rad web page needs to be updated and a monthly report added. This will be implemented after the Governor's web initiative is finished for all DERR pages.

NRC Reports and Statistics:

March operating power levels

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Fermi2	Perry	
1	82	100	100	100	100	BV1 reduced power for waterbox cleaning.
3	82	100	100	100	100	
10	100	100	100	100	100	
12	100	100	100	100	68	Perry - Power suppression and fuel pin leak testing.
17	100	100	100	100	70	Power suppression testing and rod sequence exchange.
19	100	100	100	100	88	Perry - Testing complete and returning to full power
24	100	100	100	100	100	
31	100	100	100	100	100	

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Judge likely to delay sentencing engineer in Davis-Besse reactor-leak case

By **TOM HENRY**

BLADE STAFF WRITER

October's split-decision verdict in the conspiracy case involving former Davis-Besse engineer David Geisen

seemed to indicate the jury struggled in reaching a consensus about his role in FirstEnergy Corp.'s cover-up,

U.S. District Judge David Katz said while addressing a federal prosecutor in a South Florida courtroom yesterday.

"You have to admit it would seem that by not finding Mr. Geisen guilty on two counts, the jury was showing

how close its decision was and perhaps was throwing Mr. Geisen a bone," Judge Katz told Thomas

Ballantine, one of three U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors who tried the month-long case in Toledo

against Geisen and his co-defendant, Rodney N. Cook, of Millington, Tenn.

Geisen was a FirstEnergy supervisor who oversaw Davis-Besse's old reactor head. Mr. Cook was a

contractor the utility hired to write reports it submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Geisen of DePere, Wis., was convicted Oct. 30 on three of five deception charges by a jury that deliberated

more than 26 hours. Mr. Cook was acquitted on all four counts against him.

Geisen, who faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines, was scheduled to be sentenced April 17.

But Judge Katz said after yesterday's hearing that he likely would push back the sentencing date into May or

June to consider yesterday's arguments.

The center around a defense motion for an acquittal or a new trial.

Geisen's attorneys claimed the jury verdicts were inconsistent with evidence the government submitted

during the trial. Prosecutors disagreed, urging the judge to uphold the convictions.

Judge Katz heard arguments for nearly two hours at the Paul G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S.

Courthouse in West Palm Beach while temporarily in Florida.

The proceeding was simulcast in a room of the Toledo courthouse.

Prosecutors have claimed Geisen, Mr. Cook, and a third accused co-conspirator, Andrew Siemaszko, of

Spring, Texas, were part of a FirstEnergy Corp. cover-up in the fall of 2001 that kept the NRC from finding

out that Davis-Besse's old reactor head was about to burst.

Mr. Siemaszko's trial is set to begin Aug. 11.

A breach in Davis-Besse's old reactor head would have allowed radioactive steam to form in containment for

the first time since the half-core meltdown of Three Mile Island Unit 2 in Pennsylvania in 1979.

Leaky acid had melted away everything but a fraction of an inch of steel in one part of the lid, which is

supposed to be six inches thick.

The NRC has said it relied on information FirstEnergy provided when it allowed Davis-Besse to continue

operating until Feb. 16, 2002, six weeks later than some agency officials had wanted.

FirstEnergy has paid a record \$33.5 million in fines for its corporate role in the scandal.

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Toledo Blade

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Reactor renaissance

Nuclear power is making a comeback, and sources foreign and domestic are racing to meet the need for enriched uranium

Monday, March 24, 2008 2:57 AM

BY JOHN MILLER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOISE, Idaho -- Companies are racing to provide radioactive fuel for America's nuclear renaissance, and they're powering debate along the way.

Even as the government continues to oppose Iran's efforts to enrich uranium for power plants, projects to do just that are under way in this country. General Electric Co. and USEC Inc., along with European rivals Urenco Ltd. and Areva Inc., are pushing billions worth of new U.S. enrichment plants or technology so they don't miss the new uranium boom.

Opponents including the Union of Concerned Scientists fear

that sends the wrong message to countries like Iran. The group argues that it's unclear that the U.S. really needs new facilities when it could just import nuclear fuel.

Still, shipments from Russia, which supplies about 40 percent of enriched uranium for U.S. commercial reactors, are scheduled to be cut roughly in half by 2013. Also, an aging U.S. enrichment facility in Paducah, Ky, is to be shuttered. That means power plants here will have to fill the vacuum, including from new domestic suppliers.

