

# INFORMATION REPORT

February 8, 2008

SECY-08-0016

For: The Commissioners  
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2008

## Contents

## Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
New Reactors	B
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	C
Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs	D*
Nuclear Regulatory Research	E
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	F
Administration	G
Information Services	H
Chief Financial Officer	I*
Human Resources	J
Small Business and Civil Rights	K*
Enforcement	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Secretary	O
Region I	P*
Region II	P*
Region III	P*
Region IV	P*
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

\*No input this week.

*/RA/*

Vonna L. Ordaz  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
A.C. Ridge, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Results of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Workshop on Primary System Gas Accumulation Management

On January 16 and 17, 2008, NEI conducted a workshop on primary system gas accumulation management in Austin, Texas. The workshop was attended by a large number of licensees as well as industry representatives including NEI, the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) and Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) chairmen, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and several industry consultants. A number of licensees and consultants made presentations about their efforts in the past to address problems associated with gas accumulation in emergency core cooling systems (ECCS). The information presented was relevant to licensees as they undertake their evaluations of gas accumulation in response to NRC Generic Letter (GL) 2008-01, "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal and Containment Spray Systems," dated January 11, 2008. NEI agreed that further meetings with the NRC staff on this issue will be needed as it moves forward with the development of guidance on managing gas accumulation and the development of a template for licensees' responses to GL 2008-01.

Meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

On January 17, 2008, the staff met with representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at FERC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the North American Electric Reliability Cooperation (NERC) Standard, Nuclear-001 (NUC-001) on Nuclear Power Plant Grid Interface Coordination. NUC-001 has been approved and issued by NERC and is currently with FERC for final review, approval and issuance to the industry.

Staff Participates in Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Stationary Battery Committee's Winter Meeting

From January 21 to 24, 2008, the Stationary Battery Committee of the IEEE hosted a conference in Dallas, TX. The purpose of this meeting was to collectively work with conference participants to improve IEEE standards relating to stationary batteries. Specifically, the staff assisted with the development of new revisions to IEEE standards related to stationary batteries, including IEEE Standard 450, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead-Acid Batteries for Stationary Applications," IEEE Standard 484, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Installation Design And Installation of Vented Lead-Acid Batteries for Stationary Applications," IEEE Standard 1187, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Installation Design and Installation of Valve-Regulated Lead-Acid Storage Batteries for Stationary Applications," and IEEE Standard 1188, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Valve-Regulated Lead- Acid (VRLA) Batteries for Stationary Applications."

## James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant Safety Evaluation Report

On January 26, 2008, the staff issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) related to the license renewal of the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JAFNPP). By letter dated July 31, 2006, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted a license renewal application pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 54 for NRC's review and renewal of the JAFNPP's operating license for an additional 20 years. Issuance of the SER is an important milestone for the applicant and the staff. The NRC staff has closed all open items and identified no confirmatory items in its review.

## Observation of Pilot Peer Review of the Diablo Canyon Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment

From January 28 to February 1, 2008, the staff observed the NEI's pilot peer review of the Diablo Canyon fire probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) to learn the approach planned by the industry. The staff also used this opportunity to gather experience for use in the subsequent National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805 pilot plant staff reviews on the Harris and Oconee fire PRAs.

## Staff Holds Public Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the License Renewal of Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant

On January 30, 2008, the staff conducted two meetings in Apex, North Carolina, to solicit public comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) regarding the Shearon Harris License Renewal Review. The Draft Supplement 33, published in December 2007, is a site-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (NUREG-1437). Approximately 25 people attended the meetings, including members of the public, representatives from Progress Energy, local citizen organizations, and local news media. Public comments and questions were mainly focused on the impact of the plant on water use and the effect of radiation on human health.

As part of the public outreach effort, the staff held an open house for an hour prior to the start of each meeting. The open house provided members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally with the NRC staff and view informational displays and brochures.

## Generic License Renewal Topics and Process Improvement Public Meeting

On January 30, 2008, the staff conducted a category 2 public meeting with NEI regarding generic license renewal topics and process improvements at the NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. During the meeting the NRC staff discussed its intent to provide additional clarification to the existing staff guidance related to the scoping of station blackout structures, systems and components. This additional guidance is consistent with the license renewal and station blackout regulations. The staff plans to issue the guidance as Interim Staff Guidance, which will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed guidance.

Meeting to Discuss Draft Procedure for Conducting Acceptance Reviews for Requests for Licensing Action

On January 31, 2008, the staff conducted a public meeting to solicit comments on a draft procedure for conducting acceptance reviews for licensees' requests for licensing actions. The procedure is intended to allow a more effective and efficient staff review. Industry attendees expressed support for the proposed approach and provided suggestions for revisions and clarifications which will be provided in writing to the staff. The staff will consider the comments within the context of the procedural goals before issuing the procedure as final, currently scheduled for April 2008.

February 1, 2008

ENCLOSURE A

Office of New Reactors (NRO)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Revision 4 of the Vogtle Early Site Permit Application

On January 22, 2008, the staff received a letter from Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) stating that revision 4 to the Vogtle early site permit application would be submitted to the NRC on March 31, 2008. SNC is also expected to provide the staff with additional data and test results necessary for the staff to complete its review. Staff expects this new information will have a significant effect on the safety review schedule as well as the overall permit issuance schedule. The staff is currently developing a new schedule to incorporate this delay.

Acceptance of North Anna Combined License Application

On January 28, 2008, the staff issued a letter, with associated *Federal Register* Notice (FRN), to Dominion to notice the docketing of the North Anna Unit 3 combined license (COL) application. The letter and FRN are available at ML080240154. The docket number for this application is 052-017.

MidAmerican Nuclear Energy Company Combined License Application

By letter dated January 28, 2008, MidAmerican notified the staff that it will not submit a COL application to the NRC in 2008. MidAmerican had previously informed NRC staff that it was evaluating several sites in the Western United States in support of a December 2008 COL application.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

International Technical Support

From January 21 to 25, 2008, a Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff member participated in a workshop on domestic Material Protection Control and Accounting (MPC&A) inspections, held in Beijing. The workshop was held as part of a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA). MPC&A cooperation with China is relatively new and is administered in the U.S. through DOE/NNSA's Office of International Material Protection and Cooperation's Office of Material Consolidation and Civilian Sites. The major areas of discussion, during the workshop, were: (1) the DOE, NRC, and CAEA regulatory frameworks (that provide inspection authority), (2) MC&A and Physical Protection inspection techniques and (3) inspector training. The workshop included a tour of the nuclear material control laboratory and training center at the China Institute of Atomic Energy, which is located near Beijing.

NRC Issues Severity Level III Violation, with Proposed Civil Penalty, to BWX Technologies, Inc.

On January 24, 2008, NRC issued a Severity Level III violation, with proposed Civil Penalty, to BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT), for a violation of NRC requirements. The violation involved a failure to analyze a potential nuclear criticality safety event at BWXT's fuel cycle facility, near Lynchburg, Virginia. No criticality occurred. On July 26, 2007, a specially designed vacuum cleaner, carrying highly enriched uranium solution, spilled its contents into an attached plastic bag being used for contamination control. This configuration had not been analyzed for nuclear criticality safety. The actual consequences of the spill were minimal, because of the amount and low concentration of the highly enriched uranium solution. However, the potential consequences were significant, because highly enriched uranium solution could have been present, in which case a criticality accident might have been possible. NRC concluded that BWXT, in this case, had insufficient controls to ensure that highly enriched uranium solution would be maintained within acceptable quantities and concentrations.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Agreement between NRC and the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) in the Area of Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance

On January 14, 2008, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the subject international agreement. The agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the VTT will continue cooperation in the Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP) on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. The research conducted, the in-kind information exchanged, and the participation fee provided by VTT under this Agreement will contribute to the NRC's goal of leveraging agency resources and independently verifying the accuracy of the NRC's thermal-hydraulic codes through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent applications and feedback. This international participation and feedback contributes significantly to the quality assurance of the TRAC/RELAP Advanced Computational Engine (TRACE) code. This code is used by the NRC to evaluate transient and accident scenarios, assess generic safety issues, and address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants and for new designs. The Agreement will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect for 5 years.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Emergency Preparedness Seminar

On January 23, 2008, NRC staff met with 16 utility Emergency Preparedness (EP) managers at the EP Seminar held by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). The Seminar was the second in a series of training initiatives for new EP managers at INPO. Topics discussed included development of more realistic and challenging EP exercises, Emergency Action Level guidance and other topics important to effective EP programs.

PNO-I-08-002 – R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

Loss of site communications due to high winds.

PNO-II-08-001 – Global Nuclear Fuel – Americas, LLC.

Alert declared based on moderator alarm in moderator-limited process vessel.

PNO-I-08-001A – Seabrook 1

Unplanned shutdown greater than 72 hours resulting from automatic reactor trip due to ground fault on 345kv line.



Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Minor Amendments: Reorganization (RIN 3150-AI07)

On January 31, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 5709) amending its regulations to reflect the addresses of two additional Headquarters buildings, the reorganization of the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, the creation of the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, the reorganization of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the creation of the Office of New Reactors, and other minor changes. This document is necessary to inform the public of these minor changes to NRC regulations. The effective date of this final rule is January 31, 2008.

State of Nevada: Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-51-9)

On January 31, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 5762) denying a petition for rulemaking submitted by the State of Nevada (PRM-51-9). The petition requested the NRC modify its criteria for adopting an environmental impact statement prepared by the Department of Energy for a construction authorization and materials license for a geologic repository. The petitioner asserted that the current regulation must be "corrected" because it is at odds with a recent court of appeals decision. Further, the petitioner asserted that certain litigation procedures that will be used in the proceedings to consider adoption violate the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. NRC denied the petition because the court found no reason for NRC to change its adoption criteria and because the petition does not demonstrate that NRC's litigation procedures violate NEPA. Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko's vote on this denial is included in Appendix I of the *Federal Register* notice.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of January 25 to January 31, 2008:

Turkey Point Unit 3, report of investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to NRC regarding equipment damage of March 2006, all records	FOIA/PA-2008-0106
Security file on named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0107
Inattentive security officer findings, 2004, 2005, 2006, nationwide	FOIA/PA-2008-0108
Office of Investigations Case 4-2007-026, all records	FOIA/PA-2008-0109
Atmospheric testing, 1961 through 1965, and locations	FOIA/PA-2008-0110

February 1, 2008

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending February 1, 2008

<b>Arrivals</b>		
ARNOLD, GARY	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE (CONSULTANT)	ASLBP
BLOUNT, BARBARA	PRINTING SPECIALIST	ADM
BOYCE, THOMAS	DIRECTOR, OIS/DEPUTY CIO	OIS
CLARK, PHYLLIS	PROJECT MANAGER	NRO
DAVIDSON, CYNTHIA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
FRINGER, JOHN	ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MANAGER	NRO
HAYES, MICHELLE	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRO
KALKMAN, ADAM	STUDENT CLERK	OI
MOORE, EVERLINE	PROPERTY TECHNICIAN	RII
PICHUMANI, RAMAN	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	NRR
SEBER, DOGAN	GEOPHYSICIST (SEISMOLOGY)	NRO
SIMPSON, JO ANN	FINANCIAL ANALYST	NRR
TRAVERS, ALLISON	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST	NRR
WALL, YVONNE	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the following:

Potassium iodide distribution beyond the 10-mile emergency planning zone

MidAmerican cancelling its plans to submit a combined operating license application for a reactor in Idaho

Braidwood nuclear plant recent remediation efforts of identified tritium plume

Hemyc Fire Barriers Inspector General Report

Southeast drought-related conditions related to nuclear power plants and construction of the mixed oxide fuel facility

Special Inspection Team review of the Global Nuclear Fuel facility near Wilmington, North Carolina

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA coordinated press conferences for Chairman Klein after his tour of the Shearon Harris nuclear plant and his visit to North Carolina State University's research reactor.

OPA coordinated Industry press interviews with Chairman Klein about his recent trip to China.

OPA responded to inaccurate accounts and facts in KSBY-TV (San Luis Obispo, Calif.) media story covering recent potassium iodine issues.

OPA supported a Christian Science Monitor interview with Commissioner Jaczko on a variety of topics including the license renewal process.

OPA supported the Chief Information Officer's participation in a media panel discussion about cyber security on Federal News Radio.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
08-014	License Renewal Application for Three Mile Island Unit 1 Available for Public Inspection (1/28)
08-015	NRC Names Thomas Boyce as Director of Information Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer (1/28)
08-016	NRC Accepts Application for New Reactor at North Anna (1/29)
08-017	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impacts From Extended Operation of James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant (1/29)
08-018	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet Feb. 7-9 in Rockville,

February 1, 2008

ENCLOSURE M

	Md. (1/29)
08-019	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Susquehanna (1/30)
08-020	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing on License Application for Uranium Recovery Operation in Wyoming (2/1)
08-021	Uranerz In-situ Leach License Application Available for Public Viewing (2/1)
<b>Regions:</b>	
II-08-003	NRC Chairman to Meet With News Media in Raleigh at 1:00 P.M. (Est) on Friday, Feb. 1 (1/31)
II-08-004	NRC Establishes Special Inspection Team Following Event at Global Nuclear Fuel – Americas Plant Near Wilmington, N.C. (2/1)

February 1, 2008

ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 1, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. COMSECY-07-0030	10/17/07	Requesting Authority to Issue Case Management Orders in High-Level Waste Proceeding Prior to the Issuance of a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing
SRM-COMSECY-07-0030	12/13/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMSECY-07-0030	12/13/07	(same)
2. SECY-07-0148 (Redacted Version)	08/28/07	Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Security Requirements for Radiological Sabotage
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-08-0012	01/25/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending January 18, 2008
2. SECY-08-0009	01/17/08	2007 Annual Report on Commission Adjudication

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated January 25, 2008, responds to letter concerning the installation of a new siren system at the Indian Point Energy Center and Entergy's movement of spent fuel rods to dry cask storage.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. State of Nevada; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking, 10 CFR Part 51, Docket No. PRM-51.9.
2. Independent External Review Panel to Identify Vulnerabilities in the U.S. NRC's Materials Licensing Program, notice of meeting (February 19-21, 2008).

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending February 1, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 1					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	02/28/08 TBD	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	Oversight Hearing on Security Related Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission will be invited</li> </ul>
Decker	Spring 08 TBD	TBD	House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Inattentive Guards at Peach Bottom and other Security Related Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>