

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 22, 2006

SECY-06-0064

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
MARCH 10, 2006

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\*No input this week.

*/RA/*

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

Memorandum and Order in License Renewal Application for Palisades Nuclear Plant

On March 7, 2006, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a Memorandum and Order ruling on standing, contentions and other pending matters related to the subject license renewal application. The ASLB ruled that the Petitioners established standing but did not submit any admissible contentions under applicable NRC regulation and precedent. Therefore, the adjudicatory proceeding was terminated.

Pilgrim Public Information Session on License Renewal Review Process

On March 8, 2006, the staff conducted the subject public information session in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The session was conducted following the receipt of the license renewal application for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station to provide information on the license renewal process and opportunities for public involvement. Representatives from Region I, Office of Public Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Congressional Affairs, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) supported this public information session.

Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Fuel meeting

On March 1, NRR and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff participated in a meeting with General Electric (GE) and Global Nuclear Fuels (GNF) at the GE/GNF offices in Wilmington, NC, regarding the ESBWR fuel design and critical heat flux (CHF) correlation. GE has submitted several topical reports providing detailed fuel design information and one additional submittal regarding the CHF correlation is expected this week. Meeting discussion topics included the need for additional justification for classification of the control rod drop accident as beyond design basis for ESBWR, the acceptability of the proposed acceptance criteria for the control rod withdrawal error event, additional fuel design details needed to support NRC confirmatory calculations, and justification of the applicability of the GE critical quality-boiling length CHF correlation to the ESBWR.

Public Meeting on Security Design Expectations for New Reactors

On March 6, NRR and NSIR staff hosted a public meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the proposed rulemaking for security design expectations for new reactors. During the meeting, staff discussed the purpose and schedule for the rulemaking, listened to comments from industry representatives, and answered questions on the rulemaking process. Industry representatives indicated their intentions to develop several documents that may help with the development of staff's guidance documents in support of the rule. Staff and industry agreed to continue to interact throughout the rulemaking process.

ESBWR Severe Accidents and Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) meeting

On March 8, 2006, NRR and RES staff met with GE to discuss the ESBWR severe accident (SA) analysis and the treatment of thermal-hydraulic (T/H) uncertainty in the PRA. During the

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SA portion of the meeting, the NRC's contractor, Energy Resources Incorporated, presented preliminary results of confirmatory SA analyses performing using the MELCOR code and comparisons with GE's MAAP results. The preliminary results showed good agreement between the two codes. Additional ESBWR design details were requested by ERI to further refine the MELCOR input deck.

During the T/H uncertainty portion of the meeting, GE presented its proposed approach for addressing an NRC's request for additional information on this topic. The NRC staff agreed in principle to the approach proposed by GE to benchmark the MAAP code with the NRC approved TRACG code, and to perform additional TRACG comparisons for events where MAAP calculated minimal core uncover or low margin to core uncover. The staff indicated that additional details, when submitted, would have to be reviewed before the staff could agree that the PRA success criteria established with MAAP/TRACG were appropriate.

#### NRC Audits Watts Bar's New Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Sump Strainer Design

On March 6, the staff met with the Tennessee Valley Authority to begin the second phase of its audit of Watts Bar's new ECCS sump strainer design. This audit is one of the ten that the staff plans to conduct in support of Generic Safety Issue 191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance," closure over the next two years. Initial discussions with the licensee covered various technical subjects, including Loss of Coolant Accident/net positive suction head analysis, break selection, sump structure analysis, debris generation and transport, head loss testing, chemical effects, and downstream effects.

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

Withdrawal of Proposed Rule on Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions (AH54- Part 50)

On March 7, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (70 FR 10901) that withdraws a proposed rule that would have amended its fire protection regulations for nuclear power facilities. The proposed amendment would have allowed nuclear plant licensees to use manual actions by plant operators as an alternative method to achieve hot shutdown conditions in the event of fires in certain plant areas. The proposed rule is withdrawn because, after evaluating stakeholder comments, the Commission believes that the proposed rule would not have achieved its stated objectives of effectiveness and efficiency.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
March 3 through March 9, 2006:

Dresden 1, 2 or 3, investigation or inspection reports re: tritium or other radioactive material releases	FOIA/PA-2006-0130
Tripler Army Medical center incident of June 19, 1990, re: 131I	FOIA/PA-2006-0131
NRC Roster of Utilities	FOIA/PA-2006-0132
Millstone, alleged disabling of intrusion detection system, written report	FOIA/PA-2006-0133
Contract awarded to Anteon (re: systems integration, information assurance), all attachments & exhibits, all task/delivery/purchase orders, & proposal submitters	FOIA/PA-2006-0134
License no. 37-01893-01, docket no. 030003013, Guthrie Clinic & Robert Baker Hospital, Sayre, PA, records after 2-28-05 to present	FOIA/PA-2006-0135

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Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
BAUM, ALLEN	CONSULTANT	RES
BROWN, MARIA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

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

Vermont Yankee Power Uprate.

Tritium leak issues at Palo Verde (AZ), Indian Point (NY), and Braidwood (IL).

Whether there is any foreign ownership and operation of nuclear power corporations.

NRC's Congressional Oversight Hearing March 8.

Release of NAS study on Low Activity Wastes.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Regions:</b>	
III-06-008	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Perry Nuclear Power Plant (3/10)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending March 10, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-06-0020	02/01/06	Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. - The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Comment(s) on Termination of Consultation Process
SRM-SECY-06-0020	02/09/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0020	02/09/06	(same)
2. SECY-06-0041	02/22/06	Proposed Strategy to Support Implementation of the New-Reactor Construction Inspection Program
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-06-0050	03/02/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 17, 2006
2. SECY-06-0051	03/02/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 24, 2006
3. SECY-06-0054	03/09/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 3, 2006
<b>Memoranda</b>		
M060303	03/03/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0046 - Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station).
M060214	03/07/06	Staff Requirements - Briefing on NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans - Waste Safety



### Commission Correspondence

Letter to Senator Susan M. Collins, dated March 3, 2006, responds to request for the status of NRC's answers raised on the agency's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina.

### Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 168<sup>th</sup> meeting (3/22-24/06).
2. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Call for Nominations.

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Region II (RII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

Congressional Liaison Visits to Florida

On March 6-8, 2006, the Regional State Liaison Officer, accompanied by a representative from the Office of Congressional Affairs, visited the Congressional District Offices of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, U.S. Senator Mel Martinez, in Tampa, Florida, and Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, in Brooksville, Florida.

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Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 10, 2006

Diablo Canyon Management Change

On March 3, 2006, Mr. David Oatley, Vice President and General Manager - Diablo Canyon Power Plant, announced his retirement from Pacific Gas and Electric Company after 23 years of service. Mr. Jack Keenan, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, stated in a separate announcement that the General Manager position would be temporarily left vacant, and the corresponding duties would be taken on by Mr. James Becker, Vice President and Station Director, and Ms. Donna Jacobs, Vice President - Nuclear Services. Mr. Oatley's retirement is effective on March 10, 2006.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 9					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/07/06 SR-232A	2:45	Linton Brooks-National Nuclear Security Administration, Joseph Rispoli-Assistant Secretary fo Energy for Environmental Mgmt.	FY 2007 Budget - Nuclear Weapons and Environmental Cleanup	Senators Sessions/Nelson Strategic Forces Armed Services
Decker	03/08/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE - Secretary Bodman	Department of Energy-Overview	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Shane	03/08/06 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBD	Paperwork Reduction Act	Reps. Miller/Lynch Regulatory Affairs Government Reform
Shane	03/09/06 SD-628	9:30	NRC	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Decker	03/09/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy- Environmental Management	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 9**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/09/06 SD-366	10:00	DOE - Dennis Spurgeon - Asst Secretary of Energy for nuclear energy	Confirmation Hearing	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	03/14/06 <b>Tentative</b>	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	03/14/06 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBD	Overclassification of Federal Documents	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations Government Reform
Combs	03/15/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE - Paul Golin, Acting Director, OCRWM	Department of Energy - Nuclear Waste Disposal	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Shane	03/16/06 TBD	TBD	NRC will not be invited	FISMA	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Combs	03/23/06 Las Vegas, NV	10:00	NRC, GAO, DOE/OCRWM, DOE/IG, Bechtel	Yucca Mountain Project: Persistent Management and Quality Assurance	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Combs	03/28/06 or 03/30/06 TBD	TBD	NRC, GAO, DOE/NNSA, DHS/Customs and Border Protection	GAO findings with regard to counterfeiting an NRC license and general availability of exempt quantity radioactive sources	Senators Coleman/Levin Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 9**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	04/04/06 2247 RHOB	2:00	NRC, GAO, NEI, Exelon, Connecticut Attorney General, POGO	NRC efforts to define the DBT and set protective standards for the Nuclear Power Industry	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations Government Reform

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