

INFORMATION REPORT

December 3, 2007

SECY-07-0210

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
NOVEMBER 23, 2007

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

Generic Letter 2004-02

On November 20, 2007, the NRC staff denied a request from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to extend the deadline for completion of certain corrective actions related to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized Water Reactors," for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3. The staff concluded that Entergy had not adequately justified the need for the proposed 15-month extension beyond the December 31, 2007, target date in GL 2004-02. The letter to the licensee noted that the staff would consider a request for a shorter-duration extension, consistent with the time required to prepare for and implement the remaining corrective actions expeditiously.

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Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

Meeting with Regulatory Counterparts from South Africa

From November 13 to 15, 2007, NRC staff hosted a 3-day meeting with regulatory counterparts from South Africa (NNR). Three staff members from NNR along with one of their primary consultants gave presentations on a variety of topics, including their licensing process, environmental topics, and some technical issues related to the innovative design of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR). NNR is currently reviewing an application by South Africa's only utility, Eskon, for a demonstration PBMR plant.

Briefing to Senator Stevens of Alaska

On November 15, 2007, staff members briefed Senator Stevens of Alaska and members of his staff on a potential combined license application for a Toshiba 4S reactor proposed to be sited at Galena, Alaska.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

International Atomic Energy Agency Guidelines for Conducting Safety Evaluations at Fuel Facilities

From November 12 to 16, 2007, a staff member from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated in a 5-day working-level consultants' meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in Vienna, Austria, to update the guidelines for conducting, "Safety Evaluations During Operation" (SEDO) reviews at fuel facilities. The IAEA had conducted its first SEDO review between April 23 and May 9, 2007, at Brazil's low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facility in Resende. Lessons learned from the Brazilian SEDO review were considered in updating the SEDO guidelines. Participants at the consultants' meeting included four of the five experts who had conducted the SEDO review in Brazil and officials associated with natural uranium fuel fabrication facilities in Argentina and Romania, where IAEA is expected to conduct its next SEDO reviews in 2009.

State of Nevada Petition for an Independent Investigation and Suspension of Sandia National Laboratories from Further Work on the Yucca Mountain Project

On November 15, 2007, NMSS staff notified the Attorney General of the State of Nevada that its "Petition for an Independent Investigation and Suspension of Sandia National Laboratories from Further Work on the Yucca Mountain Project," dated October 16, 2007, did not meet the criteria for consideration under 10 CFR 2.206. The Petition Review Board noted in the letter that the petition does not request the Commission to take an enforcement-related action against an NRC licensee, applicant, certificate holder, or its contractors. In a second letter on November 15, 2007, NMSS staff noted that the concerns the petition raised are best addressed in a future licensing proceeding, if NRC receives a license application.

NRC's Request for Welded Titanium Plates from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

On November 15, 2007, NRC staff in the high-level waste program requested samples of welded titanium plates from DOE. These samples were to be representative of material that DOE is considering for use in drip shields in the potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. NRC staff requested these samples to help support independent technical investigations it is performing to prepare for review of a potential license application.

European Commission Institute for Transuranium Elements Staff Member Visit to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

On November 16, 2007, a member of the European Commission (EC) Institute for Transuranium Elements (located in Karlsruhe, Germany) visited NRC to give a seminar on research the institute is doing on spent nuclear and nuclear reactor fuels. The member also discussed future information exchanges and potential collaborative work with NRC and NRC contractor staff.

Public Meeting on Transnuclear, Inc. NUHOMS Dry Cask Storage Certificate Amendment

On November 20, 2007, NRC staff held a public meeting with Transnuclear, Inc. (TN), to discuss NRC's Request for Additional Information (RAI) regarding Amendment 11 to the Standardized NUHOMS(c) System, dated October 22, 2007. Amendment 11 has two parts; it includes a revision to standardize the Technical Specifications and changes to certain aspects of a proposed light-weight transfer cask. NRC and TN staff members discussed 1 RAI that TN requested to have clarified and 2 proposed responses that TN plans to provide to other RAIs. TN plans to submit the RAI responses by the requested date of December 21, 2007. Attendees included a representative from Ft. Calhoun, industry reporters, and a Nuclear Energy Institute representative.

Core Group of the Reversibility and Retrievability Project Meeting

On November 21, 2007, NRC staff attended the Core Group of the Reversibility and Retrievability (R&R) project related to geologic disposal at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Washington, D.C. office. Topics included organization of a topical session on R&R at the meeting of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee in March 2008.

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Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
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International Association of Emergency Managers Conference

On November 12 to 15, 2007, the staff attended the annual conference for the International Association of Emergency Managers in Reno, Nevada, which promotes an “all-hazards” emergency preparedness approach. The conference was attended by more than 1,400 emergency management professionals from the United States and at least 8 foreign countries. Representatives from Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments as well as the private sector attended. Examples of topics of discussion included updates on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s planning for catastrophic events, partnerships with the National Weather Service for all-hazards warning, planning for special populations, and crisis communication during emergencies.

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

Use of Electronic Submissions in Agency Hearings; Correction (AH74 - Parts 1, 2, 13, and 110)

On November 16, 2007, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 64529) correcting typographical errors in cross references in a final rule that requires the use of electronic submissions in all agency hearings, consistent with the existing practice for the high-level waste repository application (72 FR 49139; August 28, 2007). The final rule requires the electronic transmission of electronic documents in submissions made to the NRC's adjudicatory boards. The final rule became effective October 15, 2007.

