

INFORMATION REPORT

March 1, 2005

SECY-05-0039

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0039 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 18, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Information Notice (IN) 2005-03: Inadequate Design and Installation of Seismic-Gap Fire Barriers

On February 10, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to nuclear power plant licensees to highlight a potential generic issue regarding an inadequate design and installation of seismic-gap fire barriers between the auxiliary building main steam enclosure floor and the containment building, which was identified by an NRC resident inspector at a nuclear power plant. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Information Notice (IN) 2005-04: Single-failure and Fire Vulnerability of Redundant Electrical Safety Buses

On February 14, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to nuclear power plant licensees to highlight a recently identified technical issue involving a potential single-failure vulnerability to redundant plant electrical power distribution system, whereby a circuit failure caused by a fire could result in bus lockouts and prevent the reenergization of the redundant electrical safety buses. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2005-02 Clarifying the Process For Making Emergency Plan Changes

On February 14, 2005, NRC issued the subject RIS to clarify the process for making changes to the nuclear plant site emergency plan. Specifically, the RIS provides clarifications regarding (1) the meaning of "decrease in effectiveness (DIE)," as stated in 10 CFR 50.54(q), and (2) the process for making changes to emergency plans, and also provides some examples of changes that are considered a DIE of an emergency plan. No specific action or written response is required for the RIS, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

License Renewal Application for Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2

On February 15, 2005, First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) submitted a license renewal application for Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2 (BVPS 1 & 2), requesting extension of the operating licenses for an additional 20 years beyond their current 40-year terms. BVPS 1 & 2 are pressurized-water reactors designed by Westinghouse with current operating licenses that are due to expire in 2016 and 2027, respectively. The NRC had previously granted an exemption to FENOC from the requirements of 10 CFR 54.17(c) allowing the licensee to apply for license renewal for BVPS Unit 2 prior to achieving 20 years of operating experience.

Currently, the staff is also reviewing several significant license amendment requests for BVPS 1 and 2, including an 8 percent power uprate.

Letter from AECL Requesting Continued Pre-application Interactions

On February 16, 2005, AECL Technologies, Inc., submitted a letter to the NRC requesting continued pre-application interactions with the objective of achieving closure on long-lead issues identified in the staff's Pre-application Safety Assessment Report (PASAR), dated October 27, 2004, in order to facilitate a future design certification application review. The proposed pre-application review scope includes review of the thermal-hydraulic code CATHENA and supporting scaling analysis, approval of codes, standards, and acceptance criteria for the reactor coolant pressure boundary, review of reactor physics codes, and resolution of the potential policy issues related to limited core damage accidents. AECL is currently evaluating the appropriate power level for the ACR design to meet U.S. market needs, and believes that the proposed preapplication topics can be reviewed independent of the power level of the design. AECL has deferred submittal of a design certification application pending the progress achieved during the preapplication phase and the level of U.S. utility interest in the ACR.

February 18, 2005

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Spent Fuel Project Office Licensing Process Conference

On February 8, 2005, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff held a Licensing Process Conference at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the conference was to seek feedback and suggestions from licensees, certificate holders, and other stakeholders on how to improve interactions with applicants and the licensing process for 10 CFR Part 71 and Part 72 licensing actions. Over 140 participants attended the conference. The conference included: a discussion of the recently-issued Regulatory Issue Summary 2004-20, which discusses SFPO's guidelines for its interactions with applicants; individual presentations by representatives of licensees, certificate holders, and press/media discussing their past experiences with the licensing process; and an open feedback and discussion session in which suggestions on how to improve the process were presented.

Meeting with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

On February 10, 2005, SFPO staff met with representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss approaches in developing common guidance documents for: (1) transport package designers; and (2) regulatory reviewers, that will enhance the U.S. and Canadian processing and approval of Type A(F) and Type B(U) Package Designs. A follow-on meeting was tentatively planned for Spring 2005.

Presentation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) Construction Authorization Request

On February 10, 2005, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff made a presentation to the ACRS on the staff's Final Safety Evaluation Report on the construction authorization request for the MFFF. Technical items of interest to the ACRS during the meeting included the applicant's provisions for: (1) emergency preparedness; (2) the interface between criticality safety requirements and fire safety in moderation-controlled areas; and (3) contingency plans for long-term interruptions in the Department of Energy's off-site waste management services. The ACRS members also discussed the regulatory framework for risk-informing the 10 CFR Part 70 regulations, which included some debate on the need for at least some elements of probabilistic risk analysis at the MFFF, versus the Integrated Safety Analysis that is required by Part 70.

