

INFORMATION REPORT

July 19, 2005

SECY-05-0125

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0125 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JULY 8, 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 July 8, 2005

NSIR/NRR Material Control and Accounting Inspection at V.C. Summer

During the week of June 27, 2005, NRR and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) staff conducted its first material control and accounting inspection at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Plant following issuance of Bulletin 2005-01, "Material Control and Accounting at Reactors and Wet Spent Fuel Storage Facilities," dated February 11, 2005. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the adequacy of the licensee's program for accountability of all special nuclear materials (SNM) that have been received, shipped, or stored. Special attention was given to the visual verification of the presence of several fuel pins which had been removed from fuel assemblies and not subsequently reused. The location of similar fuel pins was an issue at Vermont Yankee, Humboldt Bay, and Millstone Unit 1 as noted in the Bulletin. The staff found the inspection provided useful insights into the storage, documentation, and verification of various objects containing SNM. The results of the inspection will be documented in a future inspection report. The staff is planning similar inspections at all nuclear power plants and facilities that maintain spent fuel storage pools.

Staff Holds Public Scoping Meetings on Environmental Issues Pertaining to the License Renewal of Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

On June 30, 2005, the staff conducted two public meetings in Monticello, MN, to solicit comments from the public on the subject line. Approximately 50 people attended the meetings, including members of the public, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Nuclear Management Company (NMC, the applicant), Xcel Energy Inc., local governments, and the local news media. Public comments and questions were focused on the license renewal process, alternative energy sources, and radiological effluent releases.

In addition to the public meetings, the staff and its contractors conducted an environmental site audit on June 28-29, 2005. The scoping period ends on August 2, 2005. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) is scheduled to be published in February 2006 and the final SEIS is scheduled to be published in September 2006.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

DOE Response to Salt Waste Disposal Request for Information

On July 1, 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a partial response to a Request for Additional Information (RAI) regarding its non-high-level-waste determination for salt waste disposal at the Savannah River Site. This is the first waste determination submitted to NRC under the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2005. The RAI was sent to DOE on May 26, 2005, and contained 68 technical comments on such areas as performance assessment, removal efficiencies for radionuclides, and geochemistry.

NRC Staff Workshop on Decommissioning in Russia

From June 27 to 29, 2005, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection provided support to the Office of International Programs by conducting a workshop on decommissioning to the Federal Environmental, Industrial, and Nuclear Supervision Service of the Russian Federation. The workshop was held in Moscow, Russia. Key topics covered in the workshop included: NRC's decommissioning regulatory framework; approaches to conducting dose assessments and surveys; NRC's process for developing safety evaluation reports; current approach for clearing material; current decommissioning issues; and, lessons learned.

International Atomic Energy Agency Visits USEC Inc.'s Lead Cascade Facility

On June 29, 2005, an official of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) participated in a tour of USEC Inc.'s American Centrifuge Lead Cascade facility (Lead Cascade) in Piketon, OH. NRC's project manager for the Lead Cascade, NRC's IAEA safeguards technical contact from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, an NRC contractor, and officials from the Department of State and the Department of Energy participated in the tour. Before conducting the tour, USEC Inc. described the Lead Cascade project, including the anticipated Lead Cascade deployment schedule.

Meeting Regarding Shipment of Uranium Hexafluoride

On June 29, 2005, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Duratek, Inc. and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss shipment of uranium hexafluoride in the Model No. UX-30 transport package. The discussion centered on certain cylinders that may be packaged within a secondary vessel for transport or shipped within DOT-specification containers. The shipments are part of the plan to remove this material, which is currently located at the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Pre-application Meeting Regarding Plans for New Fresh Fuel Transportation Package Design

On June 28, 2005, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives from AREVA (Framatome ANP) to discuss plans for requesting a Certificate of Compliance for a new transportation package for unirradiated pressurized-water reactor fuel, preliminarily called

