

# INFORMATION REPORT

December 14, 2007

SECY-07-0218

For: The Commissioners  
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
December 7, 2007

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\*No input this week.

*/RA/*

Vonna L. Ordaz  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
L. Rakovan, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Meeting with Boiling Water Reactors (BWR) Owners Group on Sump Strainer Clogging Issues

On November 27, 2007, NRR and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff met with the BWR Owners Group to discuss disparities in treatment of emergency core cooling system strainer clogging issues for BWRs and Pressurized Water Reactors. The staff discussed a number of subject areas related to strainer performance in which, for various reasons, there has been disparate treatment for the two reactor types. The BWR Owners Group discussed actions it has taken or plans to take to address certain subject areas, though it believes some areas identified by the staff need no further action. The attendees agreed to a follow-on meeting in spring 2008.

Letter to Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Regarding Generic Letter 2004-02

On November 30, the staff sent a letter to NEI authorizing licensees until February 29, 2008, to provide supplemental responses to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors." The NRC had previously expected these responses to be submitted by December 31, 2007. Licensees have experienced challenges in completing testing and analyses required to show that GL 2004-02 has been satisfactorily addressed. The staff considers the additional time to provide the documentation to be of little safety impact.

Canadian Inspector Visit to Share Information on Inspection and Operating Experience Programs

On December 3, 2007, the staff briefed two inspectors from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). The briefings focused on inspection program development, the significance determination process, performance indicators, the licensee assessment process, the ROP self-assessment process, and the operating experience program. The Canadian inspectors also shared their experiences and inspection methods with the NRC staff.

Generic Fundamentals Examination Administration

On December 5, 2007, the NRC administered its Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) to 108 licensed operator applicants in 15 utilities across all four Regions. The GFE measures applicant knowledge in components, reactor theory, and thermodynamics, and is the first examination that licensed operator applicants must take and pass before they can proceed to their site specific training and subsequently take the NRC site specific license examination.

Fire Protection Working Group Public Meeting

On December 5, 2007, the NRC Fire Protection Steering Committee held a Category 2 public meeting with the NEI Fire Protection Working Group. Topics discussed were the resolution of fire-induced multiple spurious circuit actuations and the status of pilot plants' transition to the

National Fire Protection Association Standard 805 (NFPA 805). NEI also presented and discussed the results of an NFPA 805 enforcement discretion survey of non-pilot transitioning plants.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of New Reactors (NRO)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Pre-Submittal Quality Assurance Audit of Mitsubishi's US-APWR Design Certification Application

During the week of November 26, 2007, the staff conducted a pre-submittal audit of the draft safety analysis report (also referred to as the design control document or DCD) of Mitsubishi's US-APWR Design Certification Application. The audit team reviewed the quality assurance (QA) processes in place to prepare the DCD as well as its content using the combined license application regulatory guidance (Regulatory Guide 1.206). Observations were verbally communicated to Mitsubishi staff and management and will be documented internally to facilitate the staff's preparation and conduct of the acceptance review of the US-APWR design certification application. Mitsubishi revised the DCD submission date from December 14, 2007, to December 31, 2007.

South Texas Project Combined License (COL) Application Found Acceptable for Docketing

By letter dated November 29, 2007 (ML073320290), the staff informed South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company that the combined license application for the South Texas Project, Units 3 and 4 is acceptable for docketing. The application was docketed without a formal review schedule because gaps in information in the application prevented the staff from issuing a schedule for the technical review at this time. The docket nos. for Units 3 and 4 are 52-012 and 52-013, respectively.

North Anna COL application available to public

On December 7, 2007, the North Anna COL application, tendered on November 27, 2007, was made publicly available in ADAMS and the "North Anna Unit 3" page was posted on the public website with active links to the COL application and related documents. A forthcoming *Federal Register* Notice will announce receipt and availability of the application.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Meeting with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on Status of Diablo Canyon  
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)

On December 4, 2007, staff from the Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation and Region IV, met with staff from PG&E to discuss the status of the Diablo Canyon ISFSI. NRC issued a site-specific license for the ISFSI in March 2004. PG&E expects to complete ISFSI construction this month, and modifications to the fuel handling building (FHB) crane and other support equipment by June 2008. Initial cask loading is scheduled for August through November 2008. PG&E described several design changes it plans to make in accordance with 10 CFR 72.48.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Contract Award

On November 28, 2007, Contract No. NRC-09-08-327 was awarded to Comter, Inc. as an 8a set aside. The contractor will provide operations and maintenance services to the Human Resources Management Systems (HRMS) and the Cost Accounting System (CAS). The total value of the contract including all options is \$2,851,022. The period of performance is November 28, 2007, through March 31, 2008, with one additional six month optional period and two one-year optional periods.

Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material; Notification of Waiver Termination (AH84 – 10 CFR Chapter I)

On December 4, 2007 (72 FR 68043), the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* that announced the termination of a time-limited waiver of certain Energy Policy Act of 2005 requirements. In accordance with the transition plan issued to facilitate the orderly transition of regulation resulting from the expanded definition of byproduct material provided in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Commission has determined that specified States have a program to license byproduct material that is adequate to protect public health and safety.

