

INFORMATION REPORT

September 14, 2006

SECY-06-0197

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Limited Appearance and Site Visit

On August 28, 2006, the Atomic Safety And Licensing Board (ASLB) held a limited appearance session in Port Gibson, Mississippi. This is the same board that will hold the mandatory hearing for the Grand Gulf Early Site Permit (ESP). The limited appearance session allowed interested parties to make statements and to provide documents to the Board for consideration in their deliberations. City and County officials and representatives of various groups including Public Citizen and the local Chamber of Commerce provided statements.

On August 29, 2006, the ASLB members toured the Grand Gulf ESP site along with members of the NRR staff. The tour concentrated on site features relevant to meteorology and hydrology.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Technology Regarding Transportation Packages for Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) Fresh Fuel and Irradiated Fuel Rods Meeting

On August 30, 2006, NMSS staff met with the Department of Energy (DOE) and Packaging Technology to discuss transportation packages for ATR fresh fuel and for irradiated fuel rods. DOE plans to request an amendment to the TN-FSV spent fuel cask (Certificate of Compliance No. 9253) to include a canister for up to four irradiated fuel rods. The rods will be shipped within an inner shielded canister. DOE plans to submit a request for the amendment in early 2007. DOE also presented plans for a new package design for the transport of unirradiated ATR fuel elements by truck. The meeting focused on the conceptual design and plans for engineering tests. DOE plans to submit an application for package approval in June 2007.

Meeting with NUKEM Regarding New Transport Package for Radioactive Waste

On August 29, 2006, NMSS staff met with representatives from the NUKEM Corporation to discuss the structural features of a cask design and the analytical approach that will be utilized to demonstrate compliance with the regulations. The cask is designed for the transport of solid low level waste. The proposed cask design for the Model No. 10-165B incorporates improved safety features and will replace the Model No. 10-145B when it's Certificate of Compliance expires on October 1, 2008. NUKEM Corporation will likely submit the application for the Model No. 10-165B to NRC for review in January 2007.

High-Level Waste Technical Exchange on Yucca Mountain Design Changes

On August 29, 2006, NRC and DOE staff held a technical exchange in Las Vegas, NV, on "Design Changes Approved Through DOE's Critical Decision-1 Process." NRC presented information on regulatory requirements for transportation, storage, aging, and disposal of commercial spent nuclear fuel, under 10 CFR Parts 63, 71, and 72. DOE presented the changes to their facility designs and pre-closure operations at the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, that were recently approved through their Critical Decision-1 process. The exchange was also attended by representatives from the State of Nevada and interested members of the public.

NRC Assumes Regulatory Oversight of United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Inc.'s American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility

On August 25, 2006, NRC assumed regulatory oversight of USEC Inc.'s American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (Lead Cascade) from DOE in accordance with the March 24, 2004, Memorandum of Understanding entitled "Cooperation Regarding the Gas Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facilities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant," between NRC and DOE. On February 24, 2004, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70, NRC issued Materials License SNM-7003 to USEC Inc. to possess and use for up to five years, source and special nuclear material at the Lead Cascade at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. The Lead Cascade, which is a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment test and demonstration facility, will

consist of up to 240 centrifuges. Transition of regulatory oversight of the Lead Cascade from DOE to NRC authorizes USEC Inc. to introduce uranium hexafluoride into the Lead Cascade.

Meeting with American Water Works Association (AWWA)

On August 24, 2006, staff from NMSS met with representatives of AWWA to discuss NRC's proposed rulemaking to develop a new general license specific to drinking water treatment facilities that concentrate uranium above 0.05 percent by weight. Meeting attendees included representatives of AWWA (industry representatives and state regulators); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). NRC staff provided background on applicable NRC regulations; the status of development of a generic communication to States and water treatment facilities; and the status of development of a new general license applicable to water treatment facilities. Although AWWA noted its appreciation of NRC's attempts to reduce the regulatory burden on water treatment facilities, there are still concerns about potential costs associated with the limited opportunities for disposal of any concentrated uranium as source material. AWWA and ASDWA also offered to help notify their members of NRC's requirements and upcoming activities and to provide information, as needed, to support NRC's regulatory efforts.

Public Meeting for the Naturally Occurring and Accelerator Produced Radioactive Materials (NARM) Rulemaking

On August 22, 2006, staff from NMSS held a public meeting in Las Vegas, NV, to solicit comments on the proposed rule: "Requirements for the Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material" (also known as the NARM rulemaking). The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 42952; July 28, 2006) for a 45-day public comment period, which ended on September 11, 2006. Attendees included representatives from the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR); the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM); PETNET Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; the Health Physics Society (HPS); the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology; the Organization of Agreement States; the State of Nevada; EPA; Lincoln County, NV; and members of the public. HPS, CORAR, AAPM, and PETNET presented their preliminary comments on the proposed rule. In general, these organizations stated that the NRC staff had appropriately implemented the intent of the Energy Policy Act.

Examples of comments received on the proposed rule included: specific values should be included in the rule for the annual limit on intake (or ALI) and derived air concentration (or DAC) for nitrogen-13 and oxygen-15; an additional grandfathering provision is needed for Part 30 cyclotron operators and engineers; small self-contained cyclotrons should be exempted from the financial assurance requirements; further clarification is needed on certain terms used in the rule; and clarification of the intent of the proposed rule is needed. The representative of PETNET also stated that a higher compatibility category should be considered to ensure a higher degree of consistency among States.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) Design Methods Workshop

On August 22-23, 2006, staff participated in a NGNP Design Methods workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah, hosted by the Idaho National Laboratory and U.S. Department of Energy. The workshop was attended by representatives from national laboratories, universities, and gas reactor technology vendors. The attendees provided comments on the proposed NGNP design methods using a unique computer-based group facilitation software. NRC staff provided informal comments on the proposed NGNP computer code validation and verification procedures with respect to guidance set forth in Regulatory Guide 1.203, "Transient and Accident Analysis Methods." The comments were well received and will help to support future NGNP pre-application and design certification activities.

Hemyc MT 3-hour Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System (ERFBS) Testing

On August 24, 2006, an NRC staff member witnessed Duke Power's testing of Hemyc MT 3-hour ERFBS at Omega Point Laboratories, San Antonio TX. The test consisted of plant-specific configurations and included up-grades to existing plant specific installations. The test lab also conducted Megger testing of cables protected by the MT ERFBS to determine if the cables remained functional despite exceeding allowable temperatures. RES was provided the raw test data and is in the process of reviewing and analyzing it. RES is also reviewing the tested configurations, and installation methods of the ERFBS. RES will prepare a letter report of their findings to support NRC fire protection resolution efforts.

Implementing Agreement Between the USNRC and the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN) of France Regarding the Phebus Source Term Separate Effects Test Program

On August 24, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Implementing Agreement. Participation in the program will provide NRC access to data and knowledge insights on air ingress and fission product chemistry, fission product release from high burnup and mixed oxide fuel, iodine chemistry, and control rod oxidation and degradation. Upon signature, this Implementing Agreement will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Secure Transfer of Nuclear Materials (AH90 - Part73)

On August 30, 2006, the NRC published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 51534) that would amend its requirements for the secure transfer of nuclear materials as required by Section 656 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The proposed rule would identify certain licensees as appropriate exceptions to the provisions requiring security background checks consistent with protecting public health and safety and common defense and security. The comment period for this action closes September 29, 2006.

Terrence O. Hee, Ion Technology, Inc.; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-40-29)

On August 31, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 51786) that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by Terrence O. Hee, Ion Technology, Inc. (PRM-40-29). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations regarding unimportant quantities of source material to exempt end users of a catalytic device containing thorium from NRC's licensing requirements. The petition was denied because the petitioner did not submit information of the scope and depth for the NRC to determine that public health and safety, and the environment, would be protected if this product was distributed to persons exempt from licensing requirements.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of August 25 through August 31, 2006:

NRC materials license no. 37-01548-01	FOIA/PA-2006-0284
NUREG/BR-0150, most recent volume or revision	FOIA/PA-2006-0285
Independent review by SEI, re: NRC Certification & Accreditation (C&A) process within the Information Systems Security Program (ISSP)	FOIA/PA-2006-0286
American Radiology Services Inc., 7 West Ridgely Road, Timonium, MD 21093, licensed to utilize or store radioactive materials	FOIA/PA-2006-0287
OIG Case 06-63	FOIA/PA-2006-0288
Horizon Lonestar, records, report or investigations concerning radiation exposure occurring on or about April 20, 2006	FOIA/PA-2006-0289
Vermont Yankee nuclear power station PDP-8 computer (1967-1972), documents re: schematics, manuals, purchase order	FOIA/PA-2006-0290

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Arrival		
ABDEL-KHALIK, SAID I.	ACRS MEMBER	ACRS
ADLER, JAMES E.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
ALLEN, TAMI T.	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
ALLSTON, DENNIS	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
ARORA, SAM	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
BARKMAN, MOLLY L.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
BOLLOCK, DOUGLAS R.	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
BROWN, WANDA	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR
BUDZYNSKI, JOHN T.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
CHAMBERS, MICHAEL L.	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
CORRADINI, MICHAEL L.	ACRS MEMBER	ACRS
CURATOLA, ANDREA L.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
DICKMAN, PAUL T.	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	COMM
DOZIER, TAMSEN S.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
GETTYS, EVELYN	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
KAMMERER, ANN	GEOPHYSICIST	RES
KONOVITZ, LORI S.	CONTRACT POLICY ANALYST	ADM
KORTH, KELLY J.	PROJECT ENGINEER (RI DEVEL. PROGRAM)	RII
LEEDOM, JAMES	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (NSPDP)	ADM
LIOTTA, PHILIP L.	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
MARTIN, JODY C.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC
MEGHANI, VIJAY L.	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIII
MORRISON, JENNIE L.	HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT	RIV

