

**UTILITY RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY BOARD OF OHIO
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2006**

Chair Nancy Dragani called to order the October 10, 2006 meeting of the Utility Radiological Safety Board of Ohio at 1:30 p.m.

The first order of business was roll call, taken by Carol O’Claire.

I. ROLL CALL

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	MS. NANCY DRAGANI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	MR. ROBERT OWEN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	MR. ANTHONY MITCHELL
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	MR. SHAWN SMITH
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	MS. CINDY HAFNER
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	NO REPRESENTATIVE

A quorum was declared.

II. READING OF THE JULY 10, 2006 MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The Board dispensed with reading of the July 10, 2006 minutes. Ms. Dragani asked for any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. Ms. Dragani asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Anthony Mitchell of the Department of Agriculture moved to adopt the minutes and Mr. Robert Owen, of the Dep of Health seconded. The motion was carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Working Group Initiatives. The Working Group Initiatives were reviewed. Carol O’Claire of Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) began with those initiatives that Ohio Emergency Management has the lead. The Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station (NPS) Full Exercise preliminary report stands as is; the final report should be in by the end of the year. The dry run for the Perry NPP Partial Exercise was held on October 4, the graded exercise will be October 24. Concerns from dry run include communications and technical information. Reactor Oversight remains the same (the matrix is included in the meeting packet). Two “White” Findings remain in mitigating systems for Perry. Not included on the matrix is a preliminary “White” finding for Emergency Preparedness (EP) at the Beaver Valley PS. There will a meeting of the After Action Group on October 12 to go over lessons learned from the Perry exercise. The Working Group continues to attend Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) inspections. There will be a meeting on December 13 to discuss human performance and corrective actions. There is a review in progress to assess Plume Tracker, a software training program for the Field Monitoring Teams. A demonstration of this system will be scheduled following the October 24th exercise. The 2006 State Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) plan was approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and distributed. Further review will be necessary to become National Incident Management (NIMS) compliant. Comprehensive reviews will be conducted for the FENOC plants. The dates for the plants affecting Ohio are: Perry – November 27th through 30th 2006; Davis-Besse – March 6th through 8th 2007; Beaver Valley – May 21st through 24th 2007).

Mr. Steve Helmer reviewed the initiatives that for which the Department of Health (ODH) has the lead. ODH is still in the process of comparing results from RASCAL to the current state dose assessment program. Mr. Vernon Higaki stated that FENOC would like to be included in this discussion as they are also looking for a common dose assessment program; however one problem is the topographical area at Beaver Valley. ODH is still seeking internal clarification on their participation in the unescorted access program, so until then, they will accept escorted access. Mr. Helmer then reviewed KI. He has spoken to Patricia Milligan of the NRC who indicated that there will be more guidance within the next week or so on the NRC one-time purchase of replacement of KI for the public that expires in May of 2007. This will not include the KI for emergency workers and the institutionalized which are separately funded, which also expires in May 2007.

Mr. Mitchell of the Department of Agriculture reviewed initiatives for which ODA had the lead. Mr. Mitchell stated that ODA is preparing the Agriculture Brochure and will have it reviewed by the Working Group and attempt to distribute it by the fall of 2006.

Finally, Mr. Zack Clayton reviewed initiatives for which EPA has the lead. Mr. Clayton reported that Perry has selected a contractor to do a groundwater survey. EPA has agreed to do a peer review.

Mr. Owens then gave a report on the Midwestern Radioactive Material Transportation Committee. The Committee has not met since the last URSB meeting. The committee will meet again in Carlsbad, NM on November 15-16 and feature a tour of the WIPP site. The purpose is to demonstrate an active waste disposal site to key state legislators.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has established a new Routing Topic Group to begin to establish a national suite of routes for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain. Dan Fisher from PUCO will represent Ohio on this topic group.

The Chair of the Midwestern Committee sent a letter to the Chair of the NRC, requesting that the NRC should develop a partnership with the states on transportation security issues. The response from the NRC Chair was positive and willing to initiate a dialog with the states. Frank Mousa of Kansas and Tim Runyon of Illinois will represent the Midwest.

