

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor  
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coordinator  
Subject: December Monthly Report  
Date: January 3, 2013

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## Beans

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

Web Page Views: There were 13 page views in December.

## Coming Attractions

1/8 Working Group  
1/13 URSB  
1/23 NEPAC

## Facility updates

### **Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station**

Davis-Besse operated at full power for December.

Davis Besse sent a preliminary report from the ongoing ground water monitoring program that showed elevated levels of tritium of 2181 pCi/L, above the 2000pCi/L level that prompts notification to Ohio. The drinking water standard for Tritium is 20,000 pCi/L. The plant is preparing a condition report and evaluating the findings.

Although the Part 21 report by Trivis Inc. does not mention Davis-Besse, the plant does use Transnuclear NUHOMS Dry Shield canisters. No impact from this report is expected for Davis-Besse. See Event No. 49628

### **Perry Nuclear Power Plant**

Perry operated for December at full power.

### **Beaver Valley Power Station**

## **Beaver Valley Unit I**

Unit I operated for December at 100% power.

## **Beaver Valley Unit II**

Unit II operated for December at 100% power.

## **DTE**

### **Fermi II**

Fermi II operated at full power

GE/Hitachi has determined a seismic issue may affect BWR/2-5 plants. The scram capability is expected to be affected due to the added seismic loads at low reactor pressures in the BWR/2-5 plants. The ability to scram for the BWR/6 plants is not adversely affected by the seismic events. Additional evaluation is required to determine to what extent the maximum allowable friction limits specified for the BWR/2-5 plants in SC 08-05 Revision 1 is affected by the addition of seismic loads. See Event No 46230.

ABB submitted an amended report to identify the affected customers and a need for completion of one outstanding action from the Part 21 Notification of 11/25/2013. Detroit Edison is one of these customers. SEE Event No. 49579.

### **Fermi III**

Fermi III continues as a documentation evaluation.

## **Portsmouth Enrichment Plant**

There were no event reports for the sites at Portsmouth for December. But there were ADAMS documents submitted.

In early December, USEC, the parent company of American Centrifuge Corp., announced it intends to file bankruptcy to reorganize their debt. The company anticipates the centrifuge project will continue on unaffected. The NRC currently has inspectors on site and it does not appear that this move will affect the centrifuge facility's license or ability to operate. The other ongoing activities at the site are unaffected by this change, as they are managed by other companies under the auspices of the Department of Energy.

Late in December DOE announced a 3 month loan to USEC that will aid in continuity of the centrifuge plant.

## Activity

12/10 Working Group

## Office Issues

Centerline Plume sampling considerations have been drafted for the REP Plan. Specific items for an IND SOP are being developed. A copy of RASCAL 4.3 has been received. Installation is pending migration to Win7.

## Statistics, NRC Reports, News, and ADAMS References

### Operating Power Levels

December

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Perry	Fermi2
1	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	100	100	100

### Plant Reports

Part 21	Event Number: 49610
Rep Org: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Licensee: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Region: 1 City: WILMINGTON State: NC County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: JIM HARRISON HQ OPS Officer: JOHN SHOEMAKER	Notification Date: 12/05/2013 Notification Time: 16:35 [ET] Event Date: 10/09/2013 Event Time: [EST] Last Update Date: 12/05/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section:	Person (Organization): WILLIAM COOK (R1DO)

21.21(d)(3)(i) - DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLIANCE	ANTHONY MASTERS (R2DO) ERIC DUNCAN (R3DO) MICHAEL VASQUEZ (R4DO) PART 21 GROUP (EMAI)
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**Event Text**

**PART 21 - FAILURE OF RELAY LOGIC CARD MODULES IN 2 OUT OF 4 VOTERS FOR POWER RANGE MONITORS**

The observed aging characteristics of the Solid State Relays on two particular Voter Relay Logic Cards Modules present a future challenge to the Power Range Neutron Monitoring System's ability to reliably insert the Average Power Range Monitor High-High/INOP scram and/or the Oscillating Power Range Monitor Scram to the Reactor Protection System in plant conditions warrant such action.

For Relay Logic Cards that have been in operation for over 10 years, Relay Logic Card Module replacement should be scheduled and accomplished at the first reasonable opportunity.

For Relay Logic Cards in operation for less than 10 years, a program should be implemented to replace Relay Logic Card Modules before the 10 years is reached.

Plant affected; Nine Mile Point 2, **Fermi 2**, Grand Gulf, Limerick 1 & 2, Peach Bottom 2 & 3, Susquehanna 1&2, Brunswick 1 & 2, Hatch 1 & 2, Browns Ferry 1, 2, & 3, Monticello, and Columbia.

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Part 21	Event Number: 49628
Rep Org: TRIVIS INC. Licensee: TRIVIS INC. Region: 1 City: BIRMINGHAM State: AL County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: DAVID BLAND HQ OPS Officer: HOWIE CROUCH	Notification Date: 12/13/2013 Notification Time: 14:37 [ET] Event Date: 12/13/2013 Event Time: [CST] Last Update Date: 12/13/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21(a)(2) - INTERIM EVAL OF DEVIATION	Person (Organization): RICHARD SKOKOWSKI (R3DO) PART 21 GROUPS (EMAI)

**Event Text**

**PART 21 REPORT - NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING DID NOT MEET PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

The following information was summarized from the report submitted by TriVis via facsimile:

David Bland, President of TriVis Inc. reported that two contract Non-Destructive Evaluation

(NDE) Level II examiners, employed by TriVis, failed to meet NDE procedural requirements for weld testing on the Outer Top Cover Plate (OTCP) on six Transnuclear Model NUHOMS-61BTH Dry Shield Canisters (DSC) at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

An NRC inspector observed part of this activity and questioned whether the dwell times for the penetrant and developer used by a NDE Level II employee of TriVis were sufficient to meet procedural requirements. Upon evaluating recorded video of the work location, it was determined that the dwell times for both the penetrant and the developer of the OTCP weld on DSC #16 were not in compliance with the TriVis NDE LPT [Liquid Penetrant Test] Procedure. An extent of condition review of previous LPT exams conducted on DSCs-11 through -16 revealed additional examinations that were not in compliance with the dwell times specified by the procedure as well as other procedural discrepancies.

All six DSCs were declared inoperable at the time of discovery. All work activities associated with dry fuel storage at Monticello were stopped. A timeline and corrective actions are being developed by TriVis and the licensee.

The two NDE Level II examiners were not previously employed by TriVis and did not perform any other NDE activities at Monticello.

Evaluations will be completed by January 31, 2014 or a follow-up interim report will be submitted.

The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector.

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General Information	Event Number: 46230
Rep Org: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Licensee: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Region: 1 City: WILMINGTON State: NC County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: DALE E. PORTER HQ OPS Officer: ERIC SIMPSON	Notification Date: 09/03/2010 Notification Time: 15:23 [ET] Event Date: 09/03/2010 Event Time: [EDT] Last Update Date: 12/16/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21 - UNSPECIFIED PARAGRAPH	Person (Organization): RICHARD CONTE (R1DO) EUGENE GUTHRIE (R2DO) TAMARA BLOOMER (R3DO) RICK DEESE (R4DO) MIKE CHEOK (NRR) PART 21 GP via email ()

**Event Text**

PART 21 - FAILURE TO INCLUDE SEISMIC INPUT IN REACTOR CONTROL BLADE CUSTOMER GUIDANCE

The following is text of a facsimile submitted by the vendor:

"GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) has identified that engineering evaluations that support the guidance provided in SC 08-05, Revision 1, do not address the potential impact of a seismic event on the ability to scram as it relates to the channel-control blade interference issue. Note that the seismic loads are not a consideration in the scram timing, but rather the ability to insert the control blades. In other words, the control blades must be capable of inserting during the seismic event, but not to the timing requirements of the Technical Specifications. GEH is evaluating the impact of the seismic loads between the fuel channel and the control blade associated with an Operating Basis Earthquake (OBE), and a Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE) on BWR/2-5 plants. The scram capability is expected to be affected due to the added seismic loads at low reactor pressures in the BWR/2-5 plants. The ability to scram for the BWR/6 plants is not adversely affected by the seismic events. Additional evaluation is required to determine to what extent the maximum allowable friction limits specified for the BWR/2-5 plants in SC 08-05 Revision 1 is affected by the addition of seismic loads.

"GEH issues this 60-Day Interim Report in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 21.21 (a)(2) to allow additional time to for this evaluation to be completed."

Affected US plants previously notified by vendor and recommended for surveillance program include: Nine Mile Point, Units 1 and 2; **Fermi 2**; Columbia; FitzPatrick; Pilgrim; Vermont Yankee; Grand Gulf; River Bend; Clinton; Oyster Creek; Dresden, Units 2 and 3; LaSalle, Units 1 and 2; Limerick, Units 1 and 2; Peach Bottom, Units 2 and 3; Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2; **Perry, Unit 1**; Duane Arnold; Cooper; Monticello; Brunswick, Units 1 and 2; Hope Creek; Hatch, Units 1 and 2; and Browns Ferry, Units 1 and 2.

Affected US plants previously notified by vendor and provided information include: Susquehanna, Units 1 and 2 and Browns Ferry, Unit 3.

\* \* \* UPDATE FROM DALE PORTER TO ERIC SIMPSON AT 1556 ON 09/27/2010 \* \* \*

The following update was received via fax:

"This letter provides a revision to the information transmitted on September 2, 2010 in MFN 10-245 concerning an evaluation being performed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) regarding the failure to include seismic input in channel-control blade interference customer guidance. Two changes have been made in Revision 1:

"1) A statement was added regarding the applicability of this issue to the ABWR and ESBWR design certification documentation.

"2) The original MFN 10-245 referenced the Safety Communication SC 08-05 R1 that was transmitted to the US NRC via MFN 08-420. The references to SC 08-05 were changed to MFN 08-420 to prevent possible confusion.

"As stated herein, GEH has not concluded that this is a reportable condition in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR 21.21(d) and continued evaluation is required to determine the impact of a seismic event on the guidance contained in MFN 08-420."

Notified the R1DO (Gray), R2DO (Hopper), R3DO (Orth), R4DO (Farnholtz), NRR EO (Lee)

and Part 21 Group (via email).

\* \* \* UPDATE FROM DALE PORTER TO MARK ABRAMOVITZ AT 1723 ON 12/15/2010 \* \* \*

The following update was received via fax:

"This letter provides information concerning an on-going evaluation being performed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) regarding the failure to include seismic loads in the guidance provided in MFN 08-420. As stated herein, GEH has not concluded that this is a reportable condition in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR21.21(d) and continued evaluation is required to determine the impact of a seismic event on the guidance contained in MFN 08-420.

"GEH has not completed the evaluation of the impact of the seismic loads between the fuel channel and the control blade associated with an Operating Basis Earthquake (OBE), and a Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE) on BWR/2-5 plants."

GEH expects the task to be completed by August 15, 2011.

Notified the R1DO (Holody), R2DO (Henson), R3DO (Kozak), R4DO (Werner), NRR EO (Evans) and Part 21 Group (via email).

\* \* \* UPDATE AT 1808 EDT ON 08/11/11 FROM DALE PORTER TO JOE O'HARA \* \* \*

The following was received via fax:

"GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) identified, in July 2010, that engineering evaluations did not address the potential impact of a seismic event on the ability to scram as it relates to the channel-control blade interference issue. GEH provided status of the on-going evaluation in [December 2010]. GEH has not completed the evaluation of the impact of the seismic loads between the fuel channel and the control blade associated with a bounding Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE) on BWR/2-5 plants. The scram capability is expected to be affected due to the added seismic loads at low reactor pressures [less than 1000 psig] in the BWR/2-5 plants. Additional evaluations are required to determine to what extent the maximum allowable friction limits specified for the BWR/2-5 plants are affected by the addition of SSE seismic loads at low reactor pressures.

"GEH issues this 60-Day Interim Report in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10CFR 21.21 (a)(2) to allow additional time for this evaluation to be completed."

The following sites are noted as having channel-control blade concerns:

Region 1: Nine Mile Point, Fitzpatrick, Pilgrim, Vermont Yankee, Oyster Creek, Limerick, Peach Bottom, Susquehanna, and Hope Creek

Region 2: Browns Ferry, Brunswick, Hatch,

Region 3: **Fermi**, Clinton, Dresden, LaSalle, Quad Cities, **Perry**, Duane Arnold, Monticello

Region 4: Columbia, Grand Gulf, River Bend, Cooper.

Notified R1DO (Powell), R2DO (Hopper), R3DO (Dickson), R4DO (Farnholtz) and NRR Part 21 Grp via email.

\* \* \* UPDATE AT 0037 EDT ON 9/27/11 FROM PORTER TO HUFFMAN VIA E-MAIL \* \* \*

The following is a summary of information received from GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy via e-mail of a letter, Reference MFN 10-245 R4, addressed to the NRC and dated September 26, 2011:

"GE Hitachi (GEH) has determined that the scram capability of the control rod drive mechanism in BWR/2-5 plants may not be sufficient to ensure the control rod will fully insert in a cell with channel-control rod friction at or below the friction limits specified in MFN 08-420 with a concurrent Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE). The plant condition for which incomplete control rod insertion might occur is when the reactor is below normal operating pressure (<900 psig) and a scram occurs concurrent with the SSE, for Mark I containment plants, and for the SSE with concurrent Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) and Safety Relief Valve (SRV) events for Mark II containment plants. In this scenario a Substantial Safety Hazard results because the affected control rods might not fully insert to perform the required safety function.

"GEH has determined that when channel-control blade interference is present at reduced reactor pressure and at friction levels considered acceptable in MFN 08-420, a simultaneously occurring Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE) may result in control rod friction that inhibits the full insertion of the affected control rods during a reactor scram from these conditions. This scenario was not explicitly considered in MFN 08-420.

"GEH has also quantified maximum allowable control rod friction for channel-control blade interference during the SSE with reactor system pressure greater than or equal to 900 psig. The previous conclusion regarding the scram capability for the BWR/2-5 plants, last communicated in MFN 10-245 R2, was based upon a reactor system pressure of 1000 psig. The updated evaluation at 900 psig has resulted in modifications to the guidance specified in MFN 08-420.

"The GE Hitachi Letter recommends testing with new allowable friction limits that will ensure control rods fully insert at low reactor pressure concurrent with an SSE (for Mark I containment plants) and SSE with concurrent LOCA (for Mark II containment plants). The enclosure in the GEH letter provides a description of the evaluation, with surveillance recommendations for BWR/2-5 plants. The recommended surveillance is intended to augment the surveillance requirements in the plant Technical Specifications and define populations of control rods to be tested, and the method for testing, until other actions that mitigate or limit the potential for channel control blade interference can be identified and implemented.

"Based upon the evaluation, GEH has concluded that a Reportable Condition under 10CFR Part 21 exists for BWR/2-5 plants. This determination does not apply to BWR/6 or ABWR plants or the ABWR/ESBWR Design Control Document's (DCD). The information contained in this document informs the NRC of the conclusions and recommendations derived from GEH's evaluation of this issue."

The list of potentially affected plants has previously been noted in this Part 21 notification and have been previously notified by GE Hitachi of the concern.

Notified R1DO (Doerflein), R2DO (Lesser), R3DO (Passehl), R4DO (Werner) and NRR Part 21 Grp via email.

\* \* \* UPDATE AT 1205 EDT ON 2/7/12 FROM LISA SCHICHLIN TO CHARLES TEAL VIA

E-MAIL \* \* \*

GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) provided an update to its guidance and supporting evaluations that were reported in MFN 10-245 R4 on September 26, 2011.

Notified R1DO (Burrirtt), R2DO (Calle), R3DO (Giessner), R4DO (Campbell) and Part 21 Group via email.

\* \* \* UPDATE AT 1427 EST ON 12/16/13 FROM LISA SCHICHLEIN TO JOHN SHOEMAKER VIA EMAIL \* \* \*

GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) provided an update to its guidance and supporting evaluations that were reported in MFN 08-420 R0 on December 19, 2008 and MFN 10-245 R5 on February 7, 2011.

Notified R1DO (Dimitriadis), R2DO (Rose), R3DO (Riemer), R4DO (Lantz) and Part 21 Group via email.

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Part 21	Event Number: 49579
Rep Org: ABB INC Licensee: ABB INC Region: 1 City: FLORENCE State: SC County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: JAY LAVRINC HQ OPS Officer: CHARLES TEAL	Notification Date: 11/25/2013 Notification Time: 14:52 [ET] Event Date: 11/25/2013 Event Time: [EST] Last Update Date: 12/18/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21(d)(3)(i) - DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLIANCE	Person (Organization): DAN SCHROEDER (R1DO) FRANK EHRHARDT (R2DO) HIRONORI PETERSON (R3DO) GREG PICK (R4DO) PART 21 GROUP (EMAI)

**Event Text**

PART 21 REPORT - PRIMARY CLOSE LATCH FAILED TO MEET SPECIFICATION IN K-LINE CIRCUIT BREAKERS

The following is a summary of a fax received from ABB Inc.:

"[ABB Inc. is reporting a] failure to comply with specifications associated with primary close latch, part number 716611K02, used in K-Line 225 to 2000 amp continuous current low voltage electrically operated Model 7 circuit breakers. It does not affect previous models of these same breakers that have not been upgraded to include the interlocking primary and secondary close latches. It does not affect manually operated K-Line breakers or K3000/4000 circuit breakers."

\* \* \* UPDATE FROM JAY LAVRINC TO JOHN SHOEMAKER ON 12/18/13 AT 1324 EST \* \* \*

The following report was received via facsimile:

This is an amended report to identify the affected customers and complete the one outstanding action from the Part 21 Notification of 11/25/2013.

Affected customers are: APS, **Detroit Edison**, Dominion, Duke Energy Progress, Entergy, Exelon, Crystal River and Nextera.

Notified R1DO (Dimitriadis), R2DO (Freeman), R3DO (Riemer), R4DO (Lantz), and Part 21 Group via email.

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## News

### Industry, labor, foes sound off at hearing on nuclear waste

Published: 12/3/2013

BY TOM HENRY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Rarely do nuclear industry executives and hardline activists who oppose them agree on anything. Both sides hate the idea of continuing to stockpile highly radioactive waste from the reactor cores of nuclear power plants on the site of each power-generating station.

But an hours-long hearing Monday that drew nearly 200 people from across Ohio and Michigan to the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg's Levis Commons served as a reminder that the two sides are still far apart on what the government's next step should be.

Industry and trade unions eventually want a single, national repository, even if it means putting up with the waste decades longer than expected. Antinuclear activists claim the government's failure to develop a solution is reason enough to shut down the industry. Nuclear power provides 20 percent of America's electricity.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the government agency that oversees the nuclear industry, got an earful at the meeting, the 11th stop on the agency's 12-city tour in which it set out to do just that: Get a cross section of opinions. The NRC has been asking Americans what they think of the agency's proposed "waste confidence" rule and its affiliated environmental impact statement, in response to the government's decision to abandon plans for a national repository in Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

The NRC is, in effect, asking what the public thinks about leaving the waste where it is, at least for the time being.

America has 100 nuclear plants still in operation. The U.S. government was contractually obligated to start picking up the high-level radioactive waste —spent fuel from reactor cores —from them by Jan. 31, 1998.

The plants weren't built to hold all of the waste indoors. Most of it is stored in spent fuel pools. Once those fill up, the oldest waste is moved to dry storage casks outdoors, usually on the same site.

FirstEnergy Corp. spent more than \$5 million to build that outdoor storage system for its Davis-Besse nuclear plant in the 1990s.

It hasn't needed to expand it for several years. But FirstEnergy spokesman Jennifer Young, who attended the hearing but was not scheduled to speak, told The Blade the Akron-based utility will start making plans in 2014

for building more exterior containers and filling them with spent reactor fuel in 2017.

That utility and others are reluctant to do so, but say they have no other alternatives until the government develops a repository.

About a decade ago, the Washington-based Nuclear Energy Institute successfully sued the U.S. government for breach of contract, a decision upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since then, utilities have been allowed to collect rent from the government for waste stored on corporate land.

"At this point, this form of [on-site] storing the waste is probably the best way possible," Jim Sass, Ottawa County Commission president, told the NRC.

For more than an hour, a stream of activists followed Mr. Sass to the microphone, urging the NRC to shut down the industry.

"This is a con game," said activist Michael Keegan of Monroe, who has been watching DTE Energy's Fermi nuclear complex and at other sites for 33 years. "This is a fraud perpetuated on taxpayers and ratepayers. It is a sham."

Mike Knisley of Lima, Ohio, who sits on the executive board of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, said organized labor supports a resolution of the problem that allows the nuclear industry to expand and create more jobs.

"These [temporary] storage methods have been proven safe," Mr. Knisley said.

Contact Tom Henry at:

[thenry@theblade.com](mailto:thenry@theblade.com) or 419-724-6079.

Read more at

<http://www.ourtownperrysburg.com/Energy/2013/12/03/Industry-labor-foes-sound-off-at-hearing-on-nuclear-waste.html#4Olj5XtYseLxmX6S.99>

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## **Closure of enrichment plants puts U.S. in a bind -- report**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, December 4, 2013

The closure of a gaseous diffusion plant in Kentucky and the uncertain fate of its replacement in Ohio could put the United States in the precarious position of relying on foreign-sourced technology for material critical to maintaining its nuclear arsenal and possibly undermine international legal agreements, according to a new report.

Two directors of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' nuclear program warned in a [study](#) released today that the United States is at risk of not having a way to produce low-enriched uranium critical for nuclear weapons production in the coming decades following the closure of the 60-year-old gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah, Ky.

"Treaty obligations prohibit the United States from using, for military purposes, foreign-produced enriched uranium or uranium enriched here in this country by foreign-source technology," wrote George David Banks and Michael Wallace, who direct the CSIS Nuclear Energy Program.

"Moreover, existing stockpiles of LEU and tritium produced by U.S.-origin technology are limited, placing the United States on borrowed time," they wrote.

Banks is a senior fellow at CSIS who worked as a managing director of Vanguard Political, a consulting shop, and served as a Republican deputy staff director for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Wallace is also a senior adviser at CSIS and served as Constellation Energy's vice chairman and chief operating officer before joining CSIS.

At issue is the fear, one the Obama administration and top federal officials have confirmed, that the United States will not have a domestic source of uranium enrichment to comply with international treaties. The U.S. solicitor general, the Department of State's legal adviser, and general counsel for the Commerce, Defense and Energy departments have made similar arguments ([E&E Daily](#), June 26, 2012).

On the other side, some lawmakers, anti-nuclear groups, environmentalists and nonproliferation experts have accused the Obama administration of using the argument -- and a request for funding for uranium enrichment projects -- for political gains, mostly in Ohio. Others have questioned whether a plant in New Mexico, which uses foreign-owned technology, couldn't be used to enrich uranium for tritium production.

At the center of the debate are the two plants in Kentucky and Ohio.

Much to the chagrin of Kentucky Republicans, the plant's operator -- the U.S. Enrichment Corp. -- closed the plant in Paducah in May after failing to strike a short-term financing deal with the Obama administration ([Greenwire](#), May 28).

USEC, which makes fuel for U.S. reactors, leases the plant from the Department of Energy. The facility is the only federally owned and operated uranium enrichment facility in the United States. It houses a large amount of uranium "tails," or material left over after uranium is enriched for use in power plants.

USEC has for years been attempting to replace the Kentucky operations with a more efficient centrifuge technology at the \$5 billion American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, and has argued that the plant is key to bolstering national security and complying with international treaties. The ACP plant would produce low-enriched fuel that the Tennessee Valley Authority would then use to produce tritium for weapons.

But Banks and Wallace point out the fate of the Ohio project is more than uncertain. "The lack of long-term financing for deployment could result in the termination of the project," they wrote.

USEC spokesman Paul Jacobson said the company has successfully met performance targets DOE laid out and has spent \$2.5 billion on the plant. But a path forward for the project is murky because of low demand for reactor fuel stemming from nuclear plant closures -- in the United States and abroad -- following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi disaster in Japan.

Waning government support is also casting doubt on the Ohio project. Jacobson said USEC cannot proceed without more federal financial support. He also said the \$2 billion loan guarantee USEC had hoped to secure is now "on hold" but remains part of the company's ongoing discussions with DOE.

Ultimately, Banks and Wallace said the government must make domestic uranium enrichment a national security issue, both for military purposes and to ensure that U.S. reactors that may be needed to combat climate change have sufficient domestic fuel sources.

The Obama administration could use tax incentives or import limits, or establish a federal enrichment plant to protect the country's domestic industry, they said, just as other countries are doing.

"The governments of foreign enrichers, in contrast, view their domestic uranium enrichment industries for what they are -- a strategic asset that enhances defense interests, provides leverage in defining the nonproliferation agenda, and helps power their economies," the authors wrote.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2013/12/04/stories/1059991296>

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### **NRC reverses finding on Pa. reactor's security status**

Published: Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Nuclear regulators have determined that the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant's security forces successfully defended the facility during a mock attack last spring, reversing a preliminary finding issued in August.

Patricia Holahan, the director of security operations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said after meetings with Beaver Valley officials that NRC investigators concluded security wasn't breached at the plant during a routine "force-on-force" drill run by the federal government in April.

The agency's decision reverses an earlier finding that the plant in western Pennsylvania had failed its security test ([Greenwire/em>, Aug. 27](#)).

"After considering the additional information that [the power plant] provided at the regulatory conference, the NRC has determined that a finding did not occur," Holahan wrote in the letter to Beaver Valley.

FirstEnergy Corp., the plant owner, applauded the decision. The Beaver Valley plant never had a "true deficiency in our protective strategy," FirstEnergy spokeswoman Jennifer Young said (John Funk, [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), Dec. 10). -- DB

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2013/12/10/stories/1059991577>

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### **USEC to declare bankruptcy in 2014**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, December 17, 2013

USEC Inc., the only U.S.-owned uranium enrichment company, announced yesterday it will file for bankruptcy protection early next year, marking another round of bad news for the ailing quasi-private company.

The Maryland-based firm said in a statement that it expects to file a voluntary Chapter 11 petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in the first quarter of next year.

The decision highlights USEC's difficulty in the private markets amid low demand for reactor fuel stemming from nuclear plant closures -- in the United States and abroad --

following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi disaster in Japan. Those closures flooded the market and dampened demand for reactor fuel.

Sources said USEC has hinted at a restructuring for months, pointing to difficult market conditions, the closure of its costly 60-year-old gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah, Ky., in May, and the end of the Megatons to Megawatts Program through which USEC received high-enriched uranium from Russian warheads.

"The writing was on the wall for USEC for a while, their market share was dropping because of the end of the HEU program and their Paducah plant wasn't making much money," said Jonathan Hinze, senior vice president at UxC International, a consulting company for the nuclear industry. "If Fukushima hadn't happened, maybe they could have kept [the Paducah plant] running longer."

USEC said demonstrations of its centrifuge technology -- a newer and more efficient means of making reactor fuel -- at the \$5 billion American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, will continue and expand throughout the bankruptcy. USEC's subsidiaries are not expected to file for bankruptcy. Discussions are ongoing with investors Toshiba Corp. and Babcock & Wilcox Co. about restructuring, according to the company news release. USEC, or the U.S. Enrichment Corp., was spun off from the Energy Department in the 1990s and has since received millions in federal funds through DOE deals despite opposition from some lawmakers. On Capitol Hill, debates have raged for more than a decade over the company's management and privatization under the 1996 USEC Privatization Act ([E&E Daily](#), April 14, 2000).

Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), an outspoken critic of USEC, repeated his call today for the government to stop financing USEC's operations.

"The Department of Energy's policy of continuing to prop up USEC with financial assistance has now proven to be as bankrupt as the company itself," Markey said in a statement. "American taxpayers should not have to fork over another nickel to this company."

Markey has argued in the past that the federal government has already given the company about \$1 billion over the years in the form of free uranium, direct spending and assumption of cleanup liability, even though USEC is worth much less ([Greenwire](#), March 7).

Others have argued USEC's operations -- namely, the plant in Ohio -- are key to bolstering national security and complying with international treaties. The American Centrifuge Plant would produce low-enriched fuel that the Tennessee Valley Authority would then use to produce tritium for weapons.

The prearranged bankruptcy could help USEC survive as a company -- although it could emerge smaller -- and quell concerns among creditors over how it would pay for \$530 million of debt that was coming due next year, Hinze said.

But it's not clear whether restructuring would make it more difficult for USEC to apply and get approved for the \$2 billion loan guarantee the company had hoped to secure for the ACP plant, he added. Paul Jacobson, a spokesman for USEC, said earlier this month that the loan guarantee is now "on hold" but remains part of the company's ongoing discussions with DOE ([Greenwire](#), Dec. 4).

Tyson Slocum, director of Public Citizen's energy program, said the potential bankruptcy filing is a legal classification that's going to make it more difficult for DOE to continue its

relationship with the company. The bankruptcy does not appear, however, to provide political fodder for a Hill fight, he said.

"I'd be shocked if [Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.)] teased this up because there are prominent members of his party that like this project," Slocum said. "He's not going to go on a witch hunt that implicates his own party."

Even with the loan guarantee, USEC has said it will need additional funds to complete the project and may have secured funding through Japanese export banks.

For now, cost and timelines for the Ohio plant remain murky. The project is now expected to cost about \$6 billion and will be operational in 2017. USEC said in 2004 the plant would cost about \$1.5 billion and be fully operational by 2010 ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 13, 2004).

