

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coordinator
Subject: May Monthly Report
Date: June 13, 2012

Beans

Training:	3
Drills:	1
Meetings:	1
Technical Assistance:	2
Public Assistance:	0

Web Page Views: There were 41 page views in May.

Coming Attractions

6/6	Working group
6/12	BV second Dry Run if needed
6/19	All hands meeting Riffe center
6/19	BV Evaluated Exercise
6/20-21	FBI Cleveland Exercise

Facility updates

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

Davis-Besse Started May at full power and entered a refueling outage late on May 5.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Perry operated at full power for May.

Perry reported an waste water discharge in excess of its permit on May 6, from 9:35 am to 9:47 am. The plant is permitted to discharge treated water with less than 0.2 mg/L of chlorine and sampling results showed 0.29 mg/L of chlorine. The plant chlorinates its systems twice daily to inhibit growth of organisms in the plant systems. Water treatment

has ceased until the cause of the increased chlorine levels is identified. This event does not affect the plant's ability to operate safely. See event No. 47901

At 12:33 May 7, 20 of the emergency sirens in the Perry 10 mile planning area activated. The activation signal came from the Lake County EMA offices during a severe storm event. See Event Number: 47902.

On May 10, Perry took its main computer system offline from 1100 to 1245 in order to perform maintenance. This will prevented data from being fed to the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), CADAP (Computer Aided Dose Assessment Program) and E-data system for the duration of the repairs. The plant maintained back up methods to replace those systems during the repair period. See Event No. 47913.

Beaver Valley Power Station

Beaver Valley Unit I

Unit I started May in a refueling outage. The reactor started up on May 11 and ran at full power until the end of the month.

Beaver Valley Unit II

Unit II operated at full power for May.

Fermi II

Fermi II Started May in a refueling outage. The plant started ramping up power on May 4th and ran at full power until the end of the month.

Fermi III

No information received this month.

Portsmouth Enrichment Plant

An unbadged contractor was in a restricted area. The error was caught immediately and the person was escorted out of the secured area.

Activity

- 5/1 BV Tabletop Dose Assessment Exercise in preparation for the June Exercise.
- 5/2 Working Group. Agency and plant updates. Final details of the RAT training was shared for participating agencies. OEMA briefed the group on the HSEEP exercise running in conjunction with the Beaver Valley plant exercise.
- 5/9-10 RAT Training at NASA Plum Brook facility including Fukushima updates and Full Scale functional exercise of the sampling procedures with OEPA, OEMA, and ODH.
- 5/22 BV Dry Run and EOC Full HSEEP an after hours exercise to prepare for the Beaver Valley Partial Participation Exercise and the HSEEP exercise for FEMA.
- 5/30-31 REAC/TS at Columbus Public Health. Medical support, health and safety issues, and lessons learned from several contamination events and exercises.

Office Issues

None at this time.

News, NRC Reports, and Statistics

Operating Power Levels

May

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Perry	Fermi2	
1	0	100	100	100	0	
4	0	100	100	100	8	Fermi exiting refueling outage
6	0	100	0	100	20	DB started refueling outage 5/5
7	0	100	0	100	35	
11	15	100	0	100	100	BV exiting refueling outage
14	100	100	0	100	100	
21	100	100	0	100	100	
28	100	100	0	100	100	
31	100	100	0	100	100	

Information Notices

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

or to access generic communications files on the NRC Homepage:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2012/>.

To access these documents use the ADAMS Accession number listed with the title.

This is in the format of : ML #####

Forthcoming Meeting with Industry and Licensee Representatives Re: Transition of Non-Pilot Licensees to National Fire Protection Association Standard 805

ADAMS Accession No.: ML121180621

Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 – Proposed Alternative Regarding Motor Operated Valve Testing (TAC Nos. ME7684 and ME7685)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12122A217

Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 – Request for Additional Information Regarding the Estimated Effect on Peak Cladding Temperature Resulting From Thermal Conductivity Degradation in the Westinghouse – Furnished Realistic Emergency Core Cooling System Evaluation (TAC Nos. ME8409 and ME8410)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML121150501

Davis-Besse IR 2012-007

ADAMS Accession No. ML12128A443

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1 - Upcoming Steam Generator Tube Inservice Inspections

Adams Accession No. ML12121A538

Perry Nuclear Power Plant - NRC Special Inspection Report 05000440/2012405(DRS), Preliminary Greater Than Green Finding - Cover Letter Only

ADAMS Accession Number ML12129A453

Prioritization of Response Due Dates for Request for Information Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 50.54(f) Regarding Flooding Hazard Reevaluations for Recommendation 2.1 of the Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights From the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12097A509

