

INFORMATION REPORT

April 26, 2005

SECY-05-0071

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-05-0071 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 15, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Issuance of Draft Generic Letter on Grid Reliability

On April 12, 2005, NRR issued a draft generic letter entitled, "Grid Reliability and the Impact on Plant Risk and the Operability of Offsite Power," for public comment in the Federal Register (70 FR 19125). The public comment period ends June 13, 2005. The proposed generic letter requests information from addressees in four areas: (1) use of transmission system operator protocols to monitor grid conditions to determine operability of offsite power systems; (2) use of transmission system operator protocols to monitor grid conditions for consideration in maintenance risk assessments; (3) offsite power restoration procedures; and (4) losses of offsite power caused by grid failures at a frequency of 20 years. The purpose of the proposed generic letter is to determine continued compliance with NRC regulations pertaining to availability/operability of offsite power for nuclear power plants.

Oconee - Meeting to Discuss Instrumentation & Control System Replacement

On April 6, 2005, NRR staff met with representatives from Duke Energy to discuss the licensee's February 14, 2005, license amendment request to replace the existing analog reactor protection system (RPS) and engineered safety feature (ESF) instrumentation and control (I&C) systems to digital systems at Oconee, Units 1, 2 and 3. This is the first full replacement of RPS and ESF I&C systems that requires a major application specific software and hardware review by the staff. The digital platform being used for the replacement is the Framatome's Teleperm XS (TXS), which has previously been reviewed and approved by the staff. However, this is the first time this platform is being used in a safety-related digital upgrade. While Duke Energy has requested completion of staff review by March 2006, the staff has proposed a completion date of December 2006 due to staffing constraints.

NRC Information Notice (IN) 2005-08, "Monitoring Vibration to Detect Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Coolant Pump and Reactor Recirculation Pump Shafts"

On April 5, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to alert addressees to the importance of timely detection of circumferential cracking of reactor coolant pump and reactor recirculation pump shafts to minimize the likelihood of consequential shaft failures. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facility and consider actions, as appropriate.

Information Notice (IN) 2005-09: "Indications in Thermally Treated Alloy 600 Steam Generator Tubes and Tube-to-Tubesheet Welds"

On April 7, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to inform addressees about recent operating experience with degradation in steam generator tubes and tube-to-tubesheet welds. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facility and consider actions, as appropriate.

Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) Audit at Enertech, a Division of Curtiss-Wright Flow Control Corporation

On April 3-8, 2005, the Division of Inspection Program Management staff observed the performance of a NUPIC joint utility audit conducted at Enertech in Brea, California. Enertech is a supplier of numerous mechanical and electrical assemblies and replacement parts. The purpose of the observation was to assess the NUPIC audit process used for approving suppliers of safety-related and commercial grade components to the nuclear industry.

Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Application - Issuance of Draft Safety Evaluation Report

On April 7, 2005, NRR staff issued a draft safety evaluation report (SER) for the Grand Gulf (System Energy Resources, Inc) early site permit application. The report documents the staff's safety review and describes approximately 23 open items for which additional information is needed prior to the staff finalizing the SER. The document will be withheld from public release for 14 days to provide the applicant an opportunity to review it for proprietary information. The staff issued a press release concurrent with transmittal of the document to the applicant.

Public Meeting Regarding Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 191, Pressurized-Water Reactor (PWR) Sump Performance

On April 13-14, 2005, staff members from NRR and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research held a public meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute and other industry representatives at the NRC headquarters, to discuss resolution activities associated with GSI-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance." Discussions included: (1) recent results of research on chemical and downstream effects; (2) the status of 90-day responses to Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact Of Debris Blockage On Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents At Pressurized-Water Reactors;" (3) the status of the review of Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact Of Debris Blockage On Emergency Sump Recirculation At Pressurized-Water Reactors;" (4) observations made during the Crystal River 3 pilot audit; (5) preliminary observations from the Electric Power Research Institute's original equipment manufacturer coating testing program to test on qualified coatings; and (6) a Westinghouse Owners Group program to evaluate downstream effects. Following the public meeting, the staff held closed meetings (due to the proprietary nature of the information discussed) with five vendors supplying engineering services to licensees and discussed technical details of proposed solutions.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Staff Meeting with Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority

On April 13, 2005, at the request of the Office of International Programs, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection met with staff from Advanced Systems Technology and Management, Inc. (ADSTM). ADSTM is an American company contracted by the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (ANRA) to develop a regulatory licensing plan for the decommissioning of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. To implement this plan, ANRA staff must: (1) become knowledgeable about the regulatory and technical issues associated with a typical pressurized-water-reactor decommissioning; (2) develop new regulations specifically addressing decommissioning; and (3) define a licensing process to regulate the various phases of a decommissioning project. These phases include pre-shutdown planning activities, actual decontamination and dismantlement activities, and final site remediation and license termination. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss practical licensing issues and lessons-learned from the decommissioning of the Maine Yankee and Trojan facilities.

NRC High-Level Waste Staff Attends International Atomic Energy Agency Meeting

On April 4-8, 2005, a staff member from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety attended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Consultants' Meeting on the Design and Operation of Geological Waste Disposal Facilities in Vienna, Austria. The Consultants' Meeting was held to provide assistance to the IAEA in drafting a Safety Guide for geological disposal of radioactive waste (entitled: "Design and Operation of Facilities for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste" - DS-334). The Safety Guide is intended to support the corresponding Safety Requirements document for geological disposal (DS-154), by providing guidance to policy makers, regulators, and operators concerned with the development and regulatory control of geological disposal facilities.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Steering Committee Public Meeting

On April 7, 2005, the PRA Steering Committee met with the representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), licensees, and members of the public to discuss issues related to current risk-informed initiatives. Topics discussed at the meeting included the proposed 10 CFR 50.46 rulemaking, long-term direction of risk-informed applications, configuration risk management, review of topical reports involving generic changes, and Mitigating System Performance Index (MSPI) implementation. The meeting was well attended by external stakeholders and participants provided useful insights on the discussion topics. The PRA Steering Committee consists of the office directors from the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and Enforcement; one Regional Administrator; and a representative from the Office of the General Counsel.

International Workshop on "International Standard Problem 48 - Analysis of 1:4 Scale Prestressed Concrete Containment Vessel Model Under Severe Accident Conditions"

From April 4-8, 2005, a RES senior technical advisor participated in the 3rd meeting of the International Standard Problem 48 (ISP-48) and an international workshop sponsored by the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) on "International Standard Problem 48 - Analysis of 1:4 Scale Prestressed Concrete Containment Vessel Model Under Severe Accident Conditions" in Lyon, France. The objective of the meeting and the workshop was to present results obtained by the participants in the ISP-48 and to assess the current practices and the state of the art for determining the containment structural response under severe accident conditions. Eleven teams from ten OECD member countries participated in the workshop.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Contract Award

On April 12, 2005, a competitive Delivery Order No. DR-02-05-003 was awarded to Computer Sciences Corporation under the General Service Administration's Federal Supply Schedule. The contractor is to provide the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards support services for the Regulatory Product Development Center, including technical editing, meeting facility setup, and limited meeting facilitation. The total estimated cost is \$695,209.60, inclusive of an optional task for additional support in the amount of \$121,438.00. The period of performance, including the optional task, is one-year.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 15, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
 April 8 through April 14, 2005:

Lethal Weapons Training Program, understanding or agreement between NRC & Pennsylvania State Police	FOIA/PA-2005-0195
"Guidance on the Regulatory Requirements for Criticality Analysis of Fuel Storage at Light-Water Reactor Power Plants," memo from L. Kopp to T. Collins, date unknown	FOIA/PA-2005-0196
Land acquisitions consummated by or on behalf of NRC from 1-1-04 to present, name of former property owner, property address & parcel numbers, purchase price, over \$1M	FOIA/PA-2005-0197
OIG investigation of Wackenhut's contract with Nuclear Energy Institute to provide adversary forces for force-on-force tests or approval of contract, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0198
Cooling spent fuel pool, technical & radiological analysis that support the 3-14-05 statement by the Chairman to the NY Times, re: using fire hose to cool	FOIA/PA-2005-0199
Knowledge Management - 30 th Anniversary of Browns Ferry fire, handouts & presentation material from 3-22-05 training session in Region II	FOIA/PA-2005-0200
MLTS database, active & retired facilities, current records	FOIA/PA-2005-0201
Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, Hematite, MO, all documents re: decision of U.S. DOE to exclude from Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program	FOIA/PA-2005-0202
Haddam Neck Nuclear plant, all filings, correspondence between Connecticut Yankee and NRC from 9-1-04 through 4-12-05	FOIA/PA-2005-0203
LaSalle Nuclear Generating Station, correspondence from NRC Chairman to named individual, 1987-88, re: conclusion of security investigation; index of named individuals files, 1985-1992	FOIA/PA-2005-0204

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Arrivals		
David J. Crockett	IT Specialist	R-IV
Frank J. Ehrhardt	Operations Engineer	R-II
Jeffrey T. Mitman	Reliability and Risk Engineer	RES
William M. Murphy	Administrative Judge	ASLBP
Sarah A. Ruddell	Secretary (OA)	NMSS
Steven Rutledge	Reactor Technology Instructor	OHR
Joseph A. Schoengold	Student Accountant (Co-Op)	NSIR
Maria Schofer	Sr. Budget Analyst	OCFO
John P. Tornow	Physical Security Inspector	R-II
Ashley Tull	Health Physicist (NSPDP)	NMSS
Departures		
Michael Ross	Criminal Investigator	OIG
Christopher Wachter	Law Clerk	ASLBP

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Media Interest

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

The Government Accountability Office report on licensee tracking of spent fuel.

The "Yellow" inspection finding and civil penalty against Palo Verde related to gas entrapment in portions of the emergency core cooling system and failure to obtain NRC approval before changing procedures.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Regional OPA staff assisted at several end-of-cycle meetings for the annual assessments of nuclear plant performance.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-065	NRC Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes to Meet April 20-21 (4/11)
05-066	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet April 18-19 in Rockville, MD (4/12)
05-067	NRC Approves Extended Power Uprate for Waterford Nuclear Power Plant (4/15)
Regions:	
I-05-020	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (4/14)
II-05-018	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at McGuire Nuclear Power Plant (4/14)
II-05-019	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Harris Nuclear Power Plant (4/14)
II-05-020	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant (4/15)
III-05-013	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting April 19 in Clinton, Ill. for Comments on Proposed Nuclear Plant Early Site Permit (4/12)
III-05-014	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Byron Nuclear Power Plant (4/13)
III-05-015	NRC Schedules Meetings to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Point Beach Plant, License Renewal Inspection Results (4/13)

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III-05-016	NRC Staff Schedules Public Meeting for April 20 to Discuss License Renewal Process for Monticello Nuclear Plant (4/14)
III-05-017	NRC to Discuss Preliminary Results of Special Inspection at South Bend Hospital (4/15)
III-05-018	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Clinton Nuclear Power Plant (4/15)
III-05-019	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant (4/15)
IV-05-012	NRC Issues "Yellow" Finding at Palo Verde Nuclear Plant; Proposes \$50,000 Fine (4/11)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 15, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Document		
SECY-05-0052	3/29/05	Proposed Rulemaking for "Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements"
Information Paper		
SECY-05-0058	4/12/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 1, 2005

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, revised notice of 159th meeting (4/18-19/05).
2. Proposed rule: 10 CFR Part 52, RIN 3150-AH56, AP1000 Design Certification.
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Updated Notice of Meeting (04/20-21/05).
4. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, In the Matter of U.S. Department of Energy (High Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters), Docket No. PAPO-00, ASLBP No. 04-829-01-PAPO, April 13, 2005, Order (Scheduling Case Management Conference).
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (5/4/05).
6. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Fire Protection, notice of meeting (5/4/05).
7. Final rule: 10 CFR Part 2, RIN: 3150-AH71, Model Milestones for NRC Adjudicatory Proceedings.
8. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 522nd meeting (5/5-6/05).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Whittaker Decommissioning Site Inspection

On April 12, 2005, Region I staff conducted an inspection of decommissioning activities at the Whittaker Decommissioning Project Site in Transfer, PA. The Region I staff met with the representatives of the site decommissioning contractor, toured the site, observed on-going work activities, reviewed records and assessed the security and control of material on site. A representative from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection was also present at the site. The tour covered the active work area and also included the entire perimeter of the site. At the conclusion of the inspection, the NRC met with the representatives of the site decommissioning contractor to discuss the results of the inspection.

