

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coord
Subject: November Monthly Report
Date: December 23, 2008

Beans:

Training: 0
Drills 1
Meetings: 1
Technical Assistance: 3
Public Assistance: 3

Web Page Hits: There were 72 RAD hits in November.

Coming Attractions:

Working Group 12/3
URSB 1/5
CMMRS Group 1/12-23 1 day TBA
NEPAC 1/29

Facility Updates:

Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station

Davis Besse operated at full power for November.

The plant continued monitoring for the tritium leak discovered in October. No further contamination has been located.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Perry plant operated at full power for November.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant took the Plant Computer out-of-service for maintenance at 0830 on November 2 and placed the Computer back into service at 1530 on November 2. While the Computer was out-of-service the Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS), the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), and the Computer Aided Dose Assessment Program (CADAP) were not available. Manual methods were in place to compensate for the systems/program unavailability. The event was reported to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72 and is available on the NRC website under Event Notification 44622.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant performed scheduled valve testing November 15-16. Power reporting was not affected by this evolution.

Beaver Valley Unit I

Beaver Valley Unit I operated at full power for November.

Beaver Valley Unit II

Beaver Valley Unit II operated at full power for November.

Beaver Valley reported to the NRC on November 17, 2008 regarding an Invalid Actuation of Steam Driven Aux Feed Pump occurring on October 16, 2008 at BVPS Unit No. 2. During a routine maintenance activity, two solenoid-operated steam supply isolation valves unexpectedly opened, admitting steam to and causing the steam-driven Auxiliary Feedwater Pump to commence rotating. The control room recognized the unwarranted system response and attempted to re-close the two steam isolation valves. Also at the same time, the local operator performing the maintenance activity recognized the unwarranted system response and terminated the steam flow by re-closing the manual isolation valve. The total time the pump rotated was less than thirty seconds and the plant computer indicated that no auxiliary feedwater was actually pumped into any of the steam generators. NRC Event Number: 44661

Fermi II

Fermi operated at full power for November.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

There were no reported incidents in November.

Activity:

11/5 Working Group planning the Hostile Action drill and other news sharing. This was followed by an afteraction meeting to discuss and assign tasks outstanding from the Perry Exercise.

11/7 IZRRAG training and familiarization. Outstanding concepts from the RAAC course were introduced to people who have not had the training yet.

11/13 There was a Hostile Action (Terrorist Event) Table Top drill at Davis-Besse coordinated with Ottawa County and State Dose Assessment. The state and county response was driven primarily by law enforcement

concerns and highlighted the Response Plan that do not fully ICS and NIMS.

areas of the Radiation coordinate with

11/ 18-21 REP Planning course in Columbus. This was a trial of having Emmitsburg courses in Ohio and it went well.

Office Issues:

The Rad web page has been updated and a monthly report added. This has been implemented as part of the DERR pages for the Governor’s web upgrade initiative for all agencies.

NRC Reports and Statistics:

September operating power levels

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Fermi2	Perry
1	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100 Fermi on Min Gen Alert
10	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100

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PDF version of RIS 2008-26, Clarified Requirements of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.54(Y) when Implementing 10 CFR Section 50.54(X) to Depart from a License Condition or Technical Specification, dated October 29, 2008 (ML080590124), that has been posted to the NRR GCC Web, along with the URL for Web access to generic communications files on the NRC Homepage:

http://www.nrc.gov/reading_rm/doc_collections/gen_comm/reg_issues/2008/

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Fermi 2 - Closeout of Generic Letter 2007-01 "Inaccessible or Underground Power Cable Failures that Disable Accident Mitigation Systems or Cause Plant Transients (TAC NO. MD4328)

The document is publicly available and will be accessible via the public web site Electronic Reading Room in the Agency Document Access and Management System (ADAMS),

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

To access this document use ADAMS Accession No: ML082980163

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Davis-Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 and Perry Nuclear Power plant, Unit 1 - Application for use weighting factors for external exposure

The document is publicly available and will be accessible via the public web site Electronic Reading Room in the Agency Document Access and Management System (ADAMS),

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>

To access this document use the ADAMS Accession No. ML083020031

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NUCLEAR POWER: 17 apply for DOE loan guarantees, far exceeding available cash (10/02/2008)

Katherine Ling, *Greenwire* reporter

The Energy Department announced today that it has received 19 applications from power companies seeking federal loan guarantees to build nuclear power plants -- a number much higher than current funding could support.

The total assistance requested by the 17 electric power companies adds up to \$122 billion, surpassing by far the \$18.5 billion Congress made available in loan support.

The number of projects the \$18.5 billion can support is also dwindling as input costs continue to escalate, David Frantz, director of DOE's loan program office, said in a teleconference last week. He said loan guarantees could probably accommodate only about two power plants.

The applications are for construction of 21 new reactors at 14 different U.S. power plants. The estimated total construction costs for all of the projects is \$188 billion and the plants would add 28,800 megawatts of generating capacity, according to DOE. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received 15 applications for new nuclear power plants in the past year.

Two companies applied for the \$2 billion in loan guarantees for the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle, DOE said. The requests combined total \$4 billion, according to DOE.

The loan guarantee applications are only the first part of a two-step application process DOE implemented for the nuclear loan guarantees. DOE will assess the applications from the first round and initially rank the applications on chances of getting the guarantee. This will allow companies to decide if they want to invest an estimated \$600,000 to put together the second round of applications. Part two applications are due Dec. 19.

DOE said it will judge the applications based on a project's ability to avoid, reduce or sequester air pollutants or greenhouse gas emissions; the length of time to commercialization; chances of repayment of the debt; and "long-lasting success" in the marketplace.

DOE has issued three rounds of solicitations for \$42.5 billion in federal loan guarantees for early commercial use of advanced energy technologies that decrease greenhouse gas emissions and improve efficiency as authorized by the 2005 energy law. Congress has mandated that \$38.5 billion of the guarantees must be awarded by the end of fiscal 2009, although DOE is

trying to extend the timeline through 2011 for nuclear projects and 2010 for others.

DOE has yet to award any loan guarantees, despite having begun the process in 2006.

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NUCLEAR POWER: New plants could be stunted by credit crisis
(10/02/2008)

A global lack of available credit could slow nuclear development plans worldwide, pushing energy development toward short-term projects such as oil drilling, U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said yesterday.

Long-term projects like building a nuclear power plant "are the ones that are going to be the most difficult to finance," he said while attending an international nuclear energy conference in Paris.

The United States has 104 commercial reactors that supply about 20 percent of its power. If national electricity demand meets the projected 45 percent growth by 2030, 35 to 50 new nuclear plants would be needed to maintain nuclear's share of the energy market (Greg Keller, [Anchorage Daily News](#), Oct. 1). -- PR

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NUCLEAR WASTE: Proposed NRC rule assumes no repository by 2025
(10/09/2008)

Katherine Ling, *Greenwire* reporter

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed today eliminating a deadline when the Yucca Mountain, Nev., nuclear waste repository could be operational, opting instead to outline a 50 to 60 year timeline when repository capacity can be "reasonably expected."

A repository could be available within 50 to 60 years after the life of a nuclear power plant and spent fuel can be stored for "at least" 60 years beyond the licensed life of current nuclear power plants, according to a proposed revision of NRC's waste confidence rule published in today's *Federal Register*.

The NRC timeline includes the 20-year license extensions the agency has granted or is reviewing for a majority of the fleet of nuclear power plants that now may operate into the 2030s.

The previous NRC waste confidence findings said a geologic repository would be available by 2025.

"Eliminating the 2025 timeframe is not intended to signal a lack of confidence that a repository will be available by that date," said NRC in a statement. Rather, the agency said, it is intended to remove any prejudgment that the proposed repository will be approved by NRC, which is currently reviewing the Energy Department's Yucca Mountain license application.

The proposed rule also says NRC has confidence that waste can be safely stored on-site at the power plants through 2100.

"Revising its findings on the period for safe storage of spent fuel reflects the NRC's confidence in the safety and security of spent fuel storage in pools

and dry casks," the agency said.

The proposed rule also increases the amount of repository capacity available to current reactors for another 50 to 60 years beyond the licensed operating life of the plant. But under current DOE estimates, the Yucca repository's capacity would be filled by 2010 if a statutory cap of 70,000 metric tons is not lifted. DOE says experts suggest that the repository could hold at least 140,000 metric tons.

Scott Burnell, an NRC spokesman, said it is DOE's responsibility to figure out the theoretical capacity and the statutory limitations. But, he added, the rule "doesn't put a ... geographical marker where that capacity would be." "It simply says we do feel that that capacity would be available," Burnell said.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed rule.

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NUCLEAR POWER: Cost of building new plants will soar given labor, material shortages -- report (10/15/2008)

Katherine Ling, E&ENews PM reporter

Construction costs for new nuclear power plants will soar because of shortfalls of material and labor and inexperience with new technology, analyst Standard & Poor's said in a report today.

Commodity prices and labor costs are growing for all new power plants, but nuclear's specialized labor and component needs make the cost increases particularly acute, the report says. Nuclear projects require experienced project managers, as well as high-quality technical skills.

Current estimates for a building a new nuclear plant range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per kilowatt, the report says.

The cost to build a nuclear power plant has risen 173 percent since 2000, according to the Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Even the recent downturn in commodity prices does not have significant meaning for new nuclear plants, said Swaminathan Venkataraman, director of S&P's Utilities & Infrastructure Ratings and a co-author of the report.

"Even for the first few plants, these costs will be fixed only over the next 2-3 years and it is impossible to say where commodity costs will be," Venkataraman said in an e-mail. "Nevertheless, construction risks for new nuclear plants will remain high owing to other issues."

Costs of new nuclear plants will still be higher because of a limited ability to manage cost overruns in construction contracts, a tight manufacturing supply chain and a limited track record in recent construction of nuclear plants, the report says.

There are few companies capable of managing engineering, material procurement and plant construction, and demand for their services has created a backlog. The high demand enables the companies to be "selective in their willingness to accept risk," the report says.

None of the new nuclear reactor contracts are expected to have a set timeline or an overall fixed construction cost, the report says. Instead, the contracts will likely include an evolving price scheme based on changing

inputs -- except for large equipment -- resulting in high estimated project contingencies for labor and materials, the report says.

There is additional uncertainty in construction and contracts, given the small number of new nuclear reactors constructed since the 1990s, according to the report. Only a few companies -- General Electric Co., Hitachi, Areva and Toshiba -- have gone through the process, and the only advanced reactor technology that would be used in the United States is the ABWR design by Toshiba.

There are also a limited number of companies that manufacture the larger components of a nuclear reactor, including ultra-heavy forgings made in Japan, as well as condensers and reactor coolant pumps.

"Purely from a supply chain perspective, the first several U.S. nuclear plant orders are likely to be less risky than those that immediately follow them," the report says.

The untested Nuclear Regulatory Commission review of the combined construction and operating license adds additional cost uncertainty, the report says.

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NUCLEAR WASTE: Reprocessing fuel is preferred alternative -- DOE
(10/20/2008)

Katherine Ling, *Greenwire* reporter

Reprocessing spent nuclear fuel under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership will reduce the volume and toxicity of high-level radioactive waste that must be dumped in a geologic repository, but the effort will create more low-level waste and affect transportation and human health more than an open fuel cycle, the Energy Department says in a draft assessment of the program.

The draft **programmatic environmental impact statement** examines six potential pathways for the research and development side of the GNEP program: no action (uranium used once), fast reactors, thermal/fast reactors, thermal reactors and heavy water/high temperature gas-cooled reactors. Although the report does not examine the international partnership of GNEP, it does analyze two potential international initiatives, grid-appropriate reactors and reliable fuel services.

The report, which was released Friday, concludes that DOE prefers a closed fuel cycle alternative, either a fast reactor or a combined thermal/fast reactor. For a scenario of 200 gigawatts of electricity, the closed fuel cycle option generates about half the amount -- 18,000 to 55,000 cubic meters -- of high-level waste that would need deep geologic disposal when compared with an open fuel cycle, according to the statement.

Fast reactors have the potential to burn up both uranium and transuranic materials as fuel, whereas the current once-through cycle consumes less than 10 percent of the enriched uranium. The thermal/fast reactor includes using current technology of "mixed oxide" fuel -- a combination of uranium and plutonium -- that can be used in some current reactors.

But fast reactors would create more toxic waste, known as "greater-than-Class-C low level waste" and other low-level waste, that is not as toxic as spent nuclear fuel but still requires specialized disposal, the report says. The

closed fuel cycle could generate between 9,700 and 416,500 cubic meters of greater-than-class-C low-level waste as compared to 5,600 cubic meters from the no action alternative, the report says.

The report also found that closed fuel cycle alternatives caused nearly 10 times the latent cancer fatalities and seven times the collision fatalities from handling and transportation than the no action base line and most of the open cycle alternatives. But the draft emphasizes that those higher impacts would still be "within established regulatory limits."

The fast reactor also needs additional research and development of fuel fabrication and reprocessing to create an effective technology, which DOE estimates will take five to 10 years. It would also be difficult to balance a transition from current light water reactors to fast reactors, a balance that would require 60 percent current reactors and 40 percent fast reactors, the report says.

The thermal/fast reactor alternative could begin a transition much faster, as the balance would only have to be a 70 percent light water reactor and 30 percent fast reactors, and current technology could begin to use the recycled fuel as further technology is developed to use the other parts of the fuel stream later, the statement says.

DOE says it will chose a particular closed fuel cycle alternative in a later final statement. All alternatives would require a repository bigger than Yucca Mountain's current statutory limit of 70,000 metric tons, the statement says.

[Click here](#) to view the statement.

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ENERGY MARKETS: Exelon bids \$6.2B for NRG (10/20/2008)

Exelon Corp. has offered \$6.2 billion for power generator NRG Energy Inc., attempting to snap up a company whose share prices are down \$20 from last spring.

Exelon, the largest nuclear operator in the U.S., would pay a 37 percent premium for NRG stock, but its \$6.2 billion offer likely is considerably less than the value of NRG's Texas nuclear plant.

Both companies are planning to build a nuclear plant in Texas. By acquiring NRG's plant, which is farther along in the construction process, Exelon could improve its balance sheet, making it easier to finance the remaining construction on its own plant.

The agreement remains unsecured, Exelon officials reported (Rebecca Smith, *Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 20). -- **PR**

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Lake Erie nuclear plant leaks radioactive material

Liquid in ground no threat, officials say
Saturday, October 25, 2008 3:25 AM

TOLEDO (AP) -- Operators of a nuclear plant along Lake Erie found and shut off a pipe that had been leaking a low-level radioactive material into the ground, the company said yesterday. The leak at the Davis-Besse plant near Toledo wasn't a threat to drinking water or the public, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Samples show the radioactive material hasn't seeped into the groundwater or off the site, the agency said. Workers digging Wednesday found the leak, said Todd Schneider, a spokesman for Akron-based FirstEnergy Corp., which owns the plant.

The leaking liquid contained tritium, a normal product of a nuclear reactor that can cause cancer with significant exposure. The plant was the site of the worst corrosion ever found at a U.S. reactor. Inspectors in 2001 discovered an acid leak, and the plant was closed for two years and underwent extensive repairs.

The latest leak does not appear to be as worrisome.

At least eight tritium leaks with levels well below health standards have been found in the U.S. in the past few years, including one in December at the Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Conn. The nuclear industry took steps two years ago to examine the releases and why they were happening after three Illinois power plants reported leaks of tritium into groundwater, including one case in which 6 million gallons was released into soil outside the plant boundary.

It's not known how long the 3-inch pipe at Davis-Besse had been leaking or how much got into the ground, Schneider said. The pipeline leads to a retention pond, where water is stored and does not go outside the plant property, he said.

The acid leak found in 2001 nearly ate through the reactor's 6-inch-thick steel cap. It led to sweeping changes at the plant: The NRC beefed up inspections and training and began requiring detailed records of its discussions with plant operators. FirstEnergy paid a record \$28 million in fines a year ago while avoiding federal charges. It also spent \$600 million making repairs and buying replacement power while the plant was closed from early 2002 until 2004.

Two company employees were convicted of concealing the leak from the government. Lawyers for the men said they were set up as scapegoats.

The Columbus Dispatch

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Back to: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

AID=/20081025/NEWS16/810250355/-1/ARCHIVES30

Article published October 25, 2008

Davis-Besse radioactive leak is fixed

NRC says water in area is safe to use and drink

By TOM HENRY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

OAK HARBOR, Ohio - Radioactive tritium was found leaking from a drainage

pipe at FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear plant north of Oak Harbor, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said yesterday.

Businesses and homeowners near the plant, though, can continue using their water, Viktoria Mitlyng, an agency spokesman, said.

FirstEnergy rerouted the drainage pipe, and the utility is in the process of pinpointing the leak and fixing it, she said.

Monitoring wells show the radioactive, watery material has not migrated off the Davis-Besse complex, she said. Davis-Besse is 30 miles east of Toledo and along State Rt. 2 in Ottawa County, west of Port Clinton.

It was not clear how the leak occurred.

The agency was notified of the leak shortly before midnight Thursday by FirstEnergy, 32 hours after a utility crew discovered the problem at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The state of Ohio and officials from Lucas and Ottawa counties were notified at 9 a.m. Thursday, according to a report FirstEnergy filed with the NRC.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) is asking the NRC to provide her details "on what risk might be presented by this leak," said Steve Fought, a spokesman for her Toledo office.

He said the congressman also wants to know if the agency believes anything was unusual about the amount of time taken for notification.

"We don't want to cause anybody alarm if there is no cause for alarm," Mr. Fought said. "[But] if there ever was an opportunity to err on the side of caution, it would be with nuclear power."

The NRC has no problem with the time it took to be notified, Ms. Mitlyng said.

The carbon steel drainage pipe carries liquid waste that is a byproduct of the nuclear generating process from Davis-Besse's turbine/water-treatment building to the power station's settling basins.

From there, it is diluted in standing water and eventually is discharged into Lake Erie's drainage basin, which is monitored, according to FirstEnergy.

Vapor from Davis-Besse nuclear power plant emanates from steam used in the process of generating electricity.

Monitors at the plant have not picked up any detectable levels of tritium entering Lake Erie, probably because the concentration of the leak is heavily diluted by water in the settling basins, Ms. Mitlyng said.

The leak was discovered during fire-protection equipment inspections. It is not known how long the pipe has been leaking.

FirstEnergy's report, based largely on the condition of the pipe, said the volume of leakage is "conservatively assumed to be more than 100 gallons, but this cannot be quantified at this time."

Recent laboratory tests on samples from 30 monitoring wells at the complex are being expedited to see whether it can be determined when the leak began. Additional sampling is planned, the utility said. The tritium was leaking at a rate nearly twice the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers a safe limit for drinking water.

The NRC has its two resident inspectors watching the situation. The leak will become the focus of the plant's annual environmental assessment next month, Ms. Mitlyng said.

NRC records show there have been at least seven other nuclear plants that have had tritium releases in recent years - none of which endangered public health, the agency said.

The nuclear industry and the NRC have been focusing on the possibility of large water leaks, David Lochbaum, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of

Concerned Scientists, said. But he added that they need to pay more attention to small leaks that are likely to occur with greater frequency. His group and others petitioned the NRC nearly two years ago to become more aggressive at detecting small leaks of radioactive liquids at nuclear plants. The NRC did not act on it.

Instead, the agency yielded to a voluntary monitoring and reporting program at the request of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's lobbying group on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Lochbaum said it was a fluke Davis-Besse's radioactive water was discovered because workers only happened to stumble upon it while inspecting fire-protection equipment.

Contact Tom Henry at:
thenry@theblade.com
or 419-724-6079.

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(THE BLADE)

WHAT IS TRITIUM?

Tritium, according to the U.S. EPA, is one of the least dangerous radioactive materials.

It emits low-energy radiation and leaves the body relatively quickly, although it goes directly into soft tissues and organs because it almost always binds to water molecules, the agency said.

"As with all ionizing radiation, exposure to tritium increases the risk of developing cancer," the agency said.

Tritium exists naturally in the atmosphere and is one of several radioactive byproducts of a nuclear plant. It also is a standard component of fluorescent exit signs, aircraft dials, gauges, luminous paints, and some wristwatches.

Toledo Blade

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Back to: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

AID=/20081101/NEWS16/811010381

Article published November 1, 2008

6 monitors at Davis-Besse find leaks below threshold

By TOM HENRY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

OAK HARBOR, Ohio - Six of 11 groundwater-monitoring wells on FirstEnergy Corp.'s Davis-Besse nuclear complex are well below the government's threshold for radioactive tritium, according to results the utility released yesterday. Results on the other five wells are expected next week, spokesman Todd Schneider said. The six wells on which FirstEnergy has data are ones most prone to leak radioactive tritium, which the company found on Oct. 22, Mr. Schneider said.

Tritium is a water-based, radioactive material that is a by-product of nuclear fission and a natural substance in the environment. Though one of the least toxic radioactive substances, it is easily absorbed by soft tissue and organs because of the way it binds to water molecules.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established 20,000 picocuries of tritium per liter as the threshold for safe drinking water. The six wells had

levels ranging from 155 to 1,612 picocuries per liter. The samples were drawn after the leak was discovered. They mirror results from samples taken earlier in October, Mr. Schneider said, although he did not provide those numbers.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is beginning a broader environmental assessment of the complex next week, an annual inspection that was scheduled before the leak was discovered. Circumstances surrounding the leak have become the focus of it, NRC spokesman Viktoria Mitlyng said.

The leak has been traced to a drainage pipe that ran 8 feet underground, from the north side of Davis-Besse's turbine building to the site's settling basin, Mr. Schneider said. The pipe was rusty and might have been weeping trace amounts of tritium.

Workers likely disturbed it as they were digging up soil to inspect nearby fire-suppression equipment, he said.

"The water's been rerouted, and we're in the process of replacing the pipe," Mr. Schneider said.

Toledo Blade

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NUCLEAR SAFETY: Advocacy groups criticize EPA proposals for power plants, transportation (10/31/2008)

Katherine Boyle, E&ENews PM reporter

Sixty advocacy groups say a U.S. EPA proposal would weaken public protections against the release of radioactive material from nuclear power plant and transportation accidents.

Proposed revisions to the EPA guidelines would permit long-term contamination of areas, without cleanup, at levels higher than those allowed by EPA in the past, permit larger radiation doses without taking action to reduce public exposure and increase acceptable exposure levels, the groups wrote in a **letter** to the agency yesterday.

EPA's proposal also would raise the concentration of radioactive elements like cesium-137, strontium-90 and nickel-63 allowed in drinking water after a release, the groups wrote.

The groups are concerned EPA might release a final version of the guidelines before the Bush administration leaves office. They based their comments on a 2007 draft of the guidelines obtained by the trade publication *Inside EPA*.

"If revisions have resolved these problems, we congratulate the agency," the groups wrote. "But if the problems remain, we strongly urge that you not approve release of the draft [protective action guides], as they will produce a firestorm of controversy and would contradict decades of EPA policy on protection of the public and the environment."

Organizations signing the letter include Greenpeace and Environment America, a coalition of state-based groups.

A spokeswoman for EPA said the agency would review the letter and respond appropriately.

[Click here](#) to read the letter.

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NUCLEAR WASTE: DOE finalizes standard contract for new reactors (10/31/2008)

Katherine Ling, E&ENews PM reporter

The Energy Department said today that it is ready to sign contracts detailing how it will remove spent nuclear fuel from new reactors. Federal law requires companies to sign a DOE waste contract allowing the department to take responsibility for the spent fuel before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will consider granting an operating license.

"These contracts are essential to advancing the commercial nuclear renaissance," said Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman in a statement. Details for the new standard contracts will not be revealed until the first contract is signed, DOE spokesman Allen Benson said.

The contracts had to be rewritten because current arrangements say DOE will assume responsibility for the waste in 1998. Those contracts have been the subject of numerous lawsuits that make taxpayers liable for \$11 billion if the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev., opens in 2020, DOE said.

Earlier, Edward Sproat, director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, said the new contracts might include a provision that would specify that DOE's deadline for taking the waste would be several years after the closure of the reactors.

The new contracts might also include a clause that would require the companies to place the waste in a DOE-designated canister, a core component of transporting the spent fuel to Yucca Mountain. The transportation casks are still being designed.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 44622
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [] [] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: JIM CASE HQ OPS Officer: HOWIE CROUCH	Notification Date: 11/02/2008 Notification Time: 08:16 [ET] Event Date: 11/02/2008 Event Time: 08:30 [EST] Last Update Date: 11/02/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(xiii) - LOSS COMM/ASMT/RESPONSE	Person (Organization): LAURA KOZAK (R3)

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

Event Text

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM (ERDS) OUT OF SERVICE FOR PLANNED MAINTENANCE

"The Perry Nuclear Power Plant will be taking the Plant Computer out of service for scheduled maintenance which

will take ERDS out of service. From 0830 hours EST, on November 2, 2008, for approximately 6 hours, personnel will be resetting computer time from EDT to EST and [will] troubleshoot the Plant Computer. During this planned maintenance, the Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS) and the automatic mode calculation of the Computer Aided Dose Assessment Program (CADAP) [will] be unavailable.

"In the event of an emergency, plant parameter data will be orally transmitted to the facilities through the Status Board Ring Down circuit with back-up by the Plant Branch Exchange, the Off Premise Exchange, and various redundant infra-facility circuits throughout the emergency facilities. The dose assessment function will be maintained during the out of service time period by manual input of data into CADAP and, if required, by manual calculation. The ability to open and maintain an 'open line' using the Emergency Notification System will not be affected and will be the primary means of transferring plant data to the NRC as a contingency until the ERDS can be returned to service during the period of unavailability.

"This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(xiii), as a condition that results in a major loss of offsite communications capability. A follow-up notification will be made when the activities are completed and the equipment is restored. The [NRC] Resident Inspector has been notified."

* * * UPDATE FROM JIM CASE TO JOHN KNOKE AT 1530 EST ON 11/02/08 * * *

The Plant Computer was put back in operation at 1525 EST. Notified R3DO (Kozak)

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General Information or Other	Event Number: 44559
Rep Org: OHIO BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION Licensee: WAL-MART Region: 3 City: CINCINNATI State: OH County: License #: GL Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: STEPHEN JAMES HQ OPS Officer: JASON KOZAL	Notification Date: 10/10/2008 Notification Time: 17:40 [ET] Event Date: 10/09/2008 Event Time: 13:45 [EDT] Last Update Date: 11/07/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: AGREEMENT STATE	Person (Organization): JULIO LARA (R3) MARK DELLIGATTI (FSME) ILTAB VIA EMAIL ()

This material event contains a "Less than Cat 3" level of radioactive material.

Event Text

AGREEMENT STATE REPORT - LOST TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS

The following was provided by the state via e-mail:

"Wal-Mart Corporate Office reported a total of 8 tritium exit signs missing from various stores in Ohio. These signs were removed from service and were being held pending return to the manufacturer for disposal. The signs were discovered missing on or about October 8, 2008 at each store. Store management and maintenance personnel have conducted a search at each store and have determined that the signs are not on the premises. Wal-Mart is declaring these signs to be missing.

"Wal-Mart Corporate office notified the Ohio department of health by phone at approximately 1:45 PM on October 9, 2008, and followed with a written description of the signs on October 10, 2008."

The device information is as follows:

1. Location: Store number 01495 Huber Heights, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - 272778, Curie content - 11.5.
2. Location: Store number 01724 Millersburg, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - 260634, Curie content - 20.
3. Location: Store number 02441 Hamilton, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - Unknown, Curie content - 11.5.

4. Location: Store number 02441 Hamilton, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - 338664, Curie content - 11.5.
5. Location: Store number 02441 Hamilton, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - 365140, Curie content - 11.5.
6. Location: Store number 03656 Cincinnati, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - Unknown, Curie content - 11.5.
7. Location: Store number 03656 Cincinnati, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - 362582, Curie content - 11.5.
8. Location: Store number 6327 Warren, Manufacturer - Isolite, Serial number - Unknown, Curie content - 11.5.

Ohio report number - OH080007

* * * UPDATE ON 11/12/2008 AT 1205 FROM MICHAEL SNEE TO JOHN KNOKE * * *

Received from the state of Ohio via e-mail:

Two Tritium exit signs were reported missing from the Wal-Mart store in Middletown, OH. The SRB Technologies signs (S/N 280511) & (S/N 280548) contained unknown activity, and was reported to Ohio at 1230 on 11/12/2008.

Ohio Report Number: OH0800011

Notified R3DO (Hills) and FSME (Suber), ILTAB email

* * * UPDATE ON 11/12/2008 AT 1205 FROM MICHAEL SNEE TO JOHN KNOKE * * *

Received from the state of Ohio via e-mail:

A Tritium exit sign was reported missing from the Wal-Mart store in Newark, OH. The SRB Technologies sign (S/N 268804) contained 20 Ci of Tritium, and was reported to Ohio at 1230 on 11/12/2008.

Ohio Report Number: OH0800013

Notified R3DO (Hills) and FSME (Suber). ILTAB email

* * * UPDATE ON 11/12/2008 AT 1205 FROM MICHAEL SNEE TO JOHN KNOKE * * *

Received from the state of Ohio via e-mail:

A Tritium exit sign was reported missing from the Wal-Mart store in Mount Vernon, OH. The Isolite sign (S/N 293419) contained 11.5 Ci of Tritium, and was reported to Ohio at 1230 on 11/12/2008.

Ohio Report Number: OH0800012

Notified R3DO (Hills) and FSME (Suber). ILTAB email

* * * UPDATE ON 11/14/2008 AT 1329 FROM MICHAEL SNEE TO MARK ABRAMOVITZ * * *

The following information was received from the state of Ohio via e-mail:

Two additional lost Tritium exit signs were reported missing at store #5104 in Moraine, OH. The signs were manufactured by SRB with serial numbers 300242 and 300243. Each sign contained 20 Ci of Tritium.

Notified the R1DO (Krohn), FSME (Flannery) and ILTAB (via e-mail).

THIS MATERIAL EVENT CONTAINS A "LESS THAN CAT 3" LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Sources that are "Less than IAEA Category 3 sources," are either sources that are very unlikely to cause permanent injury to individuals or contain a very small amount of radioactive material that would not cause any permanent injury. Some of these sources, such as moisture density gauges or thickness gauges that are Category 4, the amount of unshielded radioactive material, if not safely managed or securely protected, could possibly - although it is unlikely - temporarily injure someone who handled it or were otherwise in contact with it, or who were close to it for a period of many weeks.

This source is not amongst those sources or devices identified by the IAEA Code of Conduct for the Safety & Security of Radioactive Sources to be of concern from a radiological standpoint. Therefore is it being categorized as a less than Category 3 source

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 44661
Facility: BEAVER VALLEY Region: 1 State: PA Unit: [] [2] [] RX Type: [1] W-3-LP,[2] W-3-LP NRC Notified By: R. G. LOOSE HQ OPS Officer: DONALD NORWOOD	Notification Date: 11/17/2008 Notification Time: 10:26 [ET] Event Date: 10/16/2008 Event Time: 09:07 [EST] Last Update Date: 11/17/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.73(a)(1) - INVALID SPECIF SYSTEM ACTUATION	Person (Organization): MARIE MILLER (R1)

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

INVALID ACTUATION OF STEAM DRIVEN AUX FEED PUMP

"On October 16, 2008 during a routine clearance restoration activity, two solenoid-operated steam supply isolation valves on one of the three steam lines to the steam-driven Auxiliary Feedwater Pump (2FWE-P22) unexpectedly opened at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) Unit No.2, admitting steam to and causing this pump to commence rotating. The control room operator monitoring the plant quickly recognized the unwarranted system response and attempted to terminate steam flow to the auxiliary feedwater pump by re-closing the two unexpectedly open steam supply isolation valves from the control room. At the same time, the local operator performing the restoration activity of opening a separate manual upstream steam isolation valve also recognized the unwarranted system response (by hearing too much steam flow through the manual valve) and also terminated steam flow to the pump by re-closing the upstream manual isolation valve. The total time that this pump rotated was less than approximately 30 seconds and the plant computer indicated that no auxiliary feedwater was actually pumped into any of the steam generators. Neither of the other two Auxiliary Feedwater System motor-driven pumps were actuated at BVPS Unit No.2.

"The design for these two solenoid-operated isolation valves are susceptible to briefly popping open if steam is initially introduced too rapidly. These valves fail open with no power and are pilot-operated solenoid-actuated to close. An initial large steam rush can briefly overcome the solenoid force holding the valve shut. This is what occurred on October 16, 2008. Therefore, this brief rotation of the steam-driven Auxiliary Feedwater Pump was not initiated by a valid actuation signal.

"This event is reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(A) since it involved a train-level actuation of the PWR auxiliary feedwater system as listed in 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(B)(6). This actuation was not part of a pre-planned sequence and did not occur with system properly removed from service.

"However, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.73(a)(1), this event is being reported via this telephone notification instead of submitting a written Licensee Event Report since the actuation of the Auxiliary Feedwater System train was not generated by a valid actuation."

The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector.

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