Alternate Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock Events; Reopening of Comment Period for Information Collection (AI01 - Part 50)

On November 21, 2007, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 65470) that reopens the comment period to collect information on a proposed rule that would amend NRC's regulations to provide updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock events (72 FR 56275; October 3, 2007). The proposed rule would provide new pressurized thermal requirements that are based on updated analysis methods. The comment period for information collection and all other aspects of the proposed rule closes December 17, 2007.

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Notice of Document Availability and Request for Comment (Part 71)

On November 21, 2007, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 65470) that requests public comment on a draft revision of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material." The NRC and the Department of Transportation will submit joint comments on the draft document to IAEA and are seeking public assistance in developing the comments. The comment period for this action closes January 4, 2008.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of November 16 through November 22, 2007:

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, contamination incident on September 6, 2007, records concerning named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0045
Crossflow Ultrasonic Flow Meter (UFM); all documents regarding meetings between NRC and Westinghouse and/or ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power Inc.; all documents concerning any version of Crossflow, January 1, 1999, to present	FOIA/PA-2008-0046
USAEC meeting reports - Westinghouse Electric Corp. Ice Condenser Full-Scale Testing dated November 29, 1973, February 4, 1974, March 12, 1974, April 2, 1972, and April 2, 1974; WCAP8282 Final Report - Ice Condenser Full-Scale Section Tests at Waltz Mill Facility, February 1974	FOIA/PA-2008-0047
FOIA Case logs, FY 2005, FY 2006, FY 2007 to present, include business names, addresses, and phone numbers	FOIA/PA-2008-0048
Material License Tracking System, active and retired records	FOIA/PA-2008-0049

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 23, 2007

Arrivals		
HEBBAR, SUDHA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRO
HUNTER, KAREN	BRANCH SECRETARY	RII
LITTLEJOHN, JENNENE	SECRETARY (OA)	RES
LONTCHAR, RACHEL	PROTOCOL SPECIALIST	CA
MAZZA, JAN	REACTOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRO
NAIDU, KAMALKAR	SR. REACTOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRO
OKONKWO, NNAERIKA	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
SALTER, SUSAN	HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITMENT TL	HR
TABAKOV, EMIL	BUDGET ANALYST/PROGRAM ANALYST	CFO
THOMPSON, RICHARD	EXPORT/IMPORT LICENSING ANALYST	NMSS
WILSON, TIMOTHY	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	OIG
Departures		
ANDERSEN, NANCY	SECRETARY (OA)	RII

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

Recent event report on Farley nuclear plant in Alabama regarding a defect associated with circuit breakers.

Concerns about seismic and terrorism issues not being considered during the NRC's relicensing review process for nuclear plants.

Status of resolution for the new siren system at the Indian Point nuclear plant in New York.

Updates on efforts to stop leakage from the Pennsylvania State University's research reactor.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA facilitated an interview of Chairman Klein by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on several topics, including the impact of a continuing budget resolution on the NRC and the latest problems at Farley nuclear plant in Alabama.

OPA coordinated interviews with USA Today on a variety of topics including reactor safety, the reactor oversight process, and new reactors.

OPA facilitated an interview with Diversity Careers in Engineering and IT magazine on NRC's hiring initiatives and strategies for obtaining engineers and scientists of diverse backgrounds in preparation for new nuclear plant applications.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-149	NRC Amends Regulations to Extend Fines for Violating Employee Protection Requirements to Additional Entities (11/13)
07-150	Society Honors Luis Reyes For Outstanding Contributions to The Nuclear Field (11/14)
07-151	NRC Names Two New Members to Its Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards (11/14)
Regions:	
II-07-052	NRC Increases Oversight of Both Farley Nuclear Plant Units and Issues Confirmatory Action Letter on Breakers (11/13)
II-07-053	NRC to Hold Public Meeting in Dothan on November 19 to Discuss Extended Farley Breaker Failure Inspection Results (11/16)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 23, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0196	11/6/07	Information about Products and Quantities of Source Material Distributed to and Used By Exempt Persons and 10 CFR 40.22 General Licensees
2. SECY-07-0199	11/13/07	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending November 2, 2007
3. SECY-07-0204	11/20/07	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending November 9, 2007
Memoranda		
1. M071120	11/20/2007	Staff Requirements – Affirmation Session: I. SECY-07-0194 – Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Early Site Permit for North Anna ESP Site), LBP-07-9 (June 29, 2007)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to The President, Congress, Government Accountability Office, Office of Management and Budget, dated November 15, 2007, submits the NRC's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report.
2. Letter to Admiral James Ellis, USN (Ret.), Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, dated November 13, 2007, provides an invitation to participate in NRC's 20th Annual Regulatory Information Conference.
3. Letter to Congress dated November 9, 2007, responds to letter concerning security at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, notice of meeting (12/12/2007).

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 23, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 38					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Sahm	12/05/07 406 Dirksen	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Markup of S 2191 – America's Climate Security Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Shane	02/28/08 TBD	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	Oversight Hearing on New Reactors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission will be invited

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ENCLOSURE R