"Even if the nuclear renaissance didn't happen, the U.S. will need more enrichment services to respond to their existing domestic needs," said Laurence Pernot, a spokeswoman for Areva in Bethesda, Md.

Promoters tout nuclear power as an antidote to coal-fired plants that contribute to global warming. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission took applications to build seven new nuclear reactors in 2007, with 25 more licensing requests expected through 2009.

Since last year, officials from French-owned Areva have been tromping around eastern Idaho's lava and sagebrush steppe near the 850-square-mile Idaho National Laboratory site, where U.S. scientists have done nuclear research since 1949. Now, the company is trying to coax the state Legislature into giving it tax breaks to make building in Idaho more attractive.

If it doesn't get them, Areva says it could build elsewhere.

Meanwhile, General Electric is working on a laser process for enriching uranium at a test facility in North Carolina and has indicated its intent to apply for a full-scale project, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Urenco, with enrichment operations in Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, is part of a consortium whose \$1.5 billion enrichment facility has spawned a boomtown in southeastern New Mexico. The plant is expected to open next year.

And Maryland-based USEC is building its American Centrifuge plant in the Ohio town of Piketon and expects to enrich enough uranium there by 2012 to supply a quarter of existing U.S. demand.

"Multiple enrichment facilities provide customers with diversity of supply and competition," said Jeremy Derryberry, a USEC spokesman. "We believe the market

can support all current planned enrichment capacity."

Yellowcake uranium is mined and milled at 20 sites in the United States, according to the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, as well as in Australia, Canada and Kazakhstan. Once out of the ground, the

ore is converted into uranium hexafluoride that's shipped in metal cylinders to an enrichment plant.

Uranium pellets are then taken to a fabrication plant where they're put into fuel rods. Those run reactors at nuclear power plants.

The United States' 104 nuclear power plants get about 85 percent of their uranium from other countries, including the Russian program "Megatons for Megawatts," a 15-year-old program in

which warheads are converted in that country to nuclear fuel and shipped to U.S. commercial reactors.

That program, however, is to end in 2013. A replacement agreement would bring in only about half

the enriched uranium of the existing deal.

What's more, once USEC's new Ohio plant is completed, it plans to close its aging facility in Paducah, Ky., currently the only operating enrichment plant in the United States.

"We do not have adequate enrichment capacity for the existing demand that there is," said Felix Killar, senior director for fuel supply for the Nuclear Energy Institute lobbying group in Washington,

D.C. "It's going to be a tight market for some period of time."

As enrichment fever grows, however, the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington is watching

with unease, on grounds that this activity undermines U.S. credibility with Iran. The U.S. and some

of its allies oppose Iran's expansion of its enrichment facilities, saying it could lead to the development of nuclear weapons.

"The U.S. has said Iran doesn't need nuclear power because of its oil and natural-gas reserves," said

Edwin Lyman, a senior scientist. "Iran turns around and says, 'We want to mitigate greenhouse gas

emissions, just like you do.' There's this kind of double talk."

Lyman said it's also unclear whether the U.S. really needs new enrichment facilities, when it could

lift import restrictions from other countries.

"There's a kind of heady gold rush going on," Lyman said. "But it will be a long time before it's really clear what's realistically justified."

The Snake River Alliance, an Idaho anti-nuclear group, argues that enrichment plants are accompanied by health and environmental hazards. USEC's Paducah facility, for instance, has been

the target of federal lawsuits because of chemicals that contaminate groundwater there after a halfcentury

of operations.

The Idaho group also criticizes Areva's attempt to secure tax breaks for its project.

"It's quite apparent that Areva is looking for a good deal of financial incentive to build a plant here," said Beatrice Brailsford, the group's program director in Pocatello. "It's simply a poor investment for both public money and public resources."

Still, Idaho Falls, where the Idaho National Laboratory is the largest employer and many residents

are comfortable with the idea of reactors in their backyard, wants the plant, which would employ about 250 people.

Ron Longmore, Bonneville County's elected clerk, calculates that the Areva facility would generate

about \$4 million annually in new property taxes, even with the proposed tax breaks.

"We already have top scientists, those people associated with the Idaho National Laboratory," Longmore said. "It would be a clean industry that would fit right in with our environment."

