To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor

From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coord

Subject: September Monthly Report

Date: October 1, 2009

Beans:

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

Web Page Views: There were 60 page views for September

Coming Attractions:

Working Group	10/1
URSB	10/5
NEPAC	10/8
IZRRAG Drill	10/22
WG	10/28
IZRRAG Actions	10/28
RAT Training	11/5
IZRRAG FTC	11/18

Facility Updates:

Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station

Davis Besse operated for September at full power.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Perry NPP operated at full power For September

Beaver Valley Power Station

Beaver Valley Unit I

Beaver Valley Unit I operated at full power for September.

Beaver Valley Unit II

Beaver Valley Unit II operated at full power for September.

Fermi II

Fermi operated at full power for September.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

There were no reports for Portsmouth in September.

Activity:

9/22 Davis-Besse conducted the EAL training for offsite response agencies. The are moving to the new NEI 99-01 reference format and nomenclature. This will be immediately informative as to a general sense of the plant issue and the EAL level. Fenoc will eventually move all plants in the fleet to this nomenclature.

Office Issues:

NRC Reports and Statistics:

September operating power levels

Date	BV1	BV2	DB		Fermi2	Perry
1	100	100	100	100	100	
7	100	100	100	100	100	
14	100	100	100	100	100	
21	100	100	100	100	100	
28	100	100	100	100	100	
30	100	100	100	100	100	

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9/3 Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 - Issuance of amendment re: revision of control rod notch surveillance test frequency and a clarification of a frequency example - 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. ML092220694

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Request For Withholding Information From Public Disclosure For Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 2 (TAC No. ME0349)
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: ML091200316

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 And 2-Request For Additional Information RE: Inservice Inspection Programs For Request Numbers 1-TYP-4-B3.120-1 And 2-TYP-3-C6.10-1 (TAC Nos. ME1108 And ME1109)
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: ML092370037

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PDF version of Information Notice 2009-16, Spurious Relay Actuations Result In Loss Of Power To Safeguards Buses, dated September 15, 2009 (ML092230554) 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/info-notices/2009/.

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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1 - Withdrawal of request re: Emergency action levels resulting from the effects of thermally-induced current on the containment high range radiation monitors. 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. ML092580129

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BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2 - RELIEF REQUEST NO. 2-TYP-3-RV-02 REGARDING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE CASE N-729-1 EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS (TAC NO. ME0349)
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 number ML092640111

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BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO.2 -RELIEF REQUEST NO. 2-TYP-3-RV-02 REGARDING THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE CASE N-729-1 EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS (TAC NO. ME0349) ---
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 number ML092640111

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 2 - Issuance of Amendment Re: The Use of Westinghouse Leak-Limiting Alloy 800 Sleeves for Steam Generator Tubes Repair (TAC No. MD9969)
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.: ML092590189

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No. III-09-026
Contacts:
Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662
Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

September 17, 2009
E-Mail: epa3@nrc.gov
Web site: www.nrc.gov

NRC TO HOLD MEETING IN OAK BROOK, ILL., ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled meetings in Oak Brook, Ill. and other locations across the country to hear comments on proposed changes to environmental regulations related to nuclear power plant license renewal.

The Oak Brook meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Doubletree Oak Brook Executive Training Center, 1909 Spring Road. The formal meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. with an open house beginning at 5 p.m. At the open house, NRC staff will be available to answer questions. During the formal meeting, members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Additional meetings will be held in Atlanta, Ga. on Sept. 15, in Newton, Mass. on Sept. 17, and at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Md., on Oct. 1.

The proposed changes are contained in the *Summary of Findings on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Issues for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants,* and the draft revision of *Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License*

Renewal of Nuclear Plants, NUREG-1437. The NRC is also publishing for comment a revised Regulatory Guide 4.2, Supplement 1, *Preparation of Environmental Reports for License Renewal Applications*, and NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, *Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants*.

The proposed rule revisions redefine the number and scope of environmental impact issues that must be addressed in a nuclear power plant license renewal review. The Commission has stated it intends to review the rule every 10 years and update it as necessary.

The GEIS assesses the overall scope and impact of environmental effects associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant. Plant-specific supplements to the GEIS are prepared for each individual license renewal review.

Those who wish to speak during the meetings are encouraged to pre-register and anyone with questions or special needs should contact Jeffrey Rikhoff, Bo Pham or Jason Lising at 1-800-368-5642, extensions 1090, 8450 or 3220 respectively, or by e-mail at LRGEISupdate@nrc.gov. Meeting transcripts will be posted to NRC's Web site at www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment.html .

Comments on the proposed rule, draft revised GEIS and associated documents may be submitted over the federal e-Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov (Docket I.D. NRC-2008-0608); by e-mail to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov; by mail to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff; or by fax to 301-492-3466. Written comments on the draft revised GEIS should be sent to: Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. The deadline for comments is Oct. 14.

The draft revised GEIS is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. 20852, or from the NRC's Agency wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm . The number for the draft revised GEIS is ML090220654; the draft Regulatory Guide 4.2 Supplement 1, Rev. 1 is ML091620409 and the Draft NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, Rev. 1 is ML090230497.

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General Information or Other | Event Number: 45303

Rep Org: OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Licensee: MERIDIAN AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS, INC.
Region: 3
City: JACKSON State: OH
County:
License #:
Agreement: Y
Docket:
NRC Notified By: MICHAEL SNEE
HQ OPS Officer: DONG HWA PARK

Notification Date: 08/27/2009
Notification Time: 10:58 [ET]
Event Date: 08/25/2009
Event Time: [EDT]
Last Update Date: 08/27/2009

Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY
10 CFR Section:
AGREEMENT STATE

Person (Organization):
STEVE ORTH (R3DO)
ANGELA MCINTOSH (FSME)

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

Event Text

AGREEMENT STATE REPORT - DISCOVERY OF ABANDONED RADIOACTIVE SOURCE

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

"The Ohio Bureau of Radiation Protection was informed on 8/25/09 of the discovery of an abandoned radioactive source at the Meridian Automotive Systems, Inc. plant in Jackson, Ohio. Investigation on 8/26/09 revealed that the source is a 500 mCi Am-241/Be source in a generally licensed RMD Compuglass Analyzer. The EPA was notified and will pick up the source for disposal. The source is secure at the site."

Ohio reference number: Ohio 2009-025

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General Information or Other | Event Number: 45318

Rep Org: OHIO BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION
Licensee: NTH CONSULTANTS, LTD.
Region: 3
City: CLEVELAND State: OH
County:
License #: 31210180007
Agreement: Y
Docket:
NRC Notified By: STEPHEN JAMES

Notification Date: 09/01/2009
Notification Time: 14:38 [ET]
Event Date: 08/31/2009
Event Time: [EDT]
Last Update Date: 09/01/2009

HQ OPS Officer: ERIC SIMPSON

Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY
10 CFR Section:
AGREEMENT STATE

Person (Organization):
CHRISTINE LIPA (R3DO)
ANGELA MCINTOSH (FSME)

Event Text

AGREEMENT STATE REPORT - DAMAGED TROXLER GAUGE

The following notification was received via email:

"Received call from licensee at 4:58 PM on 8/31/09, regarding a Troxler Model 3400 portable gauge containing 44 mCi of Am-241 and 9 mCi of Cs-137 which was damaged at a job site in Olmstead Falls, Ohio. Serial numbers and manufacturer of sources not currently available. Serial number of gauge not currently available.

"The gauge user completed work with the gauge, locked the gauge, and then placed it on the ground under the tailgate of his truck. The user then went to the cab of the truck to perform some other tasks. While in the cab of the truck, the user noticed that heavy equipment operating at the job site was moving closer to his location, so he decided to move his truck. Forgetting that the gauge had been left outside the vehicle under the tailgate, the user backed over the gauge, causing damage to the case and shearing off the source rod at the case top. The portion of the rod containing the radioactive material remained inside the shielded body of the gauge.

"The licensee's RSO immediately responded to the event and took readings to verify that the source was in the shielded case and that there was no contamination on the ground where the gauge was run over. The damaged gauge has been moved to the licensee's facility in Cleveland where it is in secure storage. The licensee intends to transport the damaged gauge to their licensed repair contractor's facility in Michigan.

"ODH will be inspecting the licensee"

Ohio Report No.: OH090009

Notified R3DO (Lipa) and FSME (McIntosh).

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Is the time now for nuclear power?

By Larry Dignan | Sep 8, 2009 | **1** Comment

The stars—public opinion, global warming concerns and safety—may be aligning for nuclear power to make a comeback.

Nuclear power is environmentally friendly—at least until you have to dispose of the waste—and powerful enough to fulfill most of our power needs. The problem? You can't mention nuclear power without thinking Three Mile Island or Chernobyl. It probably doesn't help that Homer Simpson's town can glow from time to time.

The Wall Street Journal examined the issue Tuesday in a story that captured the nuclear conundrum well. The ledger looks like this:

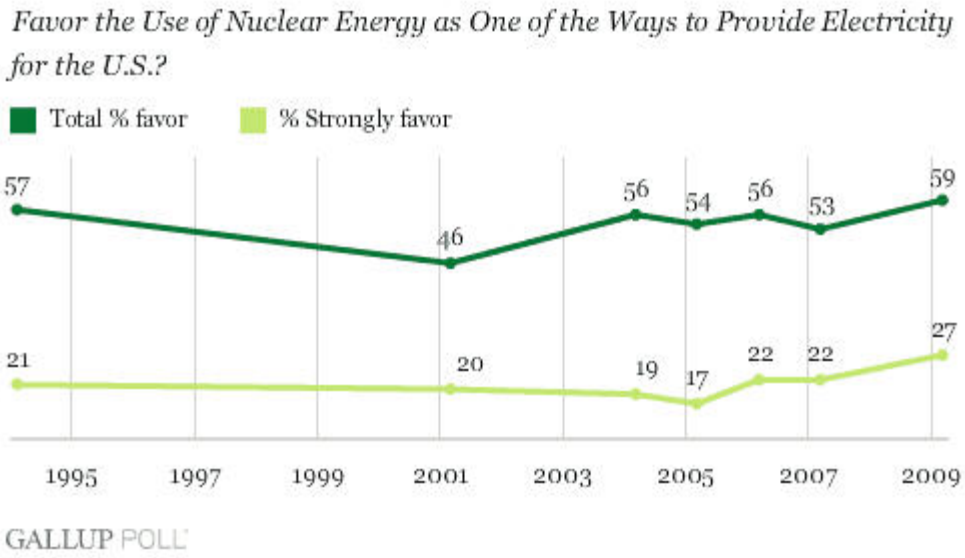
Pro:

- Nuclear power is clean and emits no carbon dioxide.
- Popular opinion is coming around to nuclear power.
- Next generation reactors are more efficient and cheap.
- The systems that power nuclear plants are smart and feature automated safety features and better shutdown processes.

Con:

- Nuclear plants still cost more than fossil fuel versions.
- You still have to store the waste somewhere.
- When there is a rare accident the ramifications can be large.
- These plants are big terrorist targets (France has its reactors inside double containment buildings).
- Not in my backyard (NIMBY) is prominent.

Nevertheless, Gallup has 59 percent of the public favoring the use of nuclear power.



http://i.bnet.com/blogs/nukes1.jpg?tag=content;col1

In a blog post, Gallup notes:

Support for nuclear energy had been fairly steady in the mid-50% range since Gallup first asked about it in 1994, apart from a 46% reading in 2001. The percentage who say they strongly favor nuclear energy had also been fairly stable at around 20%, before increasing to 27% this year.

Gallup has always found consistent and large gender differences in Americans' views of nuclear power, and the same applies this year — 71% of men favor the use of nuclear energy, compared with only 47% of women. Both groups show their highest level of support for nuclear power to date.

Where do you stand? On paper, I'm all for nuclear power. Logically, these plants make sense. Yet there's a nagging feeling about them. But the real test is gauging how you feel if you're in range of one of these plants.

More reading:

- Department of Energy backgrounder on Generation IV nuclear reactors.
- Gallup: Support for Nuclear Energy Inches Up to New High
- Backgrounder on the GE-Hitachi PRISM small reactor
- Westinghouse's AP1000 reactor

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NUCLEAR POWER: Industry pledges safer, cheaper and cleaner reactors (09/08/2009)

With a newfound public support for nuclear power as a clean and safe alternative to fossil fuels, the nuclear industry is turning its attention to three pressing issues that have derailed previous attempts to revive itself: cost, safety and waste.
"There are lots of options being explored" to address those obstacles, said Ronaldo Szilard, director of nuclear science and engineering at the Department of Energy-funded Idaho National Lab. "Times are exciting for nuclear."
But a nuclear renaissance has a long way to go, with the plants of tomorrow -- some of which could break ground by 2012 -- still costing more than their fossil fuel competitors and still having no place to send their spent fuel.
Safety improvements have won back some public support after a near-catastrophic meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979. So-called Generation III reactors cut down on some of the redundant motors, pumps, valves and control systems and rely more heavily on passive systems that don't need human intervention to keep the reactor safe in emergency conditions.
But making reactors safer comes at a cost, and some fear the price tag of newly proposed reactors could kill projects the same way cost derailed developments a generation ago.
Generation III designers argue that new reactor models will remain in service decades longer than the current fleet of plants and will be much simpler and quicker to build, cutting the cost of financing and construction (Rebecca Smith, *Wall Street Journal* [subscription required], Sept. 8).
The article is part of the *Wall Street Journal's* special report on energy. Click here to see the report. **-- PT**

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NUCLEAR POWER: Struggling U.S. centrifuge project gets boost from Exelon order (09/10/2009)

Katherine Ling, E&E reporter
Exelon Generation Co. LLC has signed a contract to buy commercial nuclear fuel worth $1.2 billion from USEC Inc.'s new uranium enrichment facility, the companies announced today.
Bethesda, Md.-based USEC is building the only new enrichment facility in the United States that uses domestic technology. But the company has encountered financing difficulties for the facility in Piketown, Ohio, and it needs a loan guarantee from the Energy Department to secure additional financing to finish the project. Congress provided DOE with $2 billion in loan guarantee authority for front-end nuclear technology.
But DOE recently asked USEC to withdraw its loan application, saying USEC needs additional technical data to prove the technology works, as well as some additional financial collateral. DOE and USEC came to an agreement last month to work together to strengthen the application, but USEC has still begun to "demobilize" some parts of the project activities (*Greenwire*, Aug. 5).
The American Centrifuge Plant now has customer commitments for fuel worth $3.4 billion, USEC said. Under the contract, USEC will provide the fuel to Exelon beginning in 2012.
"The American Centrifuge Plant is important to Exelon as a source for increasing fuel supply diversity, but it is also important for the country as an important component of energy and national security," said Chris Crane, president and chief operating officer of Exelon Corp., in a statement.

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Federal government unprepared for 'dirty bomb' recovery -- GAO (09/14/2009)

Katherine Ling, E&E reporter
Federal agencies must develop a strategy and guidance for the cleanup and recovery of a "dirty bomb" or improvised nuclear device attack, the head of Government Accountability Office's director of natural resources and environment said today.
While several cities and states told GAO they would rely on the federal government for analysis and cleanup activities after a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or improvised nuclear attack, the federal response is unorganized, Gene Aloise said in written **testimony** to a subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee in New York.
Three of 70 RDD or IND exercises performed in the last five years have included interagency discussions about recovery after the exercise, he said.
The confusion could lead to costly missteps in the cleanup or even create a worse problem, Aloise said. For instance, using water pressure to clean up an incident involving cesium-137 would drive the material into porous surfaces, GAO said.
GAO also flagged the transfer of a cleanup site from the initial analysis phase led by the Energy Department to the later cleanup phase led by U.S. EPA as ripe for potential problems, including questions of accepting the quality of the data, the testimony said.
GAO said the current administration and its predecessor have taken limited steps to

address the issue. FEMA "has decided to rethink the entire approach" to a national disaster recovery strategy, and there is no timeline for its completion, GAO said.
While there has been no RDD or IND incident in the United States, the 2006 radioactive poisoning of former Russian security service officer Alexander Litvinenko is a good example of why the United States should be prepared, GAO said. The gram of polonium-210 eventually ingested by Litvinenko -- about the size of a grain of salt -- exposed more than 900 people to above-normal levels of radiation (some significantly higher), took 19 days to clean up and cost more than $200,000, the testimony said. **Click here** to view the testimony.

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NUCLEAR: Nev. files five new Yucca challenges (09/15/2009)

Nevada filed five new challenges to the Energy Department's application for a license to build a repository for the storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.
Bruce Breslow, executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, said a particular worry was the state's claim that DOE had employed "improper techniques" in a safety assessment of how fast a metal known as Alloy-22 will corrode if it is used for waste containers.
Breslow said NRC staff shared these concerns.
"The NRC staff, for the first time, wrote a letter of support for the corrosion contention and drip shields," he said.
The state's latest challenges come after administrative judges for the licensing panel granted all but seven of the state's original 229 challenges to be reviewed, a process that could last up to four years.
NRC plans to proceed with the hearing process (Keith Rogers, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Sept. 15). **-- JK**

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NUCLEAR POWER: NRC reviewing 13 new reactor applications (09/24/2009)

Katherine Ling, E&E reporter
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reviewing 13 of 17 reactor applications it has received, the agency chairman said yesterday.
Gregory Jaczko said the commission has focused on those proposals as several applicants have opted to delay their plans to change designs or timelines for possible construction.
"It's a dynamic process," Jaczko told reporters at a Platts Energy Podium event in Washington, D.C. The chairman also emphasized that the need to certify new reactor designs is slowing review times. Many of the original milestones and schedules laid out for each application are unlikely to hold, he said.
"The bulk of the applications are referencing designs that have not fully finished the certification process," Jaczko said. "We will ultimately make a decision when we have gotten all the safety issues answered. ... It's not as simple as establishing a simple timeline."

Some lawmakers have criticized NRC for not setting a deadline for a final decision on an application.

Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) introduced a bill in July that would cut NRC's review time for new reactor applications to two years, instead of the expected four or more years. But the legislation included language that the timeline would only be applied to applications that include a certified reactor design. Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) has also supported the establishment of NRC timelines for decisions that he says will help utilities and investors make informed decisions (*E&E Daily*, July 31).

But Jaczko said the application review was similar to earning a college diploma. A student receives a diploma for the quality of work and class time, rather than just spending time on campus, he said.

"In the end, it is important that the license, like any diploma, has integrity," he said.

Jaczko declined yesterday to say when NRC would decide on the first new reactor application. In July, he said that he hoped to have at least one application finished by 2012 (*E&ENews PM* July 7).

Jaczko also said the agency might consider a rulemaking that would require new reactor applications to include a certified reactor design. That might help NRC move more quickly on applications, he said.

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NUCLEAR WASTE: Panel cautiously eyes recycling used fuel (09/24/2009)

A nuclear advisory panel has shifted its focus from developing a permanent geologic storage site for nuclear waste to ways the country can recycle or downgrade the spent fuel it already has.

Experts at yesterday's Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting said using Yucca Mountain for permanent storage of the nation's 66,000 tons of spent fuel was uncertain at best, but that alternatives like recycling were also decades away from becoming a reality.

"Anything nuclear is just very difficult, it seems," said B. John Garrick, chairman of the board Congress established in 1987.

The meeting in suburban Washington, D.C., included presentations from three major nuclear companies on three options for sorting out the components of nuclear waste: burying some, recycling others into new fuel and putting some in reactors to be transformed into less hazardous materials.

After spending nearly $10.4 billion on Yucca Mountain, both President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) have opposed moving forward with the plan. In February, the White House released a budget cutting off most of the money for Yucca Mountain and promised to appoint a commission to look into alternatives (Matthew Wald, *New York Times*, Sept. 23). **-- PT**

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NUCLEAR WASTE: NRC decision imminent on spent-fuel storage rule (09/25/2009)

Katherine Ling, E&E reporter

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission could release its decision today on the storage of spent nuclear fuel waiting for final disposal, an NRC spokeswoman said.

The "waste confidence rule" is critical for new reactor applications. NRC may not approve new operating licenses for reactors until there are approved disposal paths for spent fuel.

The agency already has a waste confidence rule that allows used fuel to be stored in wet or dry casks for as long as a century, or 30 years after a 40-year operating license ends, even if that license is extended for 20 years.

But that rule also assumes a permanent geologic waste repository would be available by 2025 -- which appears unlikely, given that the Obama administration is moving to cancel the Yucca Mountain, Nev., repository without having an alternative disposal plan. The 2025 contingency was what spurred NRC to re-examine the rule last year (*Greenwire*, Oct. 9, 2008).

The new updated rule would eliminate the 2025 time frame and would instead state that there is "reasonable assurance that sufficient mined geologic repository capacity will be available within 50 to 60 years" beyond the end of a reactor's operating license.

The proposed rule also finds it safe to store waste for 60 years beyond the end of an operating license even if it is extended for 20 years -- for a total of 120 years.

NRC received more than 3,000 comments on the draft rule, with most comments on whether there is a need to make any time reference to the availability of geologic storage. In final comments on the rule, NRC staff members recommended keeping the 50- to 60-year reference to underscore that the updated rule "does not contemplate indefinite storage."

Commissioner Kristine Svinicki submitted her official vote on the amendment yesterday. She is the last of the three commissioners to do so, said Beth Hayden, NRC spokeswoman.

Svinicki said she has confidence that waste can be stored safely but added that an additional comment period is needed on the 50- to 60-year window for opening a repository, according to a **statement** e-mailed by her staff to reporters. The additional comment period and delay were suggested by NRC staff in the agency's June recommendation.

"While I agree that the framework for the nuclear waste disposal as enshrined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act must be accepted as a settled matter, until and unless it is changed, the challenge of shutting one's ears to the din of the current debate is felt most acutely in attempts to establish the estimated 'timeframe' for repository availability," Svinicki wrote. "Plainly put, this is a particularly difficult time to be in the prediction business."

Commissioner Dale Kline, whose Sept. 16 vote and comment were released this morning, said he also would like to see an additional comment period.

"I strongly believe that the Commission should give the public an opportunity to comment on whether and, if so, how the administration's recent announcements of changes in the nation's high-level waste repository program should affect the proposed update," Kline wrote in his comment.

NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko has already submitted his vote, but it has not been

released yet, Hayden said.
Click here to read Kline's statement.
Click here to read Svinicki's statement.
Reporter Katie Howell contributed.

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NUCLEAR POWER: U.S., Italy sign pact to build reactors (09/30/2009)

The United States and Italy yesterday signed a nuclear cooperation agreement for U.S. firms to help build several new reactors in Italy, ending a 22-year nuclear ban by the Mediterranean nation.
U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said companies like General Electric Co. and Westinghouse will be able to bid for plant projects in locations across Italy, which hopes to issue criteria that would determine the reactor sites by mid-February.
"Italy is restarting its nuclear energy again," Chu said. "It has aggressive goals, very admirable goals, in decreasing its carbon emissions through nuclear, through renewable energy, through improvements and efficiency."
Italy is the only country in the Group of Eight industrialized nations without nuclear power. It banned the power source in a 1987 referendum following the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine.
The five-year pact between the countries seeks to build up to a dozen reactors, part of Italy's goal to get 25 percent of its power from nuclear plants (John Poirier, Reuters, Sept. 29). -- PT

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