Ultimately, Hinze said restructuring could provide USEC with new direction.

"It means they have a path forward," he said. "It definitely provides them with some certainty for the next few years as to their financial situation."

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2013/12/17/stories/1059991989>

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Columbus Dispatch

Company behind Piketon uranium project to file bankruptcy

By

Jessica Wehrman

The Columbus Dispatch

Tuesday December 17, 2013 4:57 AM

WASHINGTON

—

The Maryland company that wants to build a uranium-enrichment plant in southern Ohio said yesterday that it will declare bankruptcy early next year.

The announcement comes as USEC Inc. approaches a Jan. 15 deadline for a two-year research-and-development project aimed at convincing the federal government to continue to pay for the commercialization of its enrichment project.

USEC argues that by cleaning up its balance sheet, it is creating a better environment as the Department of Energy considers a path forward for the research program.

But company officials admit that the ongoing nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, and a global glut of enriched uranium have made it difficult to sell USEC's new technology.

The company plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in the first quarter of 2014. The bankruptcy filing would not halt the research project in Piketon.

"This is not about liquidity," said Paul Jacobson, a spokesman for USEC. "We have plenty of money to run our business and so forth. This is about a large amount of debt taken on a few years ago."

In a news release, the company said it is restructuring to pay off about \$530 million in debts to bondholders. The bonds were scheduled to mature in October 2014. The current debt will be replaced with new debt totaling \$200 million. That debt would mature in five years.

Jacobson said the restructuring plan will reduce the debt and "put us on a stronger financial footing."

He said that when the company agreed to the \$530 million in debt, it expected to have revenue coming in by October 2014. But the disaster in Fukushima that began in March 2011, and technical problems at the Piketon plant, have made the process longer than anticipated, he said. "The revenue is just not coming in."

For years, USEC had hoped that the federal government would sign a loan guarantee that would allow the company to commercialize its technology. Company officials argue that USEC is the only U.S.-owned company in the business of creating enriched uranium and that having domestically produced uranium by a U.S.-owned company is vital for national security. The uranium would be used primarily for nuclear power.

But the program has been met with skepticism from environmental and taxpayer groups.

The company recently touted a success in its long-troubled efforts to commercialize its technology. The uranium-enrichment plant in Piketon, called the American Centrifuge Project, has been successful in recent tests of its "cascade" of 120 machines. The company has met three milestones required to receive Department of Energy support, which it needs to meet the requirements of its creditors.

The Ohio congressional delegation sent a letter to Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz this month urging him to "provide a path forward" for the work in Piketon.

It was signed by every member of the congressional delegation except House Speaker John Boehner, R-West Chester, who rarely signs letters because of his leadership position.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said he continues to support the project.

"I hope that by restructuring its finances, USEC can ensure the resources it needs to continue to be a partner in the American Centrifuge Project," Brown said, noting that the project could create about 4,000 jobs.

Jacobson said the company is at a "critical time" and will need some "clarity" on what will happen after Jan. 15. He said the company has spent \$2.5 billion in the past decade modernizing its technology, and should it abandon its work, the United States could face a crisis if it later needs enriched uranium.

"Do you put it on a shelf and mothball it?" he said. "And when the time comes later, do you have to spend another \$2.5 billion?"

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Columbus Dispatch

Feds to fund Piketon uranium project for three more months

By

Jessica Wehrman

The Columbus Dispatch

Thursday December 19, 2013 5:53 AM

WASHINGTON

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The Maryland-based company that wants to build a uranium-enrichment plant in southern Ohio has received a three-month lease on life just two days after it announced plans to file for bankruptcy early next year.

The Bethesda, Md.-based USEC is the only U.S.-based producer of enriched uranium. For years, it has tried to garner government support for a uranium-enrichment plant in southern Ohio, with little success.

Two years ago, the government agreed to a two-year research and development program with the company aimed at demonstrating that the technology used at the Piketon plant is ready for commercialization.

That government support—which to date is about \$256.9 million—was set to expire on Jan. 15. But the Department of Energy informed USEC yesterday it would extend that deadline for three months.

The company had to meet nine “milestones” set by the Department of Energy and has done so, although three milestones are still being certified, said USEC spokesman Paul Jacobson.

The company continues to do testing on its program and is cataloging and accumulating all that it learned during the research and development project.

Complicating that decision is a global glut of enriched uranium and chilly attitudes toward nuclear power plants after the Fukushima, Japan, nuclear disaster.

On Monday, USEC announced that it would file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware during the first quarter of 2014 to pay off about \$530 million in debts to bondholders.

The bonds were scheduled to mature in October 2014. The current debt will be replaced with new debt totaling \$200 million.

USEC officials said that the bankruptcy decision was not expected to stop work at the Piketon plant.

The company argues that mothballing the program now would not be cost-effective, particularly if the United States decided later it needed a domestic producer of enriched uranium.

Yesterday’s decision “is about providing time for the country from a policy standpoint to make an important decision about whether or not it’s going to have its own form of enrichment technology or whether we’ll be reliant on foreign companies,” Jacobson said.

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## Information Notices

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

## Part 21 and Miscellaneous

Information Notice 2013-22, "Recent Licensing Submittals Containing Personally Identifiable Information" dated October 29, 2013

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13247A109

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RIS 2013-19, Removal of Safeguards Information Designation from Attachment 2 to Order EA-02-261, "Order for Compensatory Measures Related to Access Authorization"

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13150A135

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Request For Additional Information Regarding Response to Bulletin 2012-01, "Design Vulnerability In Electric Power System"

ADAMS Accession No.: ML13351A314

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Request for Additional Information Associated with Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3, Flooding Walkdowns

ADAMS Accession No.: ML13325A891

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER OF 2014 GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

ADAMS Accession No. ML13364A283

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## **Davis-Besse**

Davis Besse: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS HELD ON NOVEMBER 19 AND 22, 2013, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND FIRST ENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY CONCERNING DRAFT REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DAVIS BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 1, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ADAMS Accession No. ML13330B026

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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1 - Interim Staff Evaluation and Request for Additional Information Regarding the Overall Integrated Plan for Implementation of Order EA-12-051, Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A130

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DAVIS-BESSE ISI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION LETTER

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13347B130

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Davis-Besse NRC Supplemental Inspection Report 05000346/2013408 (Cover Letter Only)

ADAMS Accession No# ML13354B795

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2011 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Initial Examination Proposed Written RO & SRO.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12020A268

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2011 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Initial Examination As Administered Written RO & SRO Examination.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12019A248

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2013 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Initial License Examination Outline Submittal.  
ADAMS Accession Number: ML13259A192

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2013 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Initial License Examination Miscellaneous  
Correspondence.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13231A201

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2013 Davis-Besse Initial License Examination Proposed Job Performance Measures.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13263A102

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2013 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Initial License Examination Proposed Exam Files

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13259A199

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2013 Davis-Besse Initial License Examination Proposed ES 301-6 and revised Outline  
Documents.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13263A079

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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic  
Walkdown Report Revision 1.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A158

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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic  
Walkdown Report Revision 1, Appendix C to Appendix G.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A163

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Transcript of Public Meeting to Receive Comments on the Waste Confidence Draft Generic  
Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule, December 2, 2013, Pages 1-126.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A572

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## **Perry**

Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, - Interim Staff Evaluation and Request for Additional  
Information Regarding The Overall Integrated Plan for Implementation of Order EA-12-051,  
Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A653

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PERRY CDBI REQUEST FOR INFORMATION LETTER

ADAMS ACCESSION#ML13351A323

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AEC Regulatory Staff Motion for Extension of Time to File Memorandum.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13309B077

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Response to Intervenor Friends of the Earth, et al fifth set of interrogatories, defining terms &  
discussing Cristianitos fault & earthquakes. Verification & proof of svc encl. Related  
correspondence.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13309B965

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2013 Perry Nuclear Power Plant Initial License Examination Outline RO and SRO ES 401-1 and -3 Rev 0.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13179A085

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2013 Perry Nuclear Power Plant Initial License Examination Miscellaneous Correspondence.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13158A127

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Perry Nuclear Power Plant Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdown Report Revision 1.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13340A155

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## **Beaver Valley**

Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2 - Request for Additional Information Regarding Reactor Vessel Surveillance Capsule Withdrawal Schedules (TAC Nos. MF1929 and MF1930)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML13339A437

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BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION: NRC SECURITY INSPECTION REPORT  
05000334/2013404 AND 05000412/2013404

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML13350A515

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 2 - Pressure and Temperature Limits Report Revision.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13344A983

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Beaver Valley Power Station Discharge Monitoring Report (NPDES) Permit No. PA0025615.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13330A998

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## **Portsmouth Facilities**

Transcript of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Radiation Protection and Nuclear Materials Subcommittee Meeting - December 3, 2013.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13356A002

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Response to Request for Additional Information Regarding Revision of American Centrifuge Operating, LLC's Description of Change and Changed Pages to the Security Program for the American Centrifuge Plant.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13360A198

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Letter to Peter Miner on NRCs Review of USEC Inc.s Changes to FNMCP for the Lead Cascade and the ACP and Appendix A of FNMCP for the ACP.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13338A386

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## **Fermi 1**

Comment (00537) of Vic Macks on PR-51, Waste Confidence - Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML13354A17  
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## **Fermi 2**

Fermi Power Plant, Unit 2 - NRC Problem Identification And Resolution Inspection Report  
05000341/2013007  
ADAMS Accession No. ML13347B320  
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Fermi: Request for Withholding Information from Public Disclosure for Fermi 2  
ADAMS Accession Number: ML13266A233  
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Fermi Unit 2, Update to Measurement Uncertainty Recapture Power Uprate License  
Amendment Request TSAR.  
ADAMS Accession Number: ML13273A464  
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## **Fermi 3**

Fermi 3, Renumbered Responses to NRC Requests for Additional Information Related to  
Chapter 13 for the Combined License Application.  
ADAMS Accession Number: ML13344B028  
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