Arrival		
MURPHY, VICKIE	SECRETARY	RES
OGLESBY, JR., JOHN HAIL	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OI
PESSIN, ANDREW	ATTORNEY	OGC
PRATT, NICOLE A.	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (NSPDP)	ADM
RAJANI, JANAK	IT SPEC (SYS ANALYSIS)	NRR
RICKS, OLIVIA S.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
RIVERS, JOSEPH D.	SENIOR LEVEL ADVISOR ON SECURITY	NSIR
STREIT, KATHERINE N.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
STROSNIDER, SUZANNE D.	IT SPEC (SYS ANALYSIS)	NRR
TANEJA, DINESH	INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL ENGINEER	RES
TUCCI, CHRISTINE A.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
WHALEY, SHEENA	NUCLEAR ENGINEER	NMSS
XIE, BILL J.	CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS ASST	OCA
Retirements		
BECKNER, WILLIAM D.	PROG DIR, NEW, RES & TEST REACTORS	NRR
LEACH, ELLA L.	SECRETARY (OA)	OIS
MADEDA, TERRY J.	SR PHYSICAL SECURITY INSP	RIII
RAMMLING, GEORGANNA	FREEDOM OF INFO. & PRIVACY SPECIALIST	OIS
SINGH, AMARJIT	SENIOR RELIABILITY AND RISK ENGINEER	RES
Departures		
BROWN, NICOLE LOIS	STUDENT CLERK	ACRS
DALZELL, JENNIFER L.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
DICKINSON, LYNN ANN	OFFICE SERVICES ASSISTANT	RIV
ENGEL, BETHANY L.	LEGAL INTERN	ASLBP
KALKMAN, ADAM	STUDENT CLERK	OI

Departures		
KING, MONIQUE L.	CONSULTANT	OIG
LEMONCELLI, MAURI T.	ATTORNEY	OGC
PROCTER, CANDACE N.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
VOSS, PATRICIA J.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

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

Chairman Klein's comments on new reactor licensing and proposed interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and postponement of a meeting with the Department of Energy on NRC's standard review plan for waste determinations until the meeting can be public.

Continuing reports of tritium in groundwater near nuclear power plants.

TXU's plans to construct new reactors in Texas.

A report by the Physicians for Social Responsibility on the dangers of radiological terrorism.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted the Chairman in conducting a media briefing sponsored by Platts.

Commissioner McGaffigan was interviewed by Platts regarding the Physicians for Social Responsibility report.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-105	NRC Issues Mid-Cycle Assessments for All U.S. Nuclear Plants (9/1)
Regions:	
I-06-048	NRC to Discuss Proposed Termination of License for Nuclear Materials Site in Manchester Township, N.J., on Sept. 8 th (8/28)
I-06-049	Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Evidentiary Hearing on Vermont Yankee Power Uprate Scheduled for Sept. 13-15 in Newfane, Vt. (8/31)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Staff Issues Export License for Security Equipment for Iraq

On September 1, 2006, the Office of International Programs issued an export license (XB001310) to Science Applications International Corporation authorizing the export of Co-60 sealed sources, contained in mobile Vehicle and Cargo II Inspection System vehicles, to the Iraqi government. The equipment allows for unintrusive inspection of vehicles.

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 1, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0117	8/2/06	Termination of Nuclear Regulatory Commission License for the Heritage Minerals Inc. Site in Manchester Township, New Jersey
Commission Voting Record on 06-0117	8/2/06	(same)
2. COMGBJ-06-0005	8/10/06	Use of Unshielded Transfer Casks in Spent Fuel Movement
SRM on COMGBJ-06-0005	8/31/06	(same)
Voting Record on COMGBJ-06-0005	8/31/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0183	8/16/06	Minority Serving Institutions Program
2. SECY-06-0190	8/31/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 11, 2006

Commission Correspondence

- Letters to Michael Chertoff, Secretary, DHS, dated August 28, 2006, provides an update of NRC's accomplishments that have enhanced the security and emergency preparedness programs for NRC-licensed nuclear facilities and materials.

Federal Register Notices Issued

- Notice of Reconstitution, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station), Docket No. 50-293-LR, ASLBP No. 06-848-02-LR.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 1, 2006

Monitoring of Tropical Storm Ernesto

During the week of August 28 - September 1, 2006, Region II responded to Tropical Storm Ernesto. At the Turkey Point plant, regional inspectors assisted the resident inspectors in providing round-the-clock site coverage. The inspectors verified plant status and equipment readiness before the projected landfall. The licensee reduced power at both Turkey Point units in preparation for the storm. The St. Lucie resident inspectors were augmented with a regional inspector. Three regional staff monitored licensee and state of Florida activities at the FP&L Emergency Operations Facility and State Emergency Operations Center respectively. The Region II Incident Response Center was staffed and periodic updates were issued.

Neither site was significantly impacted by the storm. In anticipation of potential impact at the Brunswick plant, the resident inspector verified licensee readiness for potential severe weather and maintained site coverage. Brunswick was also not significantly impacted by the storm.