

June 3, 2002

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Infrastructure, and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Report 107-258, directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue to provide a monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties. The initial reporting requirement arose in the FY 1999 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Senate Report 105-206. The FY 2000 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, House Report 106-253, expanded the scope of the report requirement to include regulatory reform efforts affecting power reactor operations beyond 10 CFR Part 50, particularly NRC efforts to evaluate NRC security regulations. In FY 2000, we also expanded the monthly report to include the status of all license renewal applications that are under active review and other NRC initiatives in developing implementation guidance for the license renewal rule. In response to increased Congressional interest, in the May 2001 report, we began to provide information regarding the status of activities involving power uprate licensing actions. On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to transmit the fortieth report, which covers the month of March 2002 (Enclosure 1).

The February 2002 report provided information on a number of significant NRC activities, including an update of our actions following the terrorist attacks of September 11 and a status report on the reactor vessel head corrosion incident at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio. I would like to provide information to you on both of these issues.

In regard to the physical security and safeguards for NRC licensed facilities, on March 25, 2002, the Commission issued an immediately effective Order to Honeywell International, Incorporated, to implement interim compensatory security measures for the current threat environment. Honeywell, a uranium conversion facility, is located in Metropolis, Illinois. Like the February 25, 2002 Orders issued to all commercial nuclear power plants, this Order formalizes a series of security measures that Honeywell has taken in response to Commission advisories, or on its own, in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Additional security enhancements resulting from the Commission's on-going comprehensive security review are also spelled out in the Order. We expect to issue Orders in the near future to other key nuclear facilities, confirming actions taken in response to advisories.

In regard to the head corrosion at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, the staff established a special oversight panel on April 30, 2002. The panel will coordinate the Agency's

activities in assessing the performance problems associated with the corrosion damage, monitoring corrective actions, and evaluating the readiness of the plant to resume operations. The plant will not restart until the NRC is satisfied that all current safety concerns have been resolved.

Since our last report, the Commission and the NRC staff also:

- approved, on April 30, 2002, a request by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to increase the generating capacity of the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, by 1.3 percent, or 15 megawatts. The power uprate at the plant, near Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, will increase the generating capacity of each reactor to 1137 megawatts of electricity.
- published in the Federal Register (67 FR 21389) on April 30, 2002, a proposed rule to revise regulations in 10 CFR Part 71. The proposed rule would make Part 71 compatible with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) transportation safety standards and would also promulgate other NRC-initiated transportation safety proposed provisions. On the same date the Department of Transportation (DOT) also published its proposed rule in the Federal Register. The DOT rule would also be compatible with IAEA safety standards. Both rules have a public comment period of 90 days, which ends on July 29, 2002. The NRC and the DOT will have two public meetings to discuss the two rules and hear public comments.
- issued, on April 30, 2002, a draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) on the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) Report. Based on the staff's review of the Construction Authorization Request and supporting information provided by the applicant, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS), the staff determined that DCS has not satisfied all NRC requirements that apply to construction of a plutonium facility. The DSER provides a complete list of the items that the staff considers unresolved. The staff expects to issue a revised DSER after evaluating further information that will be submitted by DSC.
- issued an information notice to inform addressees about two recent hydrogen combustion events in piping at foreign boiling water reactors (BWRs). These BWRs were not of domestic (U.S.) manufacture but the systems in which the events occurred are similar to those of some domestic BWRs.
- held a Regulatory Conference on April 29, 2002 with representatives of Nuclear Management Company to discuss the safety significance of a potential failure in an auxiliary cooling system at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station, located near Two Rivers, Wisconsin. The NRC staff completed a preliminary assessment of the potential failure on April 8, 2002 and concluded that it is of "high safety significance." At the Regulatory Conference, the utility presented its evaluation of the potential failure's significance, consistent with the procedures of the NRC Reactor Oversight Program.
- amended, on April 25, 2002, Part 15 of the Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations to ensure conformity with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures of the Federal Claims Collection Standards issued by the

Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice. The revisions will make it easier for the NRC to collect outstanding debts, including the referral of any eligible debt over 180 days delinquent to the Department of the Treasury for collection.

- approved, on April 24, 2002, a request by Entergy Nuclear Southwest to increase the generating capacity of the Arkansas Nuclear One Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2 by 7.5 percent, or 64 megawatts. This licensing action is considered to be an extended power uprate. The power uprate at the plant, near Russellville, Arkansas, will increase the generating capacity to 922 megawatts of electricity. This approval represents the first PWR power uprate over 5%.
- Met with representatives of Heritage Minerals, Inc., on April 23, 2002, to discuss the status of cleanup efforts at the Heritage Minerals site in Lakehurst, New Jersey. The meeting entailed a review of the company's responses to a March 2002 confirmatory survey of remaining radioactivity at the site and a discussion of any additional required remedial work.
- approved, on April 22, 2002, a request by the South Texas Project (STP) Nuclear Operating Company to increase the generating capacity of the STP Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3 by 1.4 percent (approximately 18 megawatts). The plant is located near Bay City, Texas.
- announced to the public, on April 22, 2002, an opportunity to request a hearing on an application for a proposed independent spent fuel storage installation at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, located near San Luis Obispo, California. The NRC staff has completed a preliminary review of the application and has determined that the licensee has submitted sufficient information for the NRC to formally "docket" the application and begin a detailed review. The application was received by the NRC on December 21, 2001.
- published in the Federal Register (67 FR 20250) on April 24, 2002, a final rule that revises the regulations governing the medical uses of byproduct material. The revisions focus the regulations (10 CFR Part 35) on those medical procedures that pose higher risks to workers, patients, and the public. The regulations also eliminate some of the previous detailed requirements for licensees who perform lower risk diagnostic medical procedures, such as bone or thyroid scans. Affected licensees have six months to implement the new requirements.
- received in a letter dated April 18, 2002, a request from the General Electric Company (GE) for the pre-application review of European Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR). The ESBWR, rated at 4000 megawatts-thermal (approximately 1380 megawatts-electric), has been developed to improve overall plant reliability and economics. The new plant will consist of a boiling water reactor that uses passive safety systems and natural circulation for normal operation to achieve overall plant simplification. GE is requesting that the primary focus of the review include identification of technical issues and an assessment of the technology basis of the design. GE is requesting the pre-application review be completed in 12 months.

- dispatched a special inspection team, on April 17, 2002, to the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant to investigate an incident involving microscopic radioactive particles recovered from seven individuals, their clothing, their residences, and their hotel rooms after leaving the Davis-Besse plant in Ohio. A total of 18 radioactive particles have been found. All of the particles found were small - ranging from 2 to 34 nanocuries. The NRC performed independent dose calculations and also reviewed the licensee's dose calculations. The dose calculations indicated that the particles found would not represent a health threat to the workers or to the general public. The particles were transported by workers who performed maintenance on the steam generators. The licensee has conducted a root cause analysis to determine how the particles were transported off-site without detection. The initial investigation results are pointing to a failure to follow station procedures while conducting surveys of the seven people prior to releasing them from the plant.
- began formal evidentiary hearings, on April 8, 2002, in Salt Lake City, Utah, on the application of Private Fuel Storage, LLC, (PFS) to build and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation on the reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, located about 60 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.
- published in the Federal Register (67 FR 12488) on March 19, 2002, proposed amendments to 10 CFR 50.55a that would, if adopted, incorporate by reference three NRC published regulatory guides listing American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel and Operation and Maintenance Code Cases that the NRC has reviewed and approved for use. These code cases provide alternatives to the Code requirements and would permit NRC licensees to implement certain ASME Code Cases that the NRC has reviewed and approved without seeking additional individual NRC approval.
- approved, on March 13, 2002, a proposed rule revising the list of approved spent fuel storage casks in 10 CFR Part 72. The proposed rule modifies the listing for the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 cask system.
- participated, on March 6, 2002, in a government agency planning meeting for the Top-Officials 2 (TOPOFF2) exercise to be conducted in May 2003. This meeting was the latest in the series of multi-agency planning sessions for TOPOFF2, the second Congressionally mandated national exercise with scenarios involving weapons of mass destruction.

I have enclosed (Enclosure 2) the update to the Tasking Memorandum which delineates the schedules for accomplishing high priority initiatives.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:

1. Monthly Report
2. Tasking Memorandum

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON THE
LICENSING ACTIVITIES AND REGULATORY DUTIES OF THE
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MARCH 2002

Enclosure 1

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¹Note: The period of performance covered by this report includes activities occurring between the first and last day of March 2002. The transmittal letter to Congress accompanying this report may provide more recent information in order to keep Congress fully and currently informed of NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

XVIII. Implementing Risk-Informed Regulations

The staff continues to make progress on tasks involving use of probabilistic risk information in many areas. Although various activities are in progress, in March 2002, we did not reach a milestone of significance that warrants separate reporting. The milestone schedule for significant risk-informed activities is included in the Chairman's Tasking Memorandum (Enclosure 2).

