

INFORMATION REPORT

December 7, 2004

SECY-04-0227

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0227 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING NOVEMBER 26, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 26, 2004

Vermont Yankee - Adjudicatory Hearing on Power Uprate Amendment

On November 22, 2004, the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a Memorandum and Order granting a hearing to the Vermont Department of Public Service (State) and the New England Coalition (NEC). The ASLB admitted two contentions by the State, both related to the use of containment overpressure for ensuring adequate net positive suction head for emergency core cooling system pumps. The ASLB also admitted two contentions by the NEC, the first on Large Transient Testing and the second on the seismic and structural integrity of the cooling towers, particularly the alternate cooling system cell.

Risk Management Technical Specifications Initiative 7

On November 24, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) published for public comment a proposed change to the Standard Technical Specifications. The proposed change would allow additional outage time for certain system/equipment when the inoperability is due solely to an associated snubber for that system/equipment and risk is assessed and managed. This is one of eight Risk Management Technical Specification initiatives being developed to enhance safety through the incorporation of risk assessment and management techniques.

General Electric Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Design Certification Application

By letter dated November 19, 2004, General Electric (GE) informed the NRC staff of its intent to submit an application for design certification of the ESBWR in June 2005. GE requested that the ESBWR design certification review be completed within 30 months to support a potential combined operating license application in 2008 and to support the Department of Energy's Nuclear Power 2010 initiative. The staff's current estimated schedule for design certification reviews is in the range of 42 to 60 months (including rulemaking) as indicated in SECY-01-0188, "Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment," dated October 12, 2004. A schedule for the ESBWR design certification review will be established after the application is received and accepted for review.

Dresden Unit 3 Steam Dryer Inspection Results

On November 17, 2004, NRR and Region III staff conducted a telephone conference with Exelon to discuss the results of the licensee's detailed inspection of the steam dryer at Dresden Unit 3 during the ongoing refueling outage. The licensee inspected over 1000 dryer locations (internal and external) using Visual Test (VT)-1 inspection methods. The licensee identified approximately 16 cracks in the dryer with the most significant finding being a new 12-inch crack in the lower cover plate weld. The licensee's metallurgical analysis of the failed weld on the lower cover plate indicated the degradation mode to be fatigue with crack initiation at the root of the weld. The preliminary root cause is considered to be the uncertainty in loads used in designing the steam dryer with a contributing cause being the redistributed maximum stress from installation of gussets to stiffen the vertical hood plate in December 2003. The licensee's

corrective actions included increasing the size of the welds in the cover plate. Most of the other cracks identified in the steam dryer are considered to have been caused by fatigue, and have been evaluated or repaired. During this refueling outage, the licensee also installed steam dryer modifications to address lessons learned from the Quad Cities Unit 2 spring 2004 steam dryer inspection findings.

Public Meeting on Fire Dynamics Analysis Methods

On November 22-23, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), with support from the RES staff, presented an overview of the fire dynamics tools (FDTs) described in NUREG-1805, "Fire Dynamics Tools - Quantitative Fire Hazard Analysis Methods for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fire Protection Inspection Program," during a two-day public meeting. The FDTs were developed by the NRR staff using state-of-the-art fire dynamics principles and assist NRC inspectors in performing fire hazard analysis. Additionally, the NUREG-1805 methods and tools will support implementation of a recent change to 10 CFR 50.48, "Fire Protection," that allows nuclear power plant licensees to adopt a performance-based approach to fire protection as described in consensus standard NFPA-805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants."

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 26, 2004

Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Decision-makers' Forum & Technical Symposium

On November 15-18, 2004, the Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and NMSS staff attended the Nineteenth Low-Level Radioactive Waste Decision-makers' Forum held in Midland, Texas. The conference covered a variety of topics, including the status of low-level waste (LLW) programs at federal agencies; the potential impacts of closing the Barnwell facility in 2008; the status of national, regional and State LLW management programs; the status of rulemaking efforts by the State of Texas, NRC, and the Environmental Protection Agency, regarding low-activity materials; and new initiatives to secure nuclear materials. A principal focus of the meeting was the LLW disposal application filed by Waste Control Specialists, LLC (WCS). The application includes proposed disposal for Compact waste (Vermont and Texas) and federal (DOE) waste. WCS also discussed its plans to submit an application to disposal of 10 CFR 11.e.2 waste from Fernald.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Meeting of the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Expert Panel

On November 15-19, 2004, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff, together with contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory, held the third meeting with the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) Expert Panel. The purpose of the PMDA PIRT is to identify locations and components in light water reactors that could be susceptible to future materials degradation phenomena. The PMDA PIRT will provide a basis for the development of proactive regulatory and industry actions to avoid, mitigate, and/or manage potential future degradation of reactor components. A draft report for all pressurized water reactor (PWR) components examined will be available in June 2005, and a final draft report for both the boiling water reactor and PWR systems examined will be completed in December 2005. Results from this activity will be used to guide research and regulatory actions to address proactive assessment and management of materials degradation in operating reactors.

Meeting to Detail the Memorandum of Agreement between NRC and the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC)

On November 16-17, 2004, representatives from RES and NRR met at offices of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) in Princeton, NJ to develop the appendices for the NRC-NERC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA establishes formal means of information and data sharing relevant to the electrical grid. The staff will use the information in assessments of the reliability of the grid to supply power to nuclear power plants under both normal and upset conditions. In addition, the group discussed the results of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission/NERC readiness audits, and reviewed the recent RES assessment of NERC grid operational data.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 26, 2004

Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors (AG42-Part 50)

On November 22, 2004, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (69 FR 68008) that provides an alternative approach for establishing the requirements for the treatment of structures, systems, and components for nuclear power reactors. The final rule provides for the use of a risk-informed method of categorizing structures, systems, and components according to their safety significance. The final rule allows licensees to remove structures, systems, and components of low safety significance from the scope of certain identified requirements. Licensees need not provide increased assurance, beyond normal industrial practices, that structures, systems, and components perform their design basis function if they are of low safety significance. The final rule also revises requirements applicable to structures, systems, and components of greater safety significance. The final rule becomes effective December 22, 2004.