MarcoPolo. According to AREVA, the MarcoPolo design will replace its current transportation package designs, some of which will be phased out as a result of the imminent expiration of grandfathering provisions of 10 CFR Part 71. The applicant plans to request certification of the package design by NRC and the French regulatory authority.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Expert Workshop on the Evaluation of Human Reliability Methods

From June 27 to 29, 2005, staff and NRC consultants met with national and international experts in the areas of human reliability analysis (HRA), probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) and human factors to review and evaluate current HRA methods. Meeting participants included representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the OECD Halden Reactor Project, and Department of Energy national laboratories. The objective of these discussions was to evaluate current HRA methods against the guidelines outlined in NUREG-1792, "Good Practices for Implementing Human Reliability Analysis." This evaluation is intended to enhance future regulatory risk-informed decision making by identifying the applicability and limitations of various HRA models. The staff plans to issue a NUREG/CR report on HRA method evaluation in 2006. This work supports the Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality Action Plan.

Meeting of the Equipment Performance and Information Exchange Ad Hoc Working Group

On June 29, 2005, the staff participated in a meeting of the Institute Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Equipment Performance and Information Exchange (EPIX) Ad Hoc Working Group. EPIX is maintained by INPO and provides an industry-wide database of information on Maintenance Rule components at all U.S. nuclear power plants. EPIX data are used by NRC staff to estimate probabilistic risk assessment parameters for NRC Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) models, develop the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI), provide data on the RES web page, and analyze licensee applications and operating experience. The meeting was well attended and included representatives from industry, Electric Power Research Institute and NRC. Discussions focused on topics such as implementation of the MSPI, new measures of industry-wide equipment performance, the results of a survey of EPIX users, and INPO initiatives to improve EPIX usage and quality. NRC staff gave a presentation on the use of EPIX data in SPAR models and industry trends in equipment performance.

Meeting to Discuss NRC and Westinghouse Calculations In Support of 10 CFR 50.46 Rulemaking

On June 28, 2005, staff from RES and NRR attended a meeting in Monroeville, PA to compare results of thermal hydraulic loss-of-coolant accident and containment analyses that were performed by NRC staff with similar analyses performed by Westinghouse. These analyses were performed to support the proposed 10 CFR 50.46 rule change. Earlier this year, NEI and the Westinghouse Owners Group had suggested that safety benefits could be obtained by reducing the maximum break size required to be analyzed in accordance with 50.46. As a result, Westinghouse and NRC agreed to perform a set of small break and "transition" break calculations for a generic standard Westinghouse 4-loop plant designated as a Standard 412 plant. In addition to the diesel delay sensitivity, calculations were done with and without containment spray actuation to evaluate water consumption prior to sump recirculation switchover. All calculations showed relatively similar behavior.

Meeting Between the NRC and Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Pty. LTD

On June 30, 2005, staff from RES, NRR, the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response conducted a public meeting with Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Pty. LTD (PBMR Pty.). The meeting objective was for the staff and PBMR Pty. to begin planning for a potential pre-application review of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) beginning in FY 2006. Meeting discussion topics included pre-application review planning objectives, PBMR design and safety principles, PBMR development and testing program, the proposed focus topics for the pre-application review, and identification of potential new licensing policy issues. PBMR Pty. indicated that it intended to coordinate the PBMR licensing approach, including event selection, defense-in-depth and classification of systems, structures and components, with the principles and approach of the technology-neutral risk-informed and performance-based framework being developed by the staff. The next planning meeting is expected to take place in September 2005.

Meeting Between the NRC and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to Discuss NRC/North American Reliability Council Electrical Analyses Initiative

On July 6, 2005, the staff and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) representatives met to discuss the NRC/North American Reliability Council (NERC) initiative to conduct electrical analyses of the grid and nuclear power plants. The NRC's electrical grid analysis would benefit from FERC participation. FERC committed to participate after the NRC finalizes the task plans. In addition to the technical discussions, the staff discussed the NRC/NERC Memorandum of Agreement and its Appendices that identify the specific areas of work.