05/10/2012, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company regarding Operator Licensing Workshop and Meeting

ADAMS Accession Number ML12132A373

5/10/2012, Letter to Detroit Edison regarding Operator Licensing Workshop and Meeting

ADAMS Accession Number ML12132A350

05/10/2012, Letter to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company regarding Operator Licensing Workshop and Meeting

ADAMS Accession Number ML12131A407

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NO. ME4640)

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML12118A542

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON JULY 19, 2011, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, CONCERNING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC. NO. ME4640)

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML12052A179

Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 2 – Review of Steam Generator Tube Inspection Report for Spring 2011 Refueling Outage (TAC Nos. ME7382 and ME7383)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML121290532

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1 - Safety Evaluation Regarding the Reactor Coolant System Pressure and Temperature Limits Report, Revision 1

ADAMS Accession No.: ML121070686

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 2: SENIOR REACTOR AND REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

ADAMS Accession No. ML12142A240

Perry Nuclear Plant-Notification of NRC Supplemental Inspection (95002) and Request For Information

ADAMS Accession Number ML12142A238

PERRY 2012 008 FIRE PROTECTION IR

ADAMS ACCESSION# ML12143A342

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 1: REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTION

ADAMS Accession No. ML12145A002

DAVIS-BESSE CDBI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

ADAMS ACCESSION# ML12146A423

Letter to Licensee Regarding Open House to Discuss NRC Activities, Nuclear Power Issues, and 2011 End-of-Cycle Performance Assessment of Fermi Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 –

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12151A192

DAVIS-BEESSE: Project Manager Change for the License Renewal of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 (TAC NO. ME4640)

ADAMS Accession No. ML12139A060

DAVIS-BESSE: Request for Additional Information for the Review of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station License Renewal Application Related to Pressure-Temperature Limits (TAC NO. ME4640)

ADAMS Accession No. ML12144A038

Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 2 – Correction Letter to the Revised Steam Generator Inspection Scope Using F* Inspection Methodology Amendment Safety Evaluation (TAC No. ME3498)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12143A445

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD TO HOLD ORAL ARGUMENTS MAY 18 ON DAVIS-BESSE SHIELD BUILDING CRACKING

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hear oral arguments May 18 on a request to consider cracks in the Davis-Besse nuclear plant's shield building "an aging-related feature" that would preclude renewing the plant's operating license for an additional 20 years.

The contention was filed in January by four intervenors in the hearing: Beyond Nuclear, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario, Don't Waste Michigan, and the Green Party of Ohio. The May 18 oral arguments will discuss whether the ASLB should admit the contention or an alternative wording suggested by the NRC staff.

The oral arguments will be held Friday, May 18, in the Common Pleas Courtroom of the Ottawa County Courthouse, 315 Madison St., in Port Clinton, Ohio, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending no later than 4:30 p.m.

Only lawyers for the intervenors, the NRC staff and FirstEnergy, Davis-Besse's operator, will be allowed to participate. The public and media are welcome to attend, but signs, banners, posters or other displays will not be permitted in the courtroom.

News

Lawmakers eye funding for USEC in transportation bill

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Lawmakers in the House and Senate are courting conferees on a long-term transportation reauthorization bill over funding for an embattled uranium enrichment project in Ohio.

Reps. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) are arguing that \$150 million for DOE's American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, should be left out of the bill because the project has suffered technical setbacks and shaky investment. But an Ohio senator is asking the negotiators to approve the money.

Markey, ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Pearce asked House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) in a [letter](#) Monday to pull funding for the plant, which the U.S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC) would operate. "The time has come to stop the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on USEC's failed ACP," the lawmakers wrote.

USEC, which currently operates demonstration centrifuges in Piketon, has repeatedly warned that it may be forced to demobilize the project by May 31 if the federal government does not inject more money.

Paul Jacobson, a spokesman for USEC, said in an email yesterday that USEC will be "faced with the prospect of ending the project" if federal dollars do not come through by the end of the month.

The plant has garnered national attention as it seeks a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee in the wake of the bankruptcy of Solyndra, a solar company that also received federal backing from the Obama administration. Ohio lawmakers have been quick to point out that the project would create jobs in the hardest-hit areas of southern Ohio.

Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, an outspoken proponent of the project, asked more than 40 conferees in a [letter](#) last week to fund the project, noting that the Energy Department has set out a "comprehensive path" for funding research at the Piketon plant during a two-year period.

Brown was referring to a plan DOE outlined last year to launch a research and development program at the plant, which the agency said is the best way to help the centrifuge technology achieve commercial viability. DOE had asked for "transfer authority" to use \$150 million of existing funds to bring the plant closer to commercial viability ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 17).

Brown, who has aligned with Ohio GOP Sen. Rob Portman in supporting USEC, said appropriations bills moving through the House and Senate would also provide \$150 million for the USEC project in fiscal 2013. The uranium enrichment plant will provide nuclear fuel for commercial reactors and material for tritium production, Brown wrote. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) has set an early June deadline for a deal on the highway bill ([E&E Daily](#), May 9). Boxer says the House and Senate must reach a deal by then to move the legislation through both chambers before the June 30 expiration of existing policy.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2012/05/10/6>

Could cheap gas choke aging nuclear plants?

Peter Behr, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, May 11, 2012

The nuclear industry is starting to question whether persistent low natural gas prices could pose a serious competitive threat to older nuclear plants -- as cheap gas has already done to coal, wind and new nuclear generation.

"That's a very tough question," said David Bradish, manager of energy and economic analysis at the Nuclear Energy Institute. "Are the plants going to be economical to operate in the future, based on gas costs that are coming down?"

"No one has said, 'We're going to start retiring all these nuclear plants,'" he added. But the question is getting more attention. "They're chewing on it."

Low power prices are putting "pressure on the margins for nuclear plants," said Judy Chang, a principal with the Brattle Group consultancy, while, following the 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan, "their compliance costs are going up."

"I don't see it coming soon, but folks at nuclear plants are doing that analysis," she said. Susan Tierney, managing principal of the Analysis Group consulting firm and former Energy Department assistant secretary for policy, says the impact of the low gas prices resulting from the shale gas boom varies plant by plant.

"The fleet of existing plants ranges from the extremely well-performing, high-output plants that are humming along" to a relatively few poorer performers, she said. The most efficient plants are seeing their profit margins get scraped, "but it's hard to imagine that they would become uneconomic even in a low-priced natural gas world" with wellhead prices at under \$3 per million cubic feet.

Over the past decade, the nuclear industry has spent a lot to increase reactor output, to replace aging components and to complete relicensing certifications with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to keep the plants running another 20 years, she said. Awaiting the operators of the 104 U.S. commercial reactors are still-undetermined costs for reassessing and dealing with potential earthquake hazards and strengthening plants' defense to comply with the NRC's Fukushima regulatory requirements.

"A plant that has a combination of inherent low performance characteristics, with an exposure to an expensive set of seismic certifications, and which has a design that is similar to the Fukushima facilities, may face a high hurdle rate" for making those investments if gas prices remain at rock bottom, she said.

One senior executive of a nuclear plant operator said the Fukushima costs are less likely to be a major factor in a decision to shut down a plant. "I don't sense that's the straw that breaks the camel's back."

More important in the calculation are the ongoing costs of operations and maintenance, as plants age, and for some plants, the challenge of meeting tougher regulation of the water quality in rivers and lakes that supply the enormous quantities of cooling water the reactors require.

Pressures over retrofits, repairs

In a notable instance of cost pressures, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) struck a bargain with Exelon Corp. in 2010 that would permit the company's Oyster Creek nuclear plant to continue operating until 2019 without a cooling tower -- a billion-dollar retrofit that is required to lessen the impact of the heated water that is discharged into Barnegat Bay, 30 miles from Atlantic City.

Exelon said the cost of the cooling tower would exceed the value of the plant and could not be economically justified. As its part of the deal, it agreed to shorten the plant's life, closing it down 10 years before its renewed license was due to expire.

Industry experts say Progress Energy's Crystal River nuclear plant north of Tampa, Fla., is an extreme example of a plant facing major repairs after cracks were discovered in 2009 in the 42-inch-thick concrete containment structure that surrounds the reactor and steam generators. If it can be repaired, the costs could reach \$1.3 billion, according to company estimates.

Progress Energy's president and chief executive, Bill Johnson, told market analysts in a conference call last week that a decision to undertake repairs has not been made as the company continues negotiations with its insurer, Nuclear Electric Insurance Ltd., over payments for the repairs.

In competitive electricity markets on the West Coast, Great Lakes region and the Northeast, nuclear plant operators facing such major repairs would have to determine whether they could recover the costs if their plants are competing with rock-bottom gas-fired generation, Tierney said.

Nuclear plant operators in these regions offer their output in the daily wholesale electricity markets at very low prices, to ensure that the plants will be called on to run 24/7. (Grid managers schedule the generators that will be needed each day starting with the lowest bidders and moving up the price "stack" until there is enough generation to meet demand. The most expensive plant called on sets the wholesale price that all generators receive for each hour.)

When gas-fired plants are able to set a high price, the nuclear plants catch a windfall, Tierney said. "They were printing money," she said.

The money flow has slowed way down with the drop in electricity prices due to the collapse of gas prices. The spot price for natural gas rose slightly to \$2.27 per million British thermal units at the Henry Hub pricing point in Louisiana this week, according to the Energy Information Administration. In 2008, before the market crash, it topped \$13. "I have heard people begin to wonder whether there are any marginal nuclear plants that are really facing financial pressures," Tierney added.

She and other analysts cautioned, however, that the competitive situation for gas, coal and nuclear plants even months from now remains a mystery, let alone where gas prices may go next year and the years to follow. The regulation of coal plants and shale gas production by U.S. EPA and the scope and timetable for mandated changes in nuclear plants by the NRC could turn on the presidential election-year results, and these actions will play out for multiple years.

The only consensus may surround the outlook for natural gas prices, Tierney said.

"Nobody really thinks they will stay as low as they are."

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2012/05/11/1>

Columbus Dispatch

AP IMPACT: Evacs and drills pared near nuke plants

May. 16, 2012 3:25 AM ET

By JEFF DONN, AP National Writer

Without fanfare, the nation's nuclear power regulators have overhauled community emergency planning for the first time in more than three decades, requiring fewer exercises for major accidents and recommending that fewer people be evacuated right away.

The revamp, the first since the program began after Three Mile Island in 1979, also eliminates a requirement that local responders always practice for a release of radiation. At least four years in the works, the changes appear to clash with more recent lessons of last year's reactor crisis in Japan.

Under the new rules, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which run the program together, have added one new exercise: More than a decade after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, state and community police will now take part in exercises that prepare for a possible assault on their local plant.

Still, some emergency officials say this new exercise doesn't go far enough.

And some view as downright bizarre the idea that communities will now periodically run emergency scenarios without practicing for any significant release of radiation.

These changes, while documented in obscure federal publications, went into effect in December with hardly any notice by the general public.

An Associated Press investigative series in June exposed weaknesses in the U.S. emergency planning program. The stories detailed how many nuclear reactors are now operating beyond their design life under rules that have been relaxed to account for deteriorating safety margins. The series also documented considerable population growth around nuclear power plants and limitations in the scope of exercises. For example, local authorities assemble at command centers where they test communications, but they do not deploy around the community, reroute traffic or evacuate anyone as in a real emergency.

The latest changes, especially relaxed exercise plans for 50-mile emergency zones, are being flayed by some local planners and activists who say the widespread contamination in Japan from last year's Fukushima nuclear accident screams out for stronger planning in the United States, not weaker rules.

FEMA officials say the revised standards introduce more variability into planning exercises and will help keep responders on their toes. The nuclear power industry has praised the changes on similar grounds.

Onsite security forces at nuclear power plants have practiced defending against make-believe assaults since 1991 and increased the frequency of these drills after the 2001 terrorism attacks. The new exercises for community responders took years to consider and adopt with prolonged industry and government consultations that led to repeated drafts. The NRC made many changes requested by the industry in copious comments. Federal personnel will now evaluate if state and local authorities have enough resources to handle a simultaneous security threat and radiation release. Their ability to communicate with onsite security officials during an attack also will be evaluated during exercises.

But community planners wonder why local forces won't have to practice repelling an attack along with plant security guards — something federal emergency planners acknowledge could be necessary in a real assault.

The FEMA instruction manual for the preparedness program says the agency won't evaluate defense capability of community forces because of "confidentiality of sensitive security information" — an apparent reference to the risk of exposing vulnerabilities during a public exercise.

When pressed, though, federal emergency planners gave other explanations. They said state and local police are more likely to be needed for tasks like escorting damage control teams rather than confronting attackers.

"We're assuming these guys don't want to escape, or else they wouldn't have showed up," said Randy Sullivan, a health physicist who works on emergency preparedness at the NRC. "A dragnet and security sweep is less important than saving equipment that is important to core damage."

None of the revisions has been questioned more than the new requirement that some planning exercises incorporate a reassuring premise: that no harmful radiation is released. Federal regulators say that conducting a wider variety of accident scenarios makes the exercises less predictable.

However, many state and local emergency officials say such exercises make no sense in a program designed to protect the population from radiation released by a nuclear accident.

"We have the real business of protecting public health to do if we're not needed at an exercise," Texas radiation-monitoring specialist Robert Free wrote bluntly to federal regulators when they broached the idea. "Not to mention the waste of public monies." Environmental and anti-nuclear activists also scoffed. "You need to be practicing for a worst case, rather than a nonevent," said nuclear policy analyst Jim Riccio of the group Greenpeace.

A FEMA representative declined multiple requests for an interview and instead released a statement. The agency acknowledged that a simulated problem during a no-release exercise is handled on plant grounds.

Federal planners say this exercise still requires community decision makers to mobilize and set up communication lines with officials on the site, practicing critical capabilities, even though they won't need to measure and respond to radiation.

While officials stress the importance of limiting radioactive releases, the revisions also favor limiting initial evacuations, even in a severe accident. Under the previous standard, people within two miles would be immediately evacuated, along with everyone five miles downwind. Now, in a large quick release of radioactivity, emergency personnel would concentrate first on evacuating people only within two miles. Others would be told to stay put and wait for a possible evacuation order later.

Timothy Greten, who administers the community readiness program at FEMA, said it wouldn't be necessary to tell people to stay put "if you could evacuate everybody within 10 or 15 minutes." But he said hunkering down can be safer in some locations and circumstances, "especially for a short-term solution."

Federal officials say people could risk worse exposure in an evacuation impeded by overcrowded roadways or bad weather.

This change, however, raises the likely severity of a panicked exodus outside the official evacuation area. Even a federal study used to shape the new program warns that up to 20 percent of people near official evacuation areas might also leave and potentially slow things down for everyone — and that's assuming clear instructions.

"If it were me, I would evacuate" even without an official go-ahead, said Cheryl L.

Chubb, a nuclear emergency planner with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, who is critical of the changes.

At Fukushima, more than 150,000 people evacuated, including about 50,000 who left on their own, according to Japan's Education Ministry. At Three Mile Island, 195,000 people are estimated to have fled, though officials urged evacuation only for pregnant women and young children within five miles. About 135,000 people lived within 10 miles of the site at the time.

In its series, the AP reported that populations within 10 miles of U.S. nuclear sites have ballooned by as much as 4 1/2 times since 1980. Nuclear sites were originally picked in less populated areas to minimize the impact of accidents. Now, about 120 million Americans — almost 40 percent — live within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant, according to the AP's analysis of 2010 Census data. The Indian Point plant in Buchanan, N.Y., is at the center of the largest such zone, with 17.3 million people, including almost all of New York City.

"They're saying, 'If there's no way to evacuate, then we won't,'" Phillip Musegaas, a lawyer with the environmental group Riverkeeper, said of the stronger emphasis on taking shelter at home. The group is challenging relicensing of Indian Point.

In February, a national coalition of environmental and anti-nuclear groups asked the NRC to expand evacuation planning from 10 miles to 25 miles and to broaden separate 50-mile readiness zones to 100 miles. The groups also pressed for some exercises that simulate a nuclear accident accompanied by a natural disaster like an earthquake or hurricane — akin to the combination of tsunami, blackout and meltdowns at Fukushima. The new U.S. program has kept the 10- and 50-mile planning zones in place, as well as the requirement for one full exercise for a 10-mile evacuation every two years. However, required 50-mile planning exercises will now be held less often: every eight years, instead of every six years.

Exercises are full-blown tests, with FEMA evaluation, of the entire range of community capabilities needed in an accident. Smaller drills of specific skills are run more frequently.

In the state-led 50-mile exercises, emergency personnel practice the logistics of dealing with contaminated food and milk over a large region. They also prepare the mechanisms to relocate people, clean up contamination and later return evacuees to their communities.

Gary Lima, who manages the nuclear readiness program at the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, said 50-mile exercises should be run more frequently than once every eight years. "Recovery is really your hardest work," he said.

Even when the program mandated a six-year timetable, federal authors of the 2002 program manual acknowledged that "many (first responders) have indicated a desire" for even more frequent exercises in the 50-mile zone.

The Japanese disaster reinforced such worries when officials told some towns beyond 12 miles from the disabled plant to evacuate. The U.S. government recommended that Americans stay at least 50 miles from the plant. Soil and crops were contaminated for scores of miles around. At one point, health authorities in Tokyo, 140 miles away, advised families not to give children the local water, which was contaminated by fallout to twice the government limit for infants.

Officials for FEMA and the NRC said they are still studying whether Japan's experience points to the need for further changes in the United States. Pressed on the reduced

frequency of 50-mile exercises, federal planners said community personnel can practice skills as often as they like, without needing a full-blown federal evaluation each time. The Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's main advocate, strongly backed the eight-year timetable to reduce the burden of adding the attack exercises. Asked about the other changes, NEI spokesman Steven Kerekes said they bring more federal oversight, formalizing practices already begun at many sites. However, no nuclear plant has ever been shut down for deficiencies in the emergency response plan of surrounding communities.

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi contributed to this report from Tokyo.

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Associated Press

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Chairman of N.R.C. to Resign Under Fire
By [JOHN M. BRODER](#) and [MATTHEW L. WALD](#)
Published: May 21, 2012

WASHINGTON — Gregory B. Jaczko, whose three-year tenure as chairman of the [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) has been marked by bitter battles with colleagues and with Congress, announced Monday that he would step down as soon as a successor was confirmed.

The White House said it would name a successor “soon,” but it is unlikely that anyone will be confirmed to succeed [Dr. Jaczko](#) for many months, ensuring continued turmoil at the deeply divided agency. The commission’s inspector general is preparing a report to be issued in coming weeks that is expected to repeat some of the [charges of mismanagement and verbal abuse](#) of subordinates that have isolated Dr. Jaczko from other members.

Dr. Jaczko, chairman since May 2009 and the longest-serving member of the five-member commission, was an outsider and a maverick when he joined the panel more than seven years ago. He has drawn sharp criticism for helping to end the government’s consideration of a proposed nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert and for assuming some emergency powers at the commission after the triple meltdown of Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi reactors in March 2011.

He sought to address some longstanding safety problems at the 104 nuclear power reactors in the United States, but with a background in nuclear physics and nuclear policy and not in the nuclear industry, Dr. Jaczko was viewed with skepticism and mistrust by some industry insiders.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Jaczko (pronounced YAHTZ-koh) refused to talk about his clashes with other commissioners, which resulted in an internal commission investigation and Congressional hearings.

“I thought it was really the right time to make that announcement, to give the president an opportunity to take whatever time may be needed to identify and work through the process of selecting a successor,” he said. While acknowledging the attacks from

Republicans, Dr. Jaczko said they were not a factor in his choice to resign. "This was my own decision," he said.

He said he would remain on the job until he is replaced or his term ends in June 2013. Representative Edward J. Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, praised Dr. Jaczko, a former Markey adviser.

"Greg has led a Sisyphean fight against some of the nuclear industry's most entrenched opponents of strong, lasting safety regulations, often serving as the lone vote in support of much-needed safety upgrades recommended by the commission's safety staff," Mr. Markey said in a statement.

The practical impact of the announcement is not clear. Dr. Jaczko's term as a member of the commission ends in 13 months, but the commissioner who serves as chairman does so at the president's behest, meaning that he would be replaced in January if President Obama did not win a second term.

Dr. Jaczko was named to the commission by President George W. Bush in January 2005 under a longstanding practice of approving new commissioners in pairs, one from each party. He was chosen by Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic leader, on whose staff Dr. Jaczko served. As chairman, he was instrumental in achieving one of Mr. Reid's central goals, killing the proposed nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain, chosen by the Senate in the 1980s.

Last year, all four of his fellow commissioners — two Democrats and two Republicans — sent a letter to the White House chief of staff complaining about his management style. They told a House committee in December that Dr. Jaczko had withheld information from them, unprofessionally berated the agency's professional staff and reduced female employees to tears with his comments.

But beyond friction with his fellow commissioners, he often found himself the lone dissenting vote on important issues. Among them were the speed with which American reactors should be reanalyzed and improved to incorporate the lessons learned from Fukushima Daiichi and whether licenses should be granted for new reactors before those changes were in the pipeline.

DOE considers plan to keep Ohio plant afloat

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

The Energy Department is considering buying uranium enrichment technology from the U.S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC) to prevent the closure of a sprawling federal complex in Piketon, Ohio.

DOE proposed in a [notice of intent](#) yesterday to buy up to 40 centrifuges from Bethesda, Md.-based USEC.

In addition to buying the machines that enrich uranium, DOE is proposing to take on liability for depleted uranium "tails" that USEC currently owns. The plan would free up money for USEC to continue operating the plant and possibly attract investors.

USEC is threatening to close the plant next week if it doesn't receive another injection of federal funds. USEC, which is leasing the DOE facility, ultimately hopes to secure a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee.

But Jen Stutsman, a spokeswoman for the agency, said purchasing the machines is one of many options being considered and may not be pursued.

"As we've said time and again, the Energy Department and the Obama administration have been working tirelessly to support the American Centrifuge Plant and protect America's domestic uranium enrichment capability for U.S. national security," she said. The short-term fixes are necessary because DOE has not yet obtained permission from Congress to shift money around within the agency to fund USEC's research and demonstration.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu earlier this year offered USEC another lifeline when the department took liability for \$44 million worth of uranium "tails" ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 17). Some House members on both sides of the aisle have criticized the government's support for USEC, likening the Ohio plant to the half-billion-dollar loan guarantee DOE gave failed solar manufacturer Solyndra ([E&E Daily](#), May 18). But the plant has the support of several other powerful members, including Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio). Paul Jacobson, a spokesman for the company, rejected criticism that the DOE plan represents a bailout or "sweetheart" deal for USEC. The company has already invested more than \$2 billion of private capital to advance the centrifuge technology, and the research is in the national interest, he said.

"USEC will make no profit from the [research, demonstration and development] program," he said. "It simply reimburses us for the costs of operating it."

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/05/23/archive/6>

USEC seeking short-term extension from lenders for Ohio plant

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, May 31, 2012

The U.S. Enrichment Corp. (USEC) is trying to eke out another short-term extension from its lenders to continue operating a controversial uranium enrichment project in Piketon, Ohio.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and other lenders had threatened to slash funding today for Bethesda, Md.-based USEC's research at the \$5 billion American Centrifuge Plant if the company failed to secure cost-share funds from the Energy Department.

But USEC now says it's seeking another short-term extension from its lenders and expects "near-term completion of the agreements needed to provide such cost-shared funding."

USEC, which is leasing the DOE facility, is attempting to secure a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee.

"Pending short-term resolution with the lenders and DOE, USEC expects to continue work on the [research, development and demonstration] program at its facilities in Ohio and Tennessee without disruption," the company said in a statement today.

DOE confirmed that an agreement with USEC is being firmed up. "We have made significant progress and hope to be able to announce additional details soon," said Jen Stutsman, a DOE spokeswoman.

The agency is considering buying up to 40 centrifuges from USEC and taking on liability for depleted uranium "tails" the company owns to free up money for the Ohio project ([Greenwire](#), May 23).

DOE could also take on liability for a larger number of tails, just as Energy Secretary Steven Chu did earlier this year ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 17).

But critics say the government shouldn't be supporting USEC, a financially unstable company.

Ellen Vancko, nuclear and climate program director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said USEC is another corporate entity seeking to exist through the largesse of the federal government. DOE and USEC need to provide a timeline for funding and firm milestones, she said.

USEC first announced eight years ago that it would open the facility and has been attempting for about four years to secure a federal loan guarantee ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 13, 2004).

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/05/31/10>

Plant Reports

Power Reactor	Event Number: 47901
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [] [] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: GLENDON BURNHAM HQ OPS Officer: PETE SNYDER	Notification Date: 05/06/2012 Notification Time: 20:53 [ET] Event Date: 05/06/2012 Event Time: 09:35 [EDT] Last Update Date: 05/06/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(2)(xi) - OFFSITE NOTIFICATION	Person (Organization): MARK RING (R3DO)

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

OFFSITE NOTIFICATION MADE FOR NPDES NONCOMPLIANCE

"This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi). On May 6, 2012, during daily chlorination activities, it was identified that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limit for Total Residual Chlorine was exceeded between approximately 0935 hours [EDT] and 0947 hours [EDT] when the noncompliance was corrected. The maximum measured value was 0.29 mg/L, which exceeded the NPDES Maximum Concentration Limit of 0.2 mg/L.

"On May 6, 2012, at approximately 1930 hours [EDT], a 'Noncompliance Notification

for Exceedance of a Daily Maximum Discharge Limit' was made to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The cause of the NPDES permit noncompliance is under investigation. Chlorination evolutions have been suspended pending investigation results. At the time of the event, the plant was in Mode 1 at 100 percent rated thermal power.

"This event is also being reported in accordance with the plant's operating license, appendix B, Environmental Protection Plan, which states, in part, that any occurrence of an unusual or important event that indicates or could result in environmental impact causally related to plant operation shall be recorded and reported to the NRC within 24 hours followed by a written report."

The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector.

Power Reactor	Event Number: 47902
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [] [] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: TOM MORSE HQ OPS Officer: PETE SNYDER	Notification Date: 05/07/2012 Notification Time: 16:16 [ET] Event Date: 05/07/2012 Event Time: 12:33 [EDT] Last Update Date: 05/07/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(2)(xi) - OFFSITE NOTIFICATION	Person (Organization): JOHN GIESSNER (R3DO)

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

INADVERTENT EMERGENCY SIREN ACTUATION

"This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi). On May 7, 2012, at approximately 1233 hours [EDT], an inadvertent actuation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant's alert notification system occurred. Twenty of the seventy-six total sirens sounded for three minutes affecting Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties. Following the actuation the county agencies received calls from members of the public.

"A successful quiet test of the sirens had been conducted earlier in the day (at approximately 0830 hours [EDT]). At this time, all sirens are functioning correctly. The siren actuation was not related to any condition or event at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The actuation signal originated from the Lake County Emergency Operations

Center while thunderstorms were passing through the area. Additional investigation is in progress to determine the cause of the inadvertent actuation. At the time of the event, the plant was in Mode 1 at 100 percent rated thermal power.

"Lake County officials plant to issue a press release.

"The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified."

Power Reactor	Event Number: 47913
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1][][] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: THOMAS MORSE HQ OPS Officer: HOWIE CROUCH	Notification Date: 05/10/2012 Notification Time: 10:29 [ET] Event Date: 05/10/2012 Event Time: 11:00 [EDT] Last Update Date: 05/10/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(xiii) - LOSS COMM/ASMT/RESPONSE	Person (Organization): JOHN GIESSNER (R3DO)

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

SAFETY PARAMETER DISPLAY SYSTEM AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM OUT OF SERVICE

"Beginning at approximately 1100 hours EDT on May 10, 2012, plant personnel will be taking the plant integrated computer system (ICS) out-of-service for planned maintenance. During the time ICS is out-of-service, the Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS), the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), and the automatic mode calculation of the Computer Aided Dose Assessment Program (CADAP) will be unavailable. The computer outage is scheduled for two hours.

"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 Private Branch Exchange, Off Premise Exchange, and various redundant intrafacility 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.

"This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(xiii). A follow-up notification will be made when the maintenance activities are completed and the equipment is restored. The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified."

* * * UPDATE AT 1245 EDT ON 5/10/12 FROM MORSE TO HUFFMAN * * *

The maintenance activities were completed as scheduled and the integrated computer system and associated systems SPDS, ERDS and CADAP has been returned to service as of 1238 EDT.

The licensee will notify the NRC Resident Inspector. R3DO (Giessner) notified.

Fuel Cycle Facility	Event Number: 47956
Facility: PORTSMOUTH LEAD CASCADE RX Type: URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY Comments: 2 DEMOCRACY CENTER 6903 ROCKLEDGE DRIVE BETHESDA, MD 20817 Region: 2 City: PIKETON State: OH County: PIKE License #: SNM-7003 Agreement: Y Docket: 70-7003 NRC Notified By: CHARLES SEIDEL HQ OPS Officer: JOE O'HARA	Notification Date: 05/24/2012 Notification Time: 13:14 [ET] Event Date: 05/24/2012 Event Time: 08:33 [EDT] Last Update Date: 05/24/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: OTHER UNSPEC REQMNT	Person (Organization): STEVEN VIAS (R2DO)

Event Text

UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL GAINED ACCESS TO FACILITY

"At 0833 on 05/24/2012, an uncleared vendor employee was piggybacked by a cleared vendor employee through a security gate into the x3012 Security Area. The uncleared employee was removed from the area. There is no known compromise of classified in the location.

"This incident is reportable to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as an 8 hour Security Event in accordance with American Centrifuge Administrative Procedure ACD2-RG-044, Nuclear Regulatory Event Reporting, Appendix B, Section K2, IMI-3#14, which states, 'Circumvention of established access control procedures into a security area(excluding Property Protection Area)."

The licensee notified NRC Region 2 (Hartland).

Fukushima Daiichi Updates

Fukushima radiation exposure within norms -- WHO

Published: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Radiation released last year during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster was below cancer-causing levels in nearly all of Japan, and neighboring countries saw levels similar to normal background radiation, according to a report released today by the World Health Organization.

People in two locations in Fukushima prefecture may have received a dose of 10 to 50 millisieverts during the year after the accident, the report by independent experts found. Doses above 100 millisieverts put populations at a greater risk of contracting cancer, according to the U.N. health agency.

The report estimated that people in the rest of Fukushima prefecture received an effective dose between 1 and 10 millisieverts (Stephanie Nebehay, [Reuters](#), May 23). – AS Source: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/05/23/19>

Utility underestimated radiation released during Fukushima -- report

Published: Friday, May 25, 2012

The amount of radioactive materials released in the immediate aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster was almost two and a half times the initial estimate by safety regulators, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said in a report released yesterday.

The meltdowns at the plant may have released about 900,000 terabecquerels of radioactive substances, the company said. The latest estimate was based on measurements that suggest the released amount of iodine-131, a fast-decaying radioactive substance that can cause thyroid cancer, was much larger than previous estimates.

TEPCO was unable to accurately judge the amount of radioactive materials released during the meltdown because radiation sensors closest to the plant were disabled, the company said.

"If this information had been available at the time, we could have used it in planning evacuations," Tepco spokesman Junichi Matsumoto said.

The latest estimate does not clarify how much exposure people received during the accident or continue to receive from contaminated soil and food ([Reuters/New York Times](#), May 24). -- JE

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/05/25/25>