NRC Staff Holds Technical Exchange Meeting on Department of Energy (DOE) Quality Assurance Requirements and Description (QARD), Revision 17

On February 10, 2005, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety staff held a technical exchange meeting, open to the public, with representatives of DOE. The purpose for the technical exchange meeting was for DOE to present its approach to responding to NRC staff's additional information needs regarding DOE's QARD, Revision 17, associated with the proposed Yucca Mountain repository.

February 18, 2005

ENCLOSURE B

NRC Contractor Attends International Symposium on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Safety

On February 7-11, 2005, the President of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses traveled to Tokai-mura, Japan, to present a keynote address at the International Symposium on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Safety Engineering Research Facility. This is an international forum held every 3 years to discuss technical subjects relevant to the nuclear fuel cycle. The symposium included discussions on: (1) criticality safety; (2) radioactive waste disposal; (3) separation processes; and (4) development of safety evaluation methods for fuel-cycle facilities. The overall purpose of the symposium was to summarize the first decade of research and development, as a basis for planning future research programs. Following the symposium, the President participated in technical tours of the Japan Atomic Energy Institute and Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute research facilities.

Meetings Regarding NRC Involvement at the Savannah River Site

On February 9, 2005, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP) met with representatives of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to discuss respective roles and responsibilities with regard to involvement with Department of Energy (DOE) waste determinations at the Savannah River Site (SRS), in light of the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2005. Topics discussed included agency processes, schedules, and possible future interactions with the State. On February 10-11, 2005, DWMEP staff met with representatives of DOE to discuss the facilities and processes present at SRS, as well as waste types and waste management methods. DWMEP staff also participated in a site tour of relevant areas of SRS.

Meeting with Sacramento Municipal Utility District on License Termination Plan

On February 16, 2005, DWMEP staff met with representatives of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District to discuss the licensee's dose modeling for the Rancho Seco License Termination Plan (LTP). The licensee intends to use an industrial worker scenario. No significant issues with the licensee's methodology were identified during the discussions. The licensee currently plans on submitting the LTP in September 2005.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Public Meeting with Industry on Post LOCA Ductility of Cladding from High-Burnup Fuel

The NRC regulations specify limits on peak fuel cladding temperature and maximum fuel cladding oxidation for loss-of-coolant-accident (LOCA) analysis to ensure cladding ductility and coolable core geometry following a design-basis LOCA. Cladding corrosion, which accumulates during fuel burnup, has long been suspected of affecting these limits. On February 10, 2005, NRC staff met with industry representatives in a public meeting to discuss preliminary research results obtained by Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) on post LOCA ductility of cladding from high-burnup fuels. The results were from ring compression tests, and these were the first such ductility tests ever conducted with cladding from high-burnup fuel rods. Comments were made in brief presentations by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and Framatome ANP. Future test plans were also discussed. It should be noted that EPRI has provided irradiated fuel rods and that Framatome, Westinghouse, and Global Nuclear Fuel have provided unirradiated cladding for testing in this NRC cooperative research program.

First Industry Workshop on the Implementation of Mitigating Systems Performance Index

On February 9-10, 2005, staff members from the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Regions participated in the first of three public workshops on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI). The workshop was widely attended and included representatives from Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and all seventy power reactor licensees. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the industry participants to the MSPI, provide training, and prepare licensees for industry-wide implementation of the MSPI. RES and NRR staff also participated in a panel discussion regarding the probabilistic risk assessment quality requirements for MSPI implementation. The MSPI is a more risk-informed performance indicator that addresses many of the concerns with the current Safety System Unavailability performance indicator used as part of the Agency's Reactor Oversight Process. The second workshop is scheduled for June 2005.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Protection of Safeguards Information (Parts 2, 30, 40, 50, 52, 60, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76, and 150 - AH57)

On February 11, 2005, the NRC published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 7196) that would amend its regulations to protect safeguards information from inadvertent release and unauthorized disclosure which might compromise the security of nuclear facilities and materials. The proposed amendments would affect certain licensees, information, and materials not currently specified in the regulations but which are within the scope of Commission authority under the Atomic Energy Act, and would be consistent with recent Commission practice. The comment period for this action closes on March 28, 2005.

Contract Awards

On February 4, 2005, a labor hour type contract No. NRC-30-05-282 was awarded to Comm-Group, Inc., under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) set-aside program. The contractor is to provide information technology support services to the NRC's Region III office. The total estimated cost is \$996,000. The period of performance is five years, including four one-year options.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
February 11 through February 17, 2005:

Lost, stolen, & abandoned radioactive sources, reports NRC received between June 2002 & present; civil penalties imposed	FOIA/PA-2005-0143
Long-term criteria for a nuclear waste repository, meeting on Jan. 11-13, 2005, attended by Environmental Protection Agency & NRC, agenda, summary, transcripts, presentations, handouts, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0144
Investigation, OI Case 1-2004-009	FOIA/PA-2005-0145
NRC payments or obligation to pay: news media, public relations firms, non-profit organizations, 1-1-90 to 2-7-05; includes contracts, ledgers, transmittal records, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0146
Organization chart, telephone book, key personnel by positions and/or offices	FOIA/PA-2005-0147

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Arrivals		
Susan Abraham	Branch Chief	NMSS
Charmaine L. Anderson	Secretary (OA)	NRR
RaShaunda S. Allen-Mallory	Office Automation Assistant	NRR
Joshua Batkin	Chief of Staff	OCM/GBJ
Paul M. Bell	Quality Assurance Engineer	NMSS
Terri L. Cooper	Senior Auditor	OIG
Susan Daniel	Team Leader	OIS
Keith Holden	Records Management Analyst	OIS
Leanore Parsons	Receptionist	R-I
William D. Smith, II	Security Specialist	NSIR
Karen Stahl	Technical Librarian	OIS
Gary Young	IT Specialist	OIS

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Media Interest

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

A potential resurgence of the nuclear power industry, including the Early Site Permit applications.

Studies linking cancer rates to radiation emitted by nuclear plants.

Halliburton's report of a missing radioactive source, which was subsequently located, and NRC efforts to track radioactive materials.

Commissioner Merrifield's recent visit to India.

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearings on contentions regarding a potential uranium enrichment plant in New Mexico.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff provided support to a public meeting on the draft environmental impact statement for the North Anna Early Site Permit application in Mineral, Va., and for public limited appearance sessions on Louisiana Energy Services' application for a uranium enrichment plant in Eunice, N.M.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-029	Dr. William J. Hinze and Dr. James A. Clarke Appointed to NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (2/14)
05-030	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2 (2/15)
05-031	NRC Advisory Subcommittee on Early Site Permit Applications to Meet March 2 in Rockville, Maryland (2/18)
Regions:	
III-05-005	NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel to Meet Feb. 22 in Ohio (2/15)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-05-0019	2/16/05	Proposed Revision to NRC's Relocation Policy
Voting Record on SECY-05-0019	2/16/05	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-05-0005	2/16/05	Options for Research Effectiveness Review Board
Voting Record on SECY-05-0005	2/16/05	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0024	1/31/05	Annual Review of Need for Rulemaking on Low-Level Waste Storage
2. SECY-05-0031	2/14/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 4, 2005

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated February 7, 2005, provides the December 2004 report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, notice of meeting (3/8/05).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (3/2/05).
3. Request to Amend License to Import Radioactive Waste.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 520th meeting (3/3-5/05).
5. Solicitation for qualified candidates for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center

On February 16, 2005, a public predecisional enforcement conference was held with the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center at the Region I office in King of Prussia, PA. The conference was held to discuss 12 apparent violations that were identified during the NRC's routine inspection conducted on November 17 and 23, 2004. When viewed collectively the apparent violations indicated a breakdown in the management oversight of the licensee's brachytherapy program. At the conference, the licensee described their corrective actions.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

V. C. Summer - Regulatory Conference

On February 17, 2005, Regional management and staff held a Regulatory Conference with representatives from South Carolina Electric & Gas Company to discuss a preliminary white finding identified during a recent team inspection, which was conducted as a part of the agency-wide pilot engineering inspection program. The inspection report, dated December 22, 2004, documenting the results of the inspection including the detailed description of the finding, is available on the NRC's Agency-wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), with accession number ML050060203.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 18, 2005

Palo Verde Nuclear Generation Station - Regulatory Conference

On February 17, 2005, the Regional Administrator, members of the Region IV and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff conducted a public Predecisional Enforcement and Regulatory Conference with Arizona Public Service Company representatives at Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The purpose of the conference was to discuss an apparent violation of NRC requirements related to inadequate design control of the containment sump safety injection suction piping at all three Palo Verde Nuclear Generating units. Also discussed was an apparent violation which involved the failure to perform a written safety evaluation and to receive NRC approval prior to implementing changes to station procedures in 1992 which involved draining a significant segment of containment sump safety injection suction piping and keeping it drained. The meeting was attended by several members of the public including representatives from the Union of Concerned Scientists, various industry representatives, and one representative from a financial institution.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 18, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 6</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	03/03/05 SD-366	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	Tentative for mid-March	TBD	NRC, DOE	DOE's Yucca Mountain Repository	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April	TBD	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Exelon CEO, IBEW rep, City Council rep near Grand Gulf	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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Enclosure R