Contract Awards

On November 19, 2004, delivery order DR-33-05-303 was awarded to Government Technology Services Incorporated under NASA's Scientific and Engineering Workstation Procurement contract. The contractor shall provide computer equipment and Microsoft software licenses. The estimated cost is \$444,132.51.

On November 22, 2004, a competitive fixed price delivery order DR-07-05-139 was awarded to Merchant's Leasing, Incorporated under the General Service Administration's Federal Supply Schedule. The delivery order was for the lease of two heavy duty pickup trucks for pulling trailers as part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's participation in the Force-on-Force exercises. The lease period is for one year with two option years at a total price of \$32,760 which includes full preventive maintenance on the vehicles.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 26, 2004

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
November 18 through November 24, 2004:

Allegation R1-2003-A-0110, OI Investigation Case 1-2003-045, and NRC Review of Safety Conscious Work Environment issues from 8-03 to 10-04, case no. 1-2003-55F, all supporting information	FOIA/PA-2005-0045
Contract NRC2904261, Region I Telecommunications, Micrographic, and CD-ROM Services, exhibits, amendments, cost line, bidders list, winning proposal	FOIA/PA-2005-0046
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations, license modification Order of 8-25-04, particularly Part III B.1 & Part III B.2	FOIA/PA-2005-0047
Contract NRC-01-98-151, Wackenhut Services	FOIA/PA-2005-0048
Request for Additional Information (RAI) for Peach Bottom Units 2 & 3, Salem Units 1 & 2, Hope Creek, Indian Point, Pilgrim & Seabrook Unit 1	FOIA/PA-2005-0049
Allegation, Schlumberger Technology Corp., Havre, Montana, records re: loss of control of a radioactive source on or about 5-21-02	FOIA/PA-2005-0050
Uniroyal Chemical Co Inc. (a.k.a. Crompton Manufacturing Co Inc.) Painesville facility, FUSRAP site, Lake County Ohio, 720 Fairport Nursery Road, Painesville OH, correspondence, contracts, site inspections, lab test results; shipments & operations of Diamond Magnesium Co	FOIA/PA-2005-0051
OI Investigation on alleged violation of 10 CFR 50.7, 2002-2003, final report, transcripts	FOIA/PA-2005-0052
FOIA requests, 1999 thru Nov 12, 2004, what was requested, whether request was denied, include FOIA exemptions	FOIA/PA-2005-0053
MLTS database, active & retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2005-0054
Atchafalaya River & Bayous Chene, Boeuf & Black Assumption, St. Mary & Terrebonne Parishes, LA, post 1900 land use reports, nuclear power plants, regulation violations, storage facilities, spills, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0055
Safety Evaluation Report (SER) re: qualified digital safety controller (ML003737664)	FOIA/PA-2005-0056

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
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Arrivals		
Rochelle Baval	Policy Analyst	OCFO
Catherine Blakeney	Management Analyst (Co-Op)	OCIO
Patricia Hall	Management Analyst	OCIO
Kim Hammer	Nuclear Process Engineer (Criticality)	NMSS
Andrew J. Howe	Reliability and Risk Analyst	NRR
Craig Hrabal	Nuclear Process Engineer (Criticality)	NMSS
Kim Ottenstein	Sr. Visual Information Specialist	OCIO
Behrooz Sabet	IT Team Leader	NSIR
Departure		
Marianna Pitiriciu	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRR

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's decision to grant a hearing on the Vermont Yankee power uprate request.

The NRC's continuing security review of documents in the ADAMS online library system.

A fire at the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant that temporarily disabled an alarm system.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-147	NRC Increases Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation (11/24)
04-148	NRC Revises Regulations for Structures, Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Plants (11/23)
Regions:	
I-04-053	NRC to Discuss Performance Improvement Actions at Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plants (11/24)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 26, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-04-0195	11/22/04	Rulemaking Plan: Clarification of NRC Civil Penalty Authority Over Contractors and Subcontractors Who Discriminate Against Employees for Engaging in Protected Activities (RM #636)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0195	11/22/04	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-04-0200	11/22/04	A Risk-Informed Approach to Defining the Design Basis Tornado for New Reactor Licensing
Commission Voting Record on 04-0200	11/22/04	(same)
3. SRM-SECY-04-0178	11/19/04	Regulatory Solution for 10 CFR Part 71 Change Authority for Dual-Purpose Package Certificate Holders
Commission Voting Record on 04-0178	11/19/04	(same)
Information Paper		
1. SECY-04-0218	11/22/04	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 12, 2004

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Jim Saxton, dated November 17, 2004, provides response to letter addressed to President Bush regarding Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.
2. Letter to Senator Jon S. Corzine, dated November 16, 2004, responds to letter expressing opposition to the Sheldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's proposed use of NRC's Long-Term Control, possession-only license.
3. Letter to the President, Congress, OMB and GAO, dated, November 15, 2004, provides NRC's Fiscal Year 2004 Performance and Accountability Report.

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ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Meeting on Planning and Procedures, meeting notice (12/13/04).

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ENCLOSURE O