International Atomic Energy Agency Meeting on Deployment of On-Line Monitoring Systems in Nuclear Power Plants

From June 27-28, 2005, the staff participated in a technical meeting to discuss deployment of on-line monitoring (OLM) technologies at nuclear power plants. The meeting was hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and provided a forum for presentations and discussions of experience with the development, validation, and implementation of OLM techniques for instrument calibration verification, equipment condition monitoring, and diagnostics of equipment and process anomalies. This meeting was attended by representatives from 21 countries and provided insights into how this technology is being implemented at nuclear power plants around the world. The information provided at this meeting will be used to develop an IAEA TECDOC entitled "On-line Monitoring of Sensor Performance in Nuclear Power Plants," which provides implementation guidance for the use of on-line monitoring techniques to extend the calibration intervals of instrument channels in nuclear power plants. Also, the information obtained at this meeting will be helpful to NRC in completing on-going research in this area and formulating review criteria for licensing OLM systems in the United States.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-05-020, Entergy Nuclear Northeast - SHUTDOWN EXPECTED TO BE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR A SMALL CRACK IN THE TORUS PORTION OF PRIMARY CONTAINMENT.
2. PNO-III-05-011, Indiana Department of Transportation - STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Export and Import of Radioactive Material: Security Policies (AH44 - Part 110)

On July 1, 2005, a final rule was published in the Federal Register that amends the regulations pertaining to the export and import of radioactive materials (70 FR 37985). The final rule provides for enhanced tracking of certain exports and imports of radioactive sealed sources and bulk material for certain radionuclides. The final rule also includes new specific export and import license requirements for a small number of radioactive materials in amounts exceeding clearly defined limits. The final rule implements recent changes to the security policies of the Executive Branch and the Commission. The final rule becomes effective December 28, 2005.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of July 1 through July 7, 2005:

OI report 2-2004-054, interview transcript for named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0285
Westinghouse AP600 design certification, filings or notices, sale, transfer or change of controls; Combustion Engineering design certification for CE System 80+, sale, transfer or change of control	FOIA/PA-2005-0286
Union Carbide, Uravan, CO, transfer of property; contracts, correspondence on the operation & maintenance of the Manhattan Project Mill, & care & maintenance of Uravan, CO	FOIA/PA-2005-0287
305 College Road East, Princeton, Middlesex Co., New Jersey 08540, Material License Tracking System information	FOIA/PA-2005-0288

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending July 8, 2005

Arrivals		
BELTZ, TERRY A.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
BERNAL, SARA	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
CHANG, HELEN	TECHNICAL WRITER EDITOR	OIS
CRANE, SAMANTHA	MATERIALS ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RES
HAYDEN, GWENDOLYN B.	IT SPECIALIST	OIS
MCDERMOTT, JEFFREY L.	SENIOR CONTRACT SPECIALIST	ADM
NG, SAIWAH	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
PHALEN, MARTIN J.	HEALTH PHYSICIST	R-III
PHUONG, LUC	IT SPECIALIST (SYSANALYSIS)	NRR
SEIFER, CALAI L.	STUDENT CLERK	R-II
SHAFFNER, JAMES	PROJECT MANAGER	NESS
SMITH, STACY	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-I
WATKINS, CHARLES B.	IT SPECIALIST (INFOSEC)	OIS
Departures		
DAM, WILLIAM L.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
PHILLIPS, RICHARD P.	SPECIAL ASSISTANT	OCFO

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Commissioner Jackzo Visit to BWX Technologies, Inc.

On July 8, 2005, Commissioner Jackzo visited the BWX Technologies for a site tour and met with licensee management in Lynchburg, VA.

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

- NRC actions following the mass transit bombings in London.
- NRC special inspection of cracking at the FitzPatrick nuclear plant.