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Facility: FERMI Region: 3 State: MI Unit: [2] [] [] RX Type: [2] GE-4 NRC Notified By: D. DUNCAN / M. HIMEBAUCH HQ OPS Officer: BILL HUFFMAN	Notification Date: 03/13/2008 Notification Time: 18:24 [ET] Event Date: 03/13/2008 Event Time: 14:45 [EDT] Last Update Date: 03/13/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(v)(D) - ACCIDENT MITIGATION	Person (Organization): MARK RING (R3)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
2	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

Event Text

REACTOR BUILDING TO TORUS VACUUM BREAKER PRESSURE SWITCHES MAY NOT PERFORM DESIGN FUNCTION

"March 13, 2008 at 1445 hours, engineering analysis identified that the pressure switches that operate to open the Reactor Building (RB) to Suppression Chamber (Torus) vacuum breaker isolation valves would not perform their design function. The condition impacted the function of both RB to Torus vacuum breaker isolation valves. One vacuum breaker isolation valve has been opened to maintain the function of the vacuum breaker in that line. A plan is being implemented to correct the deficiency and is expected to be completed within the required 72 hour Limiting Condition for Operation expiration time for the current condition. This is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(v)(D) as a condition that could have prevented the fulfillment of the safety function of structures or systems needed to mitigate the consequences of an accident."

The licensee informed the NRC Resident Inspector.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 44064
Facility: FERMI Region: 3 State: MI Unit: [2] [] [] RX Type: [2] GE-4 NRC Notified By: JIM KONRAD HQ OPS Officer: HOWIE CROUCH	Notification Date: 03/14/2008 Notification Time: 18:06 [ET] Event Date: 03/14/2008 Event Time: 10:27 [EDT] Last Update Date: 03/14/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 26.73 - FITNESS FOR DUTY	Person (Organization): MARK RING (R3)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
2	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

Event Text

FITNESS FOR DUTY REPORT

A non-licensed employee supervisor had a confirmed positive for an illegal substance during a random fitness-for-duty test. The employee's access to the protected areas was suspended. Contact

the Headquarters Operations Officer for additional details.

The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector and Greg Hansen in Region III.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 44097
Facility: BEAVER VALLEY Region: 1 State: PA Unit: [1] [2] [] RX Type: [1] W-3-LP,[2] W-3-LP NRC Notified By: KEN TIEFENTHAL HQ OPS Officer: BILL HUFFMAN	Notification Date: 03/26/2008 Notification Time: 14:30 [ET] Event Date: 03/26/2008 Event Time: 07:22 [EDT] Last Update Date: 03/26/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 26.73 - FITNESS FOR DUTY	Person (Organization): WILLIAM COOK (R1)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation
2	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

Event Text

FITNESS FOR DUTY - NON-LICENSED CONTRACT SUPERVISOR

"At 0722 on March 26, 2008 at the Beaver Valley Power Station, a contract non-licensed supervisor tested positive for a controlled substance during a pre-access test. This person's access authorization has been denied and is not currently on site. This is being reported pursuant to 10 CFR 26.73(a)(2)(ii). The NRC resident inspector has been notified of the event."

Contact the Headquarters Operations Officer for additional Information

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 44099
Facility: FERMI Region: 3 State: MI Unit: [2] [] [] RX Type: [2] GE-4 NRC Notified By: PATRICK FALLON HQ OPS Officer: DAN LIVERMORE	Notification Date: 03/26/2008 Notification Time: 15:45 [ET] Event Date: 03/26/2008 Event Time: 10:45 [EDT] Last Update Date: 03/26/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(v)(D) - ACCIDENT MITIGATION	Person (Organization): DAVID HILLS (R3)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
2	N	Y	100	Power Operation	100	Power Operation

Event Text

CONTROL ROOM PRESSURE BOUNDARY DOOR BLOCKED OPEN

"At 1045 EDT, it was recognized that Auxiliary Building Door R5-6 is a Control Center Pressure Boundary door. The door was blocked open at approximately 1400 on 3/24/2008 to support draining for on going maintenance on Division 1 CCHVAC Chiller. Upon recognizing this condition, Tech Spec 3.7.3 Action B.1 was entered for an inoperable Control Center Pressure Boundary at 1045 EDT [03/26/2008], with a 24 hour action to restore the boundary to operable status. Actions were taken to close Door R5-6 at 1120 hours [03/26/2008], and Tech Spec 3.7.3 Action B.1 was exited. This event is being reported per 10CFR50.72(b)(3)(v) as a condition that at the time of discovery could have prevented the fulfillment of the safety function of the Control Room Emergency Filtration (CREF) system. The accident mitigation function of CREF could not be assured during the time Door R5-6 was open without administrative controls to close it, if necessary."

The licensee notified the site NRC Resident Inspector.

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Announcement of new Perry Outages and Work Management Director

Licensee/Facility: FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING CO. Perry 1 PERRY, Ohio Dockets: 05000440 [1] GE-6 License No:	Notification: MR Number: 3-2008-0008 Date: 03/20/2008 E-MAIL from RIO
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Discussion:

The licensee announced that Mr. Harlan Hanson has been named Outages and Work Management Director at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Mr. Hanson has over 20 years of experience in the nuclear industry; most recently he was the Nuclear Oversight Manager at the Salem Generating Station.

Regional Action: Information only; no further action anticipated.

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Fermi - Failure of Barton Differential Pressure Switch

Licensee/Facility: DETROIT EDISON CO. Fermi 2 NEWPORT, Michigan Dockets: 05000341 [2] GE-4 License No:	Notification: MR Number: H-2008-0003 Date: 03/13/2008
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Discussion:

On Thursday, March 13, 2008, the Fermi licensee reported that the differential pressure (dP) switches, Barton model 581A-2, that operate to open the suppression chamber to reactor building (torus-RB) vacuum breaker isolation valves would not perform their design function (EN 44062). The condition affected both trains of these valves. The licensee opened one isolation valve to maintain the function

of the vacuum breaker in that line and took actions to correct the deficiency within the 72-hour limiting condition of operation.

The dP switch is designed to actuate the vacuum breaker isolation valve when pressure in the reactor building exceeds pressure in the torus, creating a relative vacuum in the torus. The torus is normally at a higher pressure. Opening the vacuum breaker isolation valve equalizes pressure between the reactor building and the torus to prevent structural damage to the torus. The torus pressure is connected to the low side of the instrument, so the instrument is normally pegged on the low stop. While normal torus-RB dP is between 7 and 15 inches water column (equivalent to 0.3-0.6 psid), the switch has a working dP range of 0-10 inches water column (equivalent to 0-0.4 psid).

In troubleshooting this failure, the licensee determined in bench test that an applied dP of 15 inches of water column, pegging the switch on the low stop (under-ranged condition), for 22 hours caused the switch to lock. After the pressure was relieved, the switch remained frozen and would not respond to any pressure input for about 6 hours. When the applied dP was within the span of 0-10 inches water column, the switch consistently worked as designed.

The NRC contacted the vendor, who is now Cameron Measurement Systems Division. The vendor stated that qualification testing demonstrates functionality for pressure differences within the normal factory-calibrated range but not for pressures outside this range. The vendor tests the instrument in over-range and under-range conditions but only to verify functionality. The vendor's standard production testing consists of applying full safe working pressure (SWP) of 3000 psig to either or both sides of the instrument for a short time (about 1 minute).

The vendor suspects that the "lockup" condition reported for the Fermi instrument was being caused by either (1) long term leakage through the differential pressure unit (DPU) internal over-range protection feature or (2) thermal expansion because of plant heat-up. The instrument was never designed to be tight against this long-term leakage. The thermal expansion results in an internal hydraulic dP. After the over-range condition is cleared, the internal hydraulic dP must decay before the instrument can operate normally. The vendor has not validated these suspicions.

In a previous evaluation of this sticking phenomenon for a customer's Model 580A and 581A instruments, the vendor advised against applications where the instruments would be over-ranged for a significant time.

There has been some operating experience related to this and similar instruments. In 1995, NRC received a series of Part 21 reports on ITT Barton Models 288A and 289A dealing with switch contact chatter. Also in 1995, NRC received a Part 21 report on a high radiation test failure of B-fill (ethylene glycol) bellows fluid for Models No. 200, 227, 288A and 289A. In 1998, NRC received a Part 21 report on ITT Barton differential pressure switch labels, dealing with switch contact chatter of Models 580A, 581A, 583A, and 583B.

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