Periodic Management Meetings with New York State Agreement Programs

On April 12-13, 2005, the Regional State Agreements Officer (RSAO) and the Agreement State Project Officer (ASPO) from the Office of State and Tribal Programs met with each of the State of New York's three State Radiation Program Directors and their management to discuss the status of their Agreement State programs. The three State-level Agreement State programs are part of the Departments of Health, Labor and Environmental Conservation. Important topics of discussion during the meeting were status of each program's progress in adopting overdue NRC amendments required for compatibility and timely reporting of Agreement State events to the NRC Operations Center. The RSAO and the ASPO will be meeting the fourth New York Agreement State program (New York City Bureau of Radiological Health) on April 19, 2005.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. - Licensee Performance Review

On April 14, 2005, the Regional Administrator and the Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection held the Licensee Performance Review meeting at the Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., in Tennessee.

Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC. -Licensee Performance Review

On April 11-12, the Deputy Regional Administrator and the Acting Deputy Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection held the License Performance Review meeting at the Westinghouse Electric Company's Columbia facility in South Carolina. The NRC's Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs also attended.

Commissioner Jaczko Visits Fuel Facilities

On April 13, 2005, Commissioner Jaczko, accompanied by the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection of Region II, visited the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Facility in Kentucky and the Honeywell International facility in Illinois for a site tour and meeting with licensee management.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 15, 2005

Palo Verde Nuclear Power Station

On April 8, 2005, the NRC issued a "Yellow " inspection finding to Arizona Public Service Company (APSC) for the failure to ensure that design requirements associated with maintaining the containment sump suction piping filled with water at the Palo Verde nuclear power plant. In addition, a Severity Level III violation with a proposed \$50,000 civil penalty was issued for the failure to perform a written safety evaluation and receive prior NRC approval before making a change to the facility, which resulted in the containment sump suction piping being drained following local leak rate testing.

River Bend Nuclear Power Station

On April 12, 2005, a public meeting was conducted at the Region IV offices with management representatives from River Bend Station to discuss equipment reliability, refueling outage performance, human performance, and performance improvement initiatives.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 15, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 15

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	April 19 210 CHOB	9:00	Center for Security & International Studies, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and Homeland Security Associates	Hearing on Coordination of Nuclear Detection Efforts	Reps. Linder/Langevin Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack Homeland Security
All	April 20 SD-406	9:30	Commissioner Jaczko Commissioner Lyons	Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nominations	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Keeling	April 20 SD-124	10:30	Secretary of Homeland Security	Hearing on FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations	Senators Gregg/Byrd Homeland Security Appropriations
Keeling	April 20 210 CHOB	3:00	DHS	Hearing on Coordination of Nuclear Detection Efforts	Reps. Linder/Langevin Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack Homeland Security
Shane	April 21 SD-562	10:00	TBA	Hearing on Employing Federal Workforce Flexibilities - Progress Report	Senators Voinovich/Akaka Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 15

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	April 21 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Hearing on Federal Management of Information Technology Investments	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Keeling	April 26 SD-366	10:00	Chairman Diaz, DOE Deputy Secy - Clay Sell, Jim Asselstine - Lehman Brothers, Mike Wallace - Constellation Energy	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	TBA SD-366	TBA	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	April 13 2247 RHOB Postponed	10:00	TBA	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Keeling	TBA 2359 RHOB	TBA	TBD	FY 2006 Homeland Security Budget, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness	Reps Rogers/Sabo Homeland Security Appropriations