Other OPA Items:

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-099	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet July 19-21 in Rockville, MD (7/7)
Regions:	
I-05-039	NRC Begins Special Inspection at James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant (7/7)
II-05-031	NRC Staff to Meet with TVA Officials in Atlanta to Discuss Browns Ferry Unit 1 Restart (7/7)
IV-05-027	NRC to Meet with Nebraska Public Power District to Discuss March 14 Fire at Cooper Nuclear Station (7/6)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Delegation from the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan Visits NRC

Mr. Naohisa Oki, Chief Representative of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan (FEPC) Washington Office and Mr. Toshiaki Hayashi, also of FEPC, met with Commissioner Lyons for a courtesy visit on July 6, 2005. The purpose of the visit was for Mr. Oki to introduce Mr. Hayashi as the newly appointed FEPC Chief Representative of the Washington office.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0114	6/30/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 17, 2005
2. SECY-05-0116	7/5/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 24, 2005

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Bill Nelson, dated June 27, 2005, responds to concerns about a rulemaking regarding the disposal of low-activity radioactive waste and the current Connecticut Yankee application.
2. Letter to Congressman Jim Saxton, dated June 29, 2005, responds to concerns regarding the safety of the spent fuel pool at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.
3. Letter to Congress, dated June 30, 2005, provides the May 2005 monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing activities and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 161st meeting (7/19-21/05).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (7/19-20/05).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

Millstone Special Inspection Team Final Inspection Report Issued on July 5, 2005

Region I issued the Millstone Unit 3 Special Inspection Team report on July 5, 2005, concerning the April 17 reactor trip and Alert declaration. The team concluded that the overall response of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (DNC) to the inadvertent safety injection actuation and reactor trip was adequate in that the plant was taken to a safe shutdown condition. Nonetheless, several issues related to equipment reliability and human performance were identified. The team also noted that existing DNC processes for post-trip event review did not provide clear guidance on the scope and breadth of review necessary to assess complex plant events. The final report contained five green non-cited violations and one green finding.

Special Inspection Initiated for FitzPatrick Torus and Shutdown Cooling Issues

On July 7, 2005, a Special Inspection was initiated to inspect and assess the circumstances associated with through-wall defects in the FitzPatrick torus shell and a shutdown cooling line. The inspection team will complete a portion of its onsite review prior to plant restart, examining the licensee's repair efforts and initial corrective actions. On June 27, FitzPatrick staff identified a 4.6" crack in the torus shell and their initial evaluation of the through-wall defect concluded that the primary containment remained operable. On June 30, a plant shutdown was initiated after further engineering evaluations concluded operability of the primary containment could not be assured under all scenarios. On July 4, with the plant in cold shutdown, the FitzPatrick staff identified through-wall leakage on the shutdown cooling suction line and declared the shutdown cooling subsystems required by Technical Specifications (TS) to be inoperable based on the presence of the through-wall defect. Notwithstanding the TS inoperability, the shutdown cooling subsystems remain functional.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 8, 2005

URENCO Gas Centrifuge in Almelo, The Netherlands

From July 5-8, 2005, Region II staff visited the Netherlands, met with the Dutch regulators, and toured the URENCO gas centrifuge facility in Almelo, The Netherlands. The purpose of the visit was to discuss inspection-related issues concerning the URENCO gas centrifuge facility and observe both an operating facility and a facility under construction to gain insights into the safety issues important to the operation and construction of a gas centrifuge facility.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending July 8, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 26

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	July 12 2118 RHOB	9:30	HHS, DHS, Novo Nordisk Inc., Center for Health and Homeland Security, UM, Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals Inc., Aethlon Medical Inc., PharmAthene Inc., and EMD Pharmaceuticals	Project BioShield: Linking Bioterrorism Threats and Countermeasure Procurement	Reps. King/Pascrell Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology Homeland Security
Combs	July 12 2318 RHOB	10:00	Marvin Fertel, NEI Richard Lester, MIT Dean, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland Donald Jones, RCF Economic and Financial Consulting	Economic Aspects of Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing	Reps. Biggert/Honda Energy Science
Shane	July 13 2154 RHOB	2:00	Newt Gingrich, GAO, and Government Accountability Project, GMU	From Bureaucrats to Plutocrats: Can Entrepreneurialism Work in the Federal Government	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform