

INFORMATION REPORT

March 17, 2008

SECY-08-0035

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 7, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA/

Vonna L. Ordaz
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
U. Shoop, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Westinghouse Fuel Performance Update Meeting

The Division of Safety Systems (DSS) staff met with Westinghouse and industry representatives at the Westinghouse Fuels Facility in Columbia, South Carolina on February 19, 2008, for the annual Westinghouse Fuel Performance Update Meeting. In addition to receiving a tour of the facility, the staff received Westinghouse boiling water reactor and pressurized water reactor fuel performance information and discussed fuel licensing topics. Staff from the Offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards also attended.

Meeting at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Headquarters in Paris, France

On February 25-28, 2008, NRR and RES staff participated in a meeting held at NEA Headquarters in Paris, France to discuss the development of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) / NEA Stress Corrosion Cracking and Cable Aging Project (the Cable Aging Project portion). The project consists of a Web-based database in which various countries enter operating experience regarding cable failures and environmental qualification testing. The purposes of the meeting were to finalize the format of the database, to encourage industry participation in entering data, and to discuss how the data will be analyzed to produce a report on recommended practices for managing cable aging.

Meeting with Entergy Representatives from Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant to Discuss Generic Letter 2004-02

On February 28, 2008, NRC staff met with representatives from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to discuss implementation of Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," at Indian Point Nuclear Generating, Units 2 and 3. Entergy reports that they plan to submit a license amendment to request a change in the licensing basis for the units. Entergy plans to request that the licensing basis be revised to be consistent with the licensing basis of other pressurized water reactors.

Public Meetings on the License Renewal Process of Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station (TMI), Unit 1

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, the Division of License Renewal (DLR) staff conducted two meetings to inform the public about the review process for TMI, Unit 1 license renewal application. Approximately 150 people attended the meetings, including members of the public, representatives of AmerGen (the applicant), local citizen organizations, and local news media. Public comments focused on radiation protection, emergency planning, security, water resources, and spent fuel storage.

Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE)

On March 5, 2008, the NRC administered its GFE to 180 license operator applicants in 18 utilities across all 4 regions. The GFE measures applicant knowledge in components, reactor theory, and thermodynamics, and is the first examination that license operator applicants must take and pass before they can proceed to their site specific training and subsequently take the NRC site specific license examination.

Public Meeting on Operator Licensing

On March 5, 2008, the Division of Inspection & Regional Support staff supported NRO during a Category 2 public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to individual and crew experience requirements for cold license applicants at new reactor facilities.

Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) License Renewal Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with Open Items with ACRS Subcommittee Meeting

On March 5, 2008, the DLR staff and representatives from WCGS met with the ACRS subcommittee to discuss the WCGS license renewal safety evaluation report (SER) with open items. The SER contains five open items and no confirmatory items. Two open items relate to station blackout recovery and three open items relate to metal fatigue analyses. DLR staff provided the SER with open items to the applicant on February 1, 2008, with a request for comments by April 1, 2008.

Circumferential Indications in Alloy 600 Weld In Decay Heat Drop Line

On March 5, 2008, during a planned outage to replace a degrading reactor coolant pump seal, Progress Energy identified two circumferential indications in a weld that joins the Decay Heat removal system drop line to a reactor coolant system hot leg. This decay heat drop line piping has a nominal diameter of 12" and a nominal wall thickness of 1.312".

James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JFNP) License Renewal SER with ACRS Full Committee Meeting

On March 6, 2008, NRR staff and representatives from Entergy met with the ACRS full committee to discuss the JFNP license renewal SER. The ACRS was informed of the review status and resolutions of the two open items (OIs) that had occurred since the subcommittee meeting in September 5, 2007. One of the two OIs was related to the reactor fluence calculation methodology and the other was related to environmentally assisted fatigue. Staff from Region I also supported the meeting.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plan License Renewal SER with ACRS Full Committee Meeting

On March 6, 2008, the DLR staff and representatives from Entergy met with the ACRS full committee for the second time to discuss the Vermont Yankee license renewal SER. During the first full committee meeting, the ACRS was informed of all of the issues that occurred since the

subcommittee meeting in June 2007. Two of the issues were resolved prior to the first full committee meeting; however, one outstanding issue related to metal fatigue remained unresolved. The staff discussed the resolution of the metal fatigue issue with the ACRS full committee.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Progress Energy Response to Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2008-01

In a letter dated March 5, 2008, Progress Energy responded to RIS 2008-01, communicating its expectation to submit a combined license