DOE has released the OCRWM Transportation System Concept of Operations. The Midwestern Committee has the opportunity to review and comment back to DOE on this document. The document covers all elements of the transportation system for Yucca Mountain, including the mission and scope, customers, shipment planning and management, cask transport, the support environment and system scenarios.

A proposed amendment to add Section 313 to the federal FY 07 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill (H.R. 5427) would divert money from the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for the development of "consolidation and preparation facilities" in as many as 31 states that have nuclear power plants.

The Midwestern Legislative Conference, among others, passed a resolution urging that Congress reject the language of this section.

Caroline Barber, Governor Taft's representative in Washington, D.C., was apprised of this situation. She is also Ohio's representative on the Midwestern Governor's Association Staff Advisory Committee.

Key points against the language by the Midwestern Committee are diverting funding away from the repository, diversion from the concept of consolidating waste in a centralized storage location, unnecessary transportation of waste, nine Midwestern states are potentially targeted for these facilities, private initiatives are already in progress, too ambitious a timetable for construction of these facilities and no funding to states analogous to Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. URSB Annual Report

The final version of the Annual Report, which by law is made to the Governor and General Assembly; was presented to the Board. The verbiage was approved by the Board. The report will be printed and distributed before the end of the year.

B. Nuclear Regulatory Commission – Roland Lickus, representative for the NRC, presented his report.

Mr. Lickus presented a new employee for NRC Region 3, Sheri Minnick, to the Board. She will be a governmental liaison with Mr. Lickus. Ms. Minnick comes from Region 1 where she was an Agreement State Liaison.

In August of 2006, the NRC completed its performance review of Davis-Besse for the first half of 2006. This included review of performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for previous 12 months. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the "Licensee Response" column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight. Mr. Lickus noted that the NRC has received a request from Davis-Besse to rescind the annual assessment requirement in the area of operations in the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL).

Perry has completed a performance review and met all cornerstone objectives. The two "White" Findings remain open. The NRC has a number of inspections in 4 areas: Corrective Action; Human performance; Supplemental Followup and Emergency Preparedness in addition to normal/routine inspections. There are additional inspections scheduled in October and November. There was a CAL issued in September of 2005 to confirm Perry's actions. Perry is reviewed on a quarterly basis. The assessments show that Perry continues to operate in a manner that preserves public health and safety but remains in the multiple/degraded cornerstone (Column 4). There are two inspections remaining scheduled for late October and November. There will be a meeting to review those results on December 13 at the Quail Hollow Resort at 3:00 p.m. Also they are negotiating for a corporate level public meeting which is planned for January; the purpose is to discuss the fleet-wide performance of FENOC. The meeting will probably be held in the Akron area.

Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2006-12. Following the September 11 attacks, the NRC evaluated the EP planning basis given the threat environment. The NRC concluded that the EP planning basis does remain valid; however they recognize that security events differ from accidental events and the EP regulations and guidance could be enhanced.

Non-evaluated security drills will be held over the next 3 years in addition to biennial exercise. This will be discussed at the Region 3 scheduling conference. Tentatively, Davis-Besse is looking at the third quarter of 2008 and Perry is looking at the first quarter of 2009.

The second RIS is 2006-13, Information on Changes to the Reactor Oversight Program (ROP) to address safety culture. This was issued in July and provides information to the licensees and contractors on changes to the ROP. Much of this activity was due to safety culture being determined as a root cause of the reactor head degradation at the Davis-Besse station. The changes became effective July 2006. The changes deal mainly with how to assess the safety culture.

Mr. Lickus also reported that on October 4 the NRC released findings of a group of experts concerning inadvertent releases of radioactive liquids, particularly tritium. The task force found no impact on public health from the events. The group went back to data from 1996. There were 26 separate recommendations that applied to the NRC, plant operators or both. The recommendations included updating regulations on monitoring the environment in and around the plant and indicated the operators cooperate with local governments by voluntarily reporting releases that fall below regulatory requirements.

Utility Reports: Mr. Vernon Higaki reported for FirstEnergy.

1. Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS)

The first item on the agenda was the maintenance outage on Unit 1. Beaver Valley staff conducted a maintenance outage on Unit 1 to search for suspected a piece of foreign material in one of the steam generators. After draining and cooling down of the steam generator, cameras were inserted in the secondary side to search for the material, but none was detected. Most likely the material was cleared out when the steam generator was drained. The operators also performed an examination of the steam generator tubes to confirm there were no marks or blemished on the tubes from the foreign material. Repairs were made to provide ongoing surveillance of the system.

Other maintenance activities were completed, including balancing of the generator exciter.

Safety performance was good with no first aid or OSHA recordable incidents and worker radiation dose was kept well under pre-outage estimates.

The second item on the agenda was the Reactor Trip on September 7, 2006. A faulty electronic circuit card caused a reactor trip, leading to a two day shutdown. Troubleshooting explored and eliminated other causes that could have led to the trip. Although the failure was believed to be random, additional testing of the faulted card was under investigation at the vendor facility by the utility's Root Cause Team.

The NRC has issued a preliminary "White" finding to Beaver Valley as a result of their inspection of the June exercise. A regulatory conference has been requested to provide additional information for reconsideration of the finding. The finding pertains to dose assessment processes used during the exercise and cites concerns about communication between dose assessment personnel and the Technical Support Center in determining a revised dose projection. The tentative date for the regulatory conference at NRC Region 1 Headquarters is October 24.

A Unit 2 shutdown occurred on Monday, October 2 initiating the 12th refueling outage. The shutdown was conducted event free and turbine disassembly was in progress by October 5. Reactor vessel head removal was completed without incident and fuel off-load is scheduled for October 9. Other major work includes overlay welding to strengthen pressurizer nozzles and increasing the size of the containment sump strainer. The size of the containment sump is being increased from 150 to 3,000 square feet.

Actions to implement the power uprate for Unit 1 and 2 are in progress. Unit 1 increase of a 3 percent uprate was completed as part of the spring 2006 steam generator replacement outage. An additional uprate of 5 percent will be conducted during the fall 2007 outage and is contingent upon completion of required engineering calculations.

Unit 2 uprate of 3 percent will be completed in the current refueling outage. An additional 5 percent uprate will be implemented during the spring 2008 outage and requires modification of the feedwater regulating valves and high pressure turbine rotor.

2. Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS)

Power was reduced to repair a minor steam lead on a moisture reheater drain line. This required isolation of the #1 high pressure feedwater heater and consequently a reduction in plant power to make the repair. A security office noticed condensation during one of the plant rounds in the turbine building. An investigation identified the source as a leaking drain line.

Testing was conducted on the other train identifying an additional area of thinning on one other pipe elbow. A similar repair was made to this line also.

Following the repairs, the plant returned to full power.

The Confirmatory Order Independent Assessments continue at Davis-Besse. The Operations Performance Independent Assessment was submitted to the NRC on August 22. As in the 2005 assessment, no issues rising to the level of an area for improvement were identified. The assessment also concluded that FENOC Fleet Oversight, the company Nuclear Review Board and Operations Department assessments are factual, in-depth and accurate in identifying areas needing improvement.

The annual operations department assessments, including Focused and Snapshot self-assessments also with semi-annual Integrated Performance Assessments will continue to be performed for the time period addressed by the Confirmatory Order. FENOC requested the NRC to rescind the condition of the order that requires Independent Assessment of Operations Performance with the submittal of the 2006 Operations Performance Assessment Report. The next Operations Assessment is schedule for June unless rescinded.

The final report to the NRC for the corrective action program assessment is scheduled for October 23.

Future assessments include Engineering Program Effectiveness to be completed on October 6 and Safety Culture/Safety Conscious Work Environment assessment to be completed on December 15.

Down power August 3, 2006

At approximately 8:15 p.m., the control room crew experienced indication of the Integrated Control System signal failure. The unit load demand indicated zero and the system responded by reducing reactor power. Manual control was taken and stopped the reduction in reactor power at 96 percent. Troubleshooting efforts identified two failed modules in the ICS circuitry. Repair plans were developed, the modules replaced, and the plant returned to 100 percent power.