Occupational Dose Records, Labeling Containers, and the Total Effective Dose Equivalent (AH40 - Parts 19, 20, and 50)

On December 4, 2007 (72 FR 68043), the NRC published a final rule in the *Federal Register* that makes several amendments to the regulations pertaining to radiation protection. The final rule limits the routine reporting of annual doses to workers to those whose annual dose exceeds a specific threshold, amends the definition of the total effective dose equivalent to be consistent with current Commission policy, modifies the labeling requirements for certain containers, and removes the requirement that licensees obtain cumulative exposure records for workers unless the individuals are authorized to receive a planned special exposure. The final rule becomes effective January 3, 2008.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending December 7, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of November 30 through December 6, 2007:

Office of Investigations Report 4-2007-028 and all exhibits to the report	FOIA/PA-2008-0053
Letter from A.C. Thadani (NRC) to W.J. Johnson, Westinghouse, January 31, 1989, regarding Acceptance for Referencing of Licensing Topical Report, WCAP-9226-P/9227-NP, "Reactor Core Response to Excessive Secondary Steam Releases"	FOIA/PA-2008-0054
Peach Bottom, records regarding letter of March 20, 2007, to NRC Site Inspector, any documents regarding investigation in response to the letter	FOIA/PA-2008-0055
NRC "Review of NRC's Process for Regulating Parts Used In Nuclear Power Plants," Audit Report, July 28, 1994, OIG-93A-25	FOIA/PA-2008-0056
Cabot Corp., The Beryllium Corp, NGK Metals Corp, Cabot Berylco Inc., Kawecki Berylco Inc, KBI, Kawecki Berylco Industries, Kawecki Chemicals, Berylco Inc, residing at 150 Tuckerton Road, Reading, PA 19605, all records	FOIA/PA-2008-0057
Commission Memorandum (ML060130005), "Plan of Action for Potential Escalated Enforcement Cases Within 6 Months of the Statute of Limitations Expiration," dated January 20, 2006	FOIA/PA-2008-0058
Lockheed Martin, 2323 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, records regarding hazardous substance usage and waste generation, list of quantities of chemicals stored or used, etc.	FOIA/PA-2008-0059

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) proceeding in Las Vegas on the anticipated Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository application from Department of Energy.

Receipt of Dominion's combined license (COL) application to build a new reactor at North Anna near Richmond, VA.

Oconee nuclear plant reactors' recent meeting discussing the plant's performance deficiencies, lessons learned and corrective actions.

Cyber-security penetration at nuclear power plants, grid security and critical infrastructure

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

Perry nuclear power plant in Ohio restart and status of the NRC special inspection team.

Other Public Affairs Items

Chairman Klein visited Pennsylvania State University following a leak in the college reactor's pool and he responded to media questions.

OPA participated in the Waterford emergency exercise.

OPA's Region I participated on WABC Radio (NYC) John Gambling Show to address issues and concerns about Indian Point nuclear plant's license renewal process.

OPA participated in a "Webinar" concerning new reactor licensing. OPA provided an hour-long overview of Part 52 products and expected workload.

OPA participated in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) Las Vegas proceedings arranged broadcast in Nevada by Cox Communications on a website on [www.cox96.net](http://www.cox96.net). Note the hearing will be rebroadcast on Sunday, December 16 from 2-6p.m. PST.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
07-162	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials to Meet in Rockville, Md. Dec. 17-19 (12/03)
07-163	NRC Orders Fingerprinting & Criminal History for Access to Certain Radioactive Materials (12/06)
07-164	Application for Uranium Recovery Operation in Sweetwater County, Wyo., Available for Public Review (12/07)
07-165	North Anna Application for New Reactor Available on NRC Website (12/07)



<b>Regions:</b>	
I-07-063	NRC to Discuss Decommissioning Work at Windsor, Conn., Site (12/05)
I-07-064	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Millstone Nuclear Plant (12/07)
IV-07-042	NRC to Conduct Special Inspection at Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant(12/03)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. COMGBJ-07-0005	11/7/07	Increasing the Transparency of NRC's Public Meetings
SRM on COMGBJ-07-0005	12/3/07	(same)
Commissioners Votes on COMGBJ-07-0005	12/3/07	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-07-0210	12/3/07	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending November 23, 2007

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated November 30, 2007, informs that significant process has been made with respect to the implementation of Section 651(e) of the EPA of 2005.
2. Letter to Danielle Brian, dated November 28, 2007, responds to letter regarding concerns following a series of investigative reports by WCBS in NY involving video of inattentive security officers at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.
3. Letter to Congress, dated November 20, 2007, concerns the roundtable discussion on American's Nuclear Renaissance and the Associated Human Capital Challenges and Opportunities on November 7, 2007.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on Safety Research Program, notice of meeting (12/18/2007).
2. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (12/19/2007).
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (ACNW&M), notice of 185<sup>th</sup> meeting (12/17-19/2007).
4. Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material; Notification of Waiver Termination, RIN 3150-AH84, 10 CFR Chapter 1.

5. ACNW&M, Meeting on Planning and Procedures (12/17/2007).
6. Final rule, Occupational Dose Records, Labeling Containers, and the Total Effective Dose Equivalent, 10 CFR Parts 19, 20, and 50, RIN 3150 – AH40.

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Region II (RII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Robinson Emergency Exercise

On December 4, 2007, RII participated in the Robinson biennial emergency exercise. RII participation included a Base Team, led by the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects and a Site Team, led by the Acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects, at the Emergency Operating Facility and Technical Support Center, in Hartsville, SC. A public affairs officer also participated at the Joint Information Center in Florence, SC.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 7, 2007

Senior Management Change at River Bend Station

Entergy Operations Inc. announced that Mr. Michael Perito, currently the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Plant Manager, Nuclear Operations has accepted a position as the River Bend Station, Site Vice President, Nuclear Operations. Mr. Perito is expected to arrive at River Bend Station in early January 2008. Mr. Joseph Venable, currently the River Bend Station Site Senior Vice President, has also been serving in the capacity as the Site Vice President, Nuclear Operations. Mr. Venable will continue to serve as the Site Senior Vice President.

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ENCLOSURE P