XIX. Revised Reactor Oversight Process

The NRC continues to implement the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) at all nuclear power plants. The NRC has continued meeting with interested stakeholders on a periodic basis to collect feedback on the efficacy of the process and considers this feedback in making refinements to the ROP. Recent activities include:

- a. The NRC has issued annual assessment letters along with a 12-month inspection plan for all operating nuclear power plants. A press release was issued on March 6, 2002, announcing the issuance of annual assessment letters for all 103 operating nuclear power plants. The assessment letters sent to each licensee are available on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html> and in ADAMS, the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System. Public meetings at each plant are planned. Details of the public meetings will be announced as they are scheduled. The performance period to be discussed is April 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001.
- b. NRR staff is continuing efforts to interface with internal stakeholders to improve and implement a more efficient and effective ROP. For example, on March 19-20, 2002, NRR staff hosted a counterpart meeting at NRC headquarters for the regional Division of Reactor Projects and Division of Reactor Safety Division Directors. This was the latest in a series of periodic meetings held to discuss ROP development and implementation and other related issues of mutual interest. Discussion topics included: significance determination process (SDP) improvement strategies; industry trends program; reliability performance indicators; lessons learned from the latest performance period; efficiency focus group recommendations for efficiency gains; and post-9/11 NRC activities. In addition, discussions were held on modifications to the ROP resource model and regional resource requirements.
- c. NRR staff conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on March 21, 2002, with the NRC/Industry ROP Working Group. The key issues discussed included: update on status of unavailability/unreliability pilot program issues; discussion of fire protection, radiation protection, and draft steam generator tube degradation SDPs; industry initiatives on self assessment; and frequently asked questions. The next NRC/Industry ROP public meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2002.

XX. Status of Issues in the Reactor Generic Issue Program

The following issue has been added since the February 2002 report:

GSI Number: 189

TITLE: Susceptibility of Ice Condenser and MARK III Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During A Severe Accident

STATUS: This issue was identified with the issuance of NUREG/CR-6427, "Assessment of the Direct Containment Heat (DCH) Issue for Plants with Ice Condenser Containments," when it was discovered that the early containment failure probability in ice condensers is dominated by non-DCH hydrogen combustion events. The issue was extended to include BWR MARK III containments since their relatively low free volume and strength are comparable to that of PWR ice condensers. Closure of the GSI is scheduled for December 2002.

XXI. Licensing Actions and Other Licensing Tasks

Licensing actions are defined as requests for: license amendments; exemptions from regulations; relief from inspection or surveillance requirements; topical reports submitted on a plant-specific basis; notices of enforcement discretion; or other licensee requests requiring NRC review and approval before they can be implemented by the licensee. The FY 2002 NRC Performance Plan incorporates three output measures related to licensing actions. These are: number of licensing action completions per year; age of the licensing action inventory; and size of licensing action inventory.

The FY 2002 NRC Performance Plan incorporates one output measure related to other licensing tasks. Other licensing tasks are defined as: licensee responses to NRC requests for information through generic letters or bulletins; NRC responses to 2.206 petitions; NRC review of licensee topical reports; NRC responses to regional requests for assistance; NRC review of licensee 10 CFR 50.59 analyses and FSAR updates; or other licensee requests not requiring NRC review and approval before they can be implemented by the licensee.

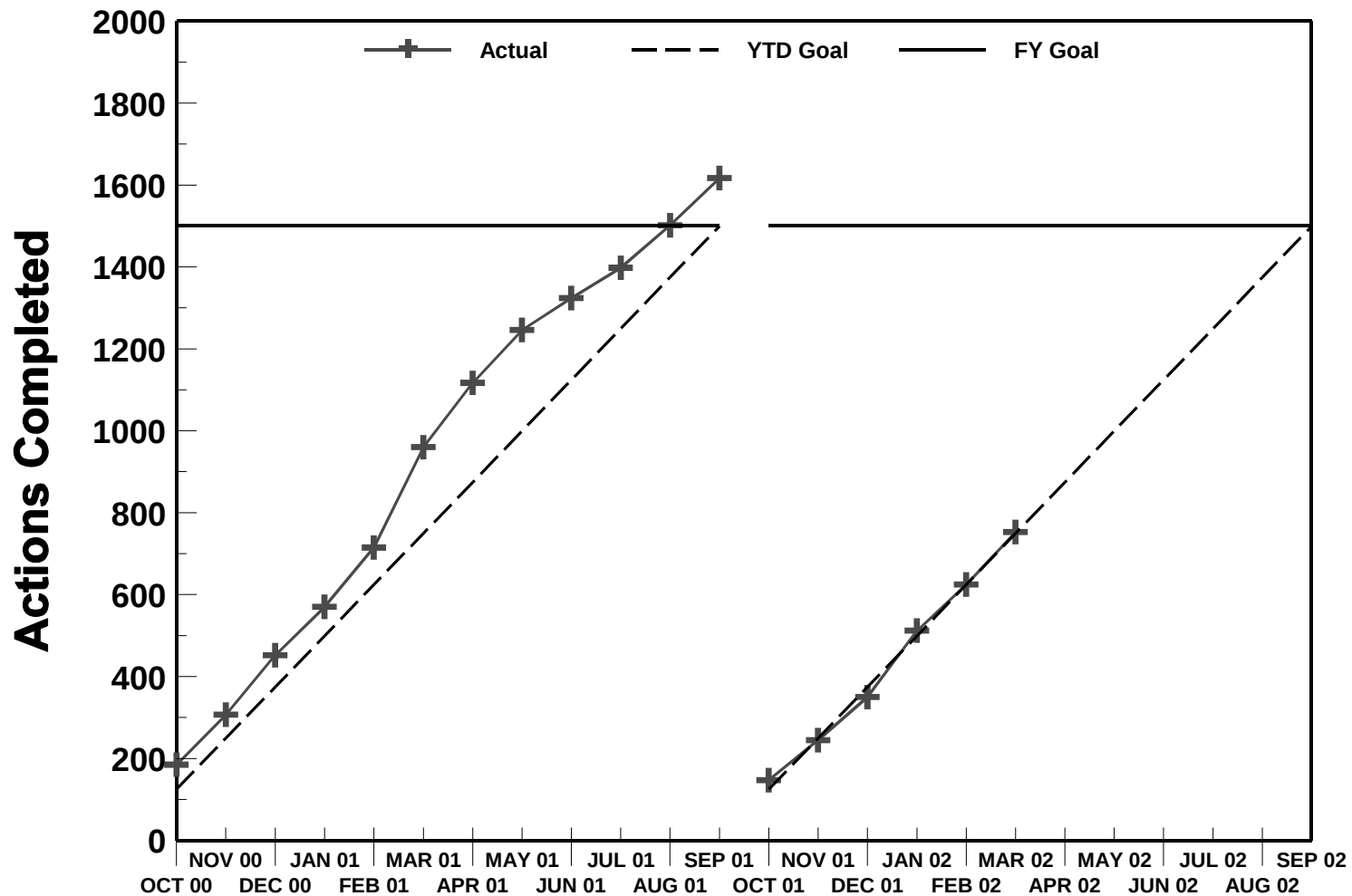
In January 2002, the goal for the size of the licensing action inventory was restored to the Performance Plan and the goal for the percent of licensing action inventory less than or equal to 1 year old was increased from 95% to 96%. The actual FY 2000 and FY 2001 results, the FY 2002 goals and the actual FY 2002 results, as of March 31, 2002, for the four NRC Performance Plan output measures for licensing actions and other licensing tasks are shown in the following table.

PERFORMANCE PLAN				
Output Measure	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Goals	FY 2002 Actual (thru 03/31/2002)
Licensing actions completed/year	1574	1617	≥ 1500	753
Age of licensing action inventory	98.3% $\leq$ 1 year; 100% $\leq$ 2 years	96.9% $\leq$ 1 year; 100% $\leq$ 2 years	96% $\leq$ 1 year; 100% $\leq$ 2 years	94% $\leq$ 1 year; 100% $\leq$ 2 years
Size of licensing action inventory	962	877	1000	865
Other licensing tasks completed/year	1100	523	≥ 350	217

The following charts demonstrate NRC's FY 2002 trends for the four licensing action and other licensing task output measure goals.

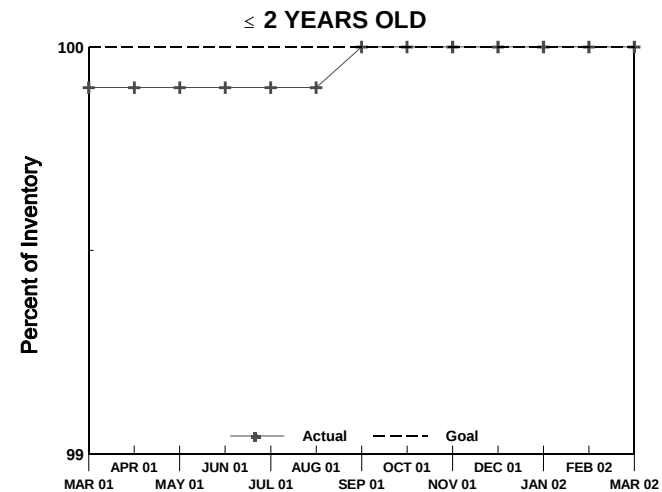
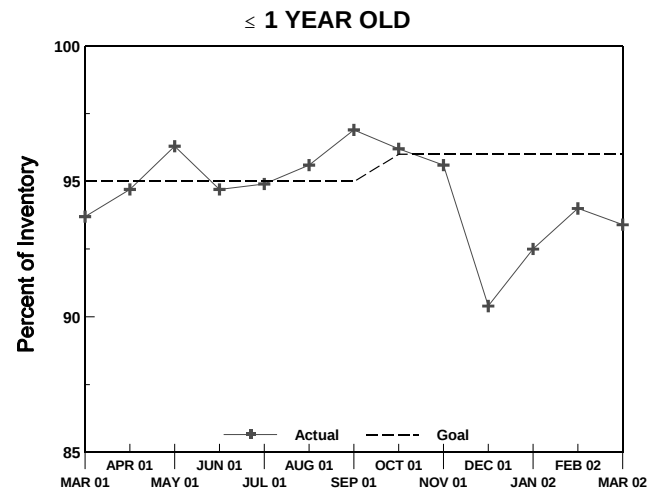
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Completed Licensing Actions



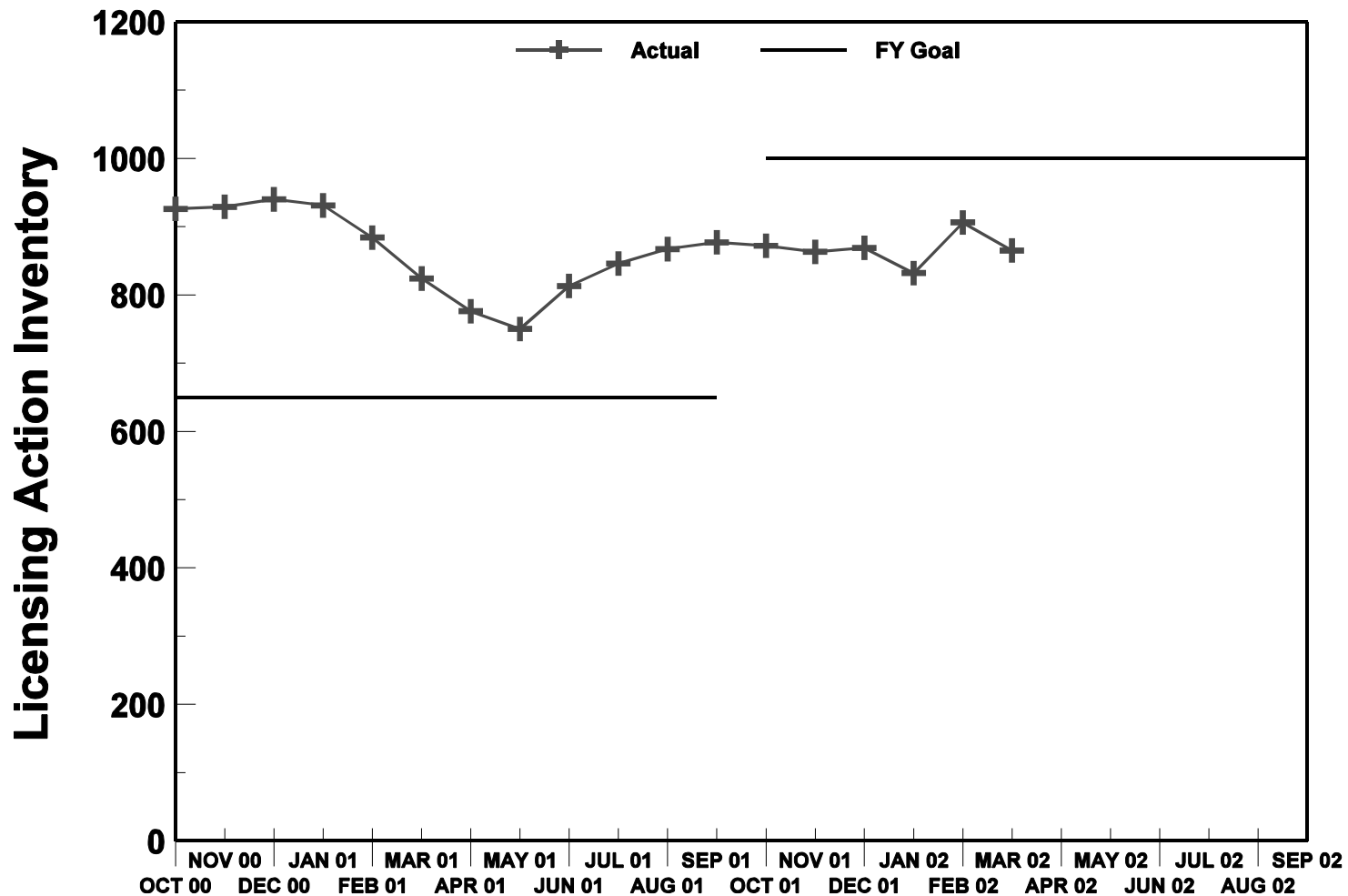
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Age of Licensing Action Inventory



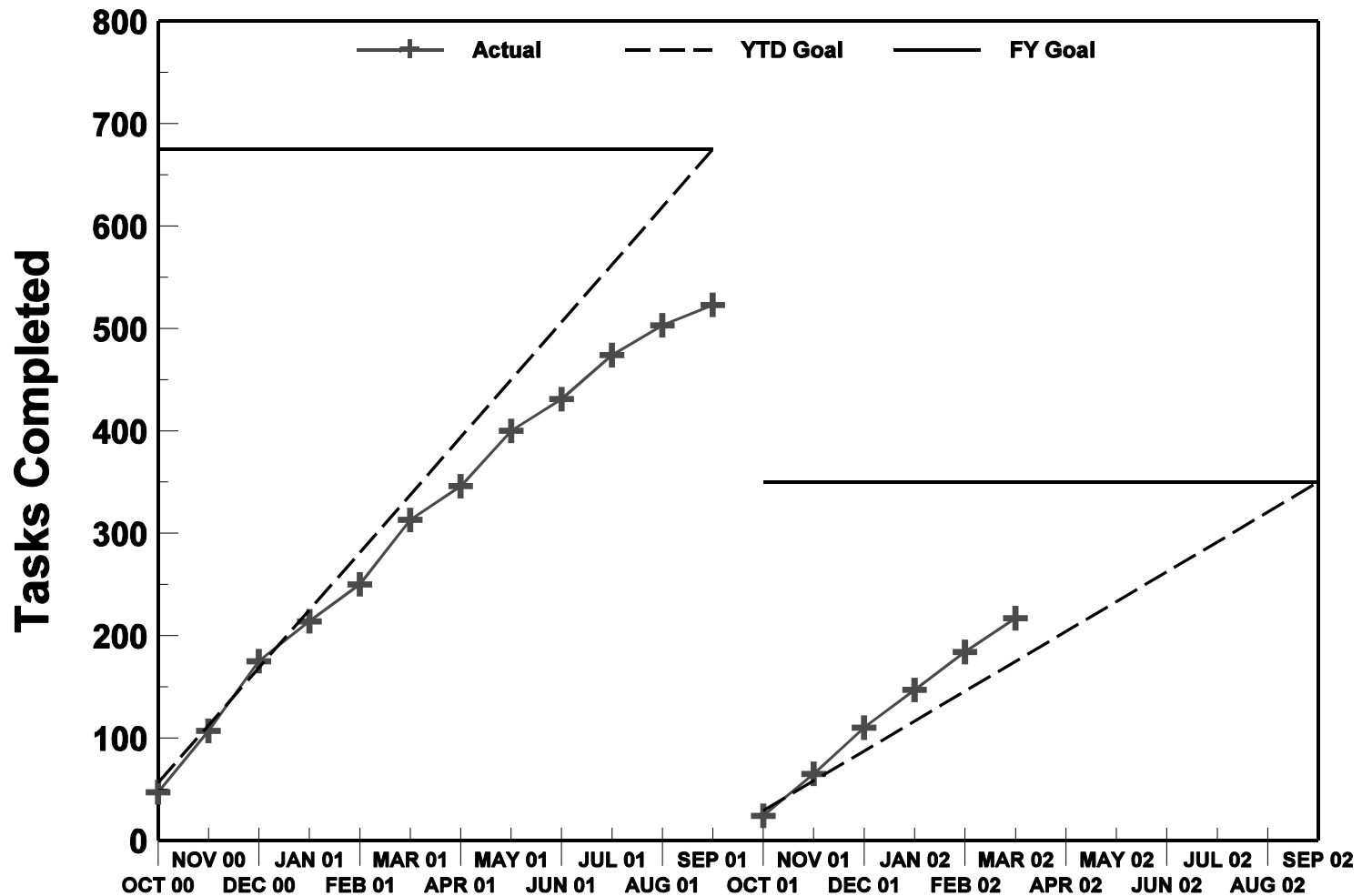
Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan: Size of Licensing Action Inventory



Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan Target: Completed Other Licensing Tasks



XXII. Status of License Renewal Activities

Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, Renewal Application

The staff issued the completed safety evaluation report in February 2002. The final supplemental environmental impact statement was issued in January 2002. The staff is preparing its recommendation to the Commission regarding issuance of a renewed license and the Commission's decision on issuing the license is scheduled for July 2002.

Surry, Units 1 and 2, and North Anna, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

Responses to environmental requests for additional information were received in December 2001 and responses to the safety requests for additional information were received in February 2002. The staff is currently preparing the draft supplemental environmental impact statement to be issued in April 2002 (Surry) and May 2002 (North Anna). The safety evaluation report identifying any open items is scheduled to be issued in June 2002.

McGuire, Units 1 and 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2, Combined Renewal Applications

Responses to environmental requests for additional information were received in February 2002 and the staff is currently preparing the draft supplemental environmental impact statement. Responses to the safety requests for information are due in April 2002.

Two petitions were received requesting a hearing on the renewal of the McGuire and Catawba licenses, and by Commission Order, an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) was established. In a Memorandum and Order issued January 24, 2002, the ASLB ruled that both petitioners have standing and concluded that admissible contentions had been proffered. One contention relating to terrorism risks was referred to the Commission for its consideration.

On February 4, 2002, the NRC staff and the licensee filed appeals with the Commission regarding the ASLB's admission of contentions concerning the possible use of MOX fuel in the facilities as well as the completeness of the licensee's evaluation of severe accident mitigation alternatives. On February 6, 2002, the Commission accepted certification of the terrorism issues and set a briefing schedule.

Peach Bottom, Units 2 and 3, Renewal Application

The Peach Bottom renewal application is currently under review. Responses to the environmental requests for additional information were received in January 2002. Safety requests for additional information were issued by March 2002 and the responses are due by May 2002.

St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, Renewal Application

The St. Lucie renewal application is currently under review and the staff is preparing requests for additional information. All environmental requests for additional information are scheduled to be issued by May 2002 and the safety requests by July 2002.

Fort Calhoun Renewal Application

On January 11, 2002, the NRC received an application for renewal of the Fort Calhoun operating license. The staff is performing the required acceptance review. The applicant plans to supplement its application in April 2002. After reviewing the additional information, the staff will docket the application, if found acceptable, notice an opportunity for hearing, and issue the review schedule.

XXIII. Status of Review of Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Corporation's Application for a License to Operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians

As noted in the previous month's report, the NRC staff has completed its safety evaluation of the application by Private Fuel Storage, Limited Liability Company (PFS) for a license to construct and operate an away-from-reactor independent spent fuel storage installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. The NRC staff, with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, has also completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project. However, before a recommendation can be made by the NRC staff to the Commission regarding whether a license should be granted to PFS, litigation in the adjudicatory proceeding before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) must be concluded and the ASLB must issue its findings. These hearings began April 8, 2002.

The litigation in the adjudicatory proceeding on the PFS license application continued during this reporting period: (1) depositions and other discovery were conducted on geotechnical issues, and have now concluded; (2) the parties filed their testimony and proposed evidentiary exhibits on all contentions scheduled for hearing in April - May, including aircraft crash probability, hydrological impacts, alternative rail line routes, and geotechnical issues; (3) an oral argument has been scheduled on the admissibility of the State of Utah's new contention on environmental cost-benefit balancing; (4) the Commission granted requests to undertake interlocutory appellate review of the Licensing Board's ruling on PFS's motion for summary disposition of Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia's contention regarding environmental justice; (5) the Licensing Board scheduled the filing of legal briefs on the State of Utah's newly admitted contention concerning Utah's enactment of legislation that would prohibit the Tooele County Sheriff's office from serving as the designated local law enforcement agency for the PFS facility; and (6) the parties filed evidentiary motions and otherwise continued to prepare for hearings on various issues.

XXIV. Enforcement Process and Summary of Reactor Enforcement by Region

Reactor Enforcement by Region:

* Numbers of violations are based on enforcement action tracking system (EATS) data that may be subject to minor changes following verification. The number of Severity Level I, II, III listed refers to the number of Severity Level I, II, III violations or problems. The monthly totals generally lag by 30 days due to inspection report and enforcement development.

** Violation totals for Regions II & IV reflect a shift from a 6 week inspection period to a quarterly inspection period.

	Reactor Enforcement Actions*					
		Region I	Region II**	Region III	Region IV**	TOTAL
Severity Level I	Feb 2002	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 01 Total	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 00 Total	0	0	0	0	0
Severity Level II	Feb 2002	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 01 Total	0	1	0	0	1
	FY 00 Total	1	2	0	0	3
Severity Level III	Feb 2002	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	2	0	0	0	2
	FY 01 Total	1	1	1	1	4
	FY 00 Total	5	0	4	4	13
Severity Level IV	Feb 2002	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2002 YTD	0	0	2	0	2
	FY 01 Total	1	0	2	1	4
	FY 00 Total	4	1	3	5	13
Non-Cited Severity Level IV & Green	Feb 2002	6	0	12	8	26
	FY 2002 YTD	104	64	90	68	326
	FY 01 Total	279	105	201	139	724
	FY 00 Total	313	190	289	258	1050

Escalated Reactor Enforcement Actions Associated with the Revised Reactor Oversight Process						
		Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Total
NOVs related to white, yellow or red findings	Feb 2002 -Red	0	0	0	0	0
	-Yellow	0	0	0	0	0
	-White	1	0	0	0	1
	FY 2002 YTD	1	1	1	1	4
	FY 01 Total	8	4	4	3	19
	FY 00 Total	6	1	0	0	7

Description of Significant Actions taken in February 2002:

TXU Electric (Comanche Peak) EA-01-304

On February 21, 2002, a Notice of Violation was issued for a violation associated with a white SDP finding involving 11 examples in which radiological surveys to detect radioactivity required by technical specification procedures were not adequate. The violation cited the licensee's failure in allowing items containing detectable activity to be released from a radiologically controlled area.

XXV. Power Reactor Security Regulations

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC and the nuclear industry have taken a number of actions to ensure the security at nuclear power plants. Immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the NRC advised nuclear power plant licensees to go to the highest level of security (i.e., Level 3), and all promptly did so.

For the longer term, the Chairman with the full support of the Commission has directed the NRC staff to thoroughly reevaluate the NRC safeguards and security programs. This reevaluation will be a comprehensive analysis involving all aspects of the agency's safeguards and security programs. The NRC staff submitted a report to the Commission that outlined the proposed course of action and schedule for conducting the review and identified preliminary policy issues for Commission consideration.

On February 25, the NRC issued Orders to all 104 commercial nuclear power plants to implement interim compensatory security measures for the current threat environment. On March 25, the NRC issued an Order to the Honeywell International, Inc. uranium conversion facilitated located in Metropolis, Illinois. Some of the requirements in the Orders formalize a series of security measures that NRC licensees had taken in response to advisories issued by

the NRC following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Additional security enhancements, which have emerged from the NRC's on-going comprehensive security review, are also spelled out in the Orders. The requirements will remain in effect until such time as the Commission determines that the level of threat has diminished, or that other security changes are needed following a comprehensive re-evaluation of current safeguards and security programs.

The NRC is currently considering the need to issue Orders to all other licensees to put actions taken in response to advisories in the customary regulatory framework.

The NRC continues to interact with the FBI, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, the Department of Defense, and the Office of Homeland Security to ensure any changes to the NRC's programs are informed by pertinent input from all relevant U.S. agencies.

XXVI. Power Upgrades

The staff has assigned power upgrade license amendment reviews a high priority. The staff considers power upgrade applications among the most significant licensing actions and is, therefore, conducting power upgrade reviews on accelerated schedules.

Licensees have been applying for and implementing power upgrades since the 1970s as a way to increase the power output of their plants. The staff has been conducting power upgrade reviews since then and to date, has completed 74 such reviews. Over 10,400 MWt (3470 MWe) or an equivalent of about three large nuclear power plant units has been gained through implementation of power upgrades at existing plants. During the month of March, the staff completed reviews of two power upgrade applications, one 20 percent extended power upgrade for the Clinton plant and one 1.4 percent measurement uncertainty recapture power upgrade for the Waterford 3 plant. The staff currently has 10 plant-specific applications and two General Electric Nuclear Energy topical reports for power upgrades under review.

On March 19, 2002, the staff held a public workshop on extended power upgrades (EPU) to share and discuss the lessons learned from the first few EPU reviews and to obtain feedback on issues that should be pursued by the NRC staff to improve the process. Ninety-one attendees participated in the workshop including representatives from the NRC staff, licensees, nuclear steam supply system (NSSS) vendors, architectural engineering firms, the press, members of the public, other engineering firms involved in power upgrade work, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and the Nuclear Energy Institute.

The staff conducted a survey in January 2002 to obtain information regarding industry's plans related to power upgrade applications. The survey requested information for planned power upgrades over the next 5 years. Based on this survey and information obtained since the survey, licensees plan to submit 42 additional power upgrade applications in the next 5 years. These include 26 measurement uncertainty recapture power upgrades (i.e., power upgrades less than 2 percent); 2 stretch power upgrades (i.e., power upgrades up to about 7 percent); and 14 extended power upgrades (i.e., power upgrades greater than about 7 percent). Planned power upgrades are expected to result in an increase of over 4800 MWt (1600 MWe), which is equivalent to more than one large nuclear power plant unit. Licensees also indicated that they are currently studying the feasibility of power upgrades for eight units. In addition, the staff expects significant

interest by pressurized water reactor (PWR) licensees in large power uprates as a result of ongoing work by PWR vendors. The staff will utilize this information for future planning.

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Infrastructure, and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Rick Boucher

The Honorable Sonny Callahan, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Peter J. Visclosky

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Pete V. Domenici

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative John D. Dingell

The Honorable James M. Jeffords, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Bob Smith

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510