Outage September 6, 2006

The plant was shutdown at approximately 2:30 a.m. following indication of degraded condenser vacuum. Initial indication of degraded vacuum was first identified at 1:38 a.m. Power was reduced to 45 percent and then a manual shutdown of the reactor was performed. Inspection confirmed a break in one of the turbine bearing drain lines that passes through the condenser. The break in the 1.5" line allowed air entry into the condenser causing degradation of vacuum. A temporary modification was made on the line and the plant was returned to service at 7:18 a.m., September 8.

Helicopter incident – September 16, 2006

Two individuals operating a helicopter owned by Sky Research, Inc., of Ashland, Ohio crashed near the shore of Lake Erie between Camp Perry and the Davis-Besse plant at approximately 10:45 a.m. The helicopter is thought to have been conducting a government survey for unexploded ordinance. The helicopter front-mounted boom hit the water causing the helicopter to flip over. Davis-Besse security and ten agencies were involved in the rescue of the two individuals. First on the scene was a Davis-Besse employee on vacation with his son. The two individuals sustained slight injuries.

3. Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP)

Down Power September 11, 2006

While conducting normal testing on a Reactor Feed Pump Turbine, the control room received an alarm for the thrust bearing on that pump. The alarm came in and cleared several times over a short period. A check of the pump locally did not reveal any abnormalities. However, this alarm should have tripped the pump. As a precaution, the pump was removed from services on September 11 at approximately 0100 and replaced with a motor driven pump and that necessitated the power reduction to 80 percent.

The investigation revealed oil on a micro-switch for the alarm. A gasket in the cover for the switch had a gap in it. Oil had entered the switch and caused the alarm to malfunction. The switch was repaired and the Reactor Feed pump Turbine was returned to service on September 12 at approximately 1240. Reactor power was restored to 100 percent on September 13 at approximately 0245.

4. FENOC

Plans for DHS Comprehensive Reviews continued with the surrounding communities of the Perry Plant. The Comprehensive Review is scheduled for the week of November 27. The review will consist of a question and answer session with first responder organizations, including law enforcement, fire departments and county emergency response elements. Comprehensive Reviews have been completed for approximately 45 percent of the commercial nuclear industry. Davis-Besse and Beaver Valley Comprehensive Reviews are scheduled for the weeks of March 6 and May 21, 2007; respectively.

Quantification “release”

Discussions were held with the URSB Working Group concerning the definition of “release in progress.” A FENOC procedure has been developed to ensure consistent guidance to the plant staff in reporting a radioactive material release during an emergency plant event. The internal FENOC procedure is being reviewed by three states as well as county representatives to develop a common understanding of the definitions to be used by the plant staffs at all FENOC plants.

Comments were received from the URSB Working Group and integrated in the draft provided by the URSB during this session. FENOC requests concurrence from the URSB following final review of the procedures.

Groundwater Protections – August 2, 2006

Ellen Anderson, FENOC Fleet Radiation Protection Manager, met with representatives from the URSB Working Group on August 2 to review information on groundwater protection. This effort is in response to the industry issues regarding tritium releases.

FENOC has submitted responses to the Nuclear Energy Institute regarding methods of detection.

The Groundwater protection action plan was reviewed with the URSB Working Group. FENOC has hired a hydro-geologist onto its staff to provide additional measures. The

assessment of the Perry Plant has been completed with the final report to be issued by the end of the month. Draft conclusions from Perry is that site system, geology, and hydro-geology have a low potential for releases to ground water onsite to impact near ground water receptors.

In parallel, the site evaluation at Davis-Besse is also in progress with a final report also expected by the end of the month.

A meeting is planned in early November with the URSB Working Group to review the results of the assessments. Any items that require immediate communications will be made to Carol O'Claire.

V. MISCELLANEOUS: The next meeting will be held January 8, 2007. The meeting schedule for the rest of the year will be April 9, July 9 and October 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.\

VI. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Shawn Smith, PUCO to adjourn the meeting. second was provided by Mr. Anthony Mitchell, ODA. Ms. Dragani adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

DATE

NANCY J. DRAGANI, CHAIR
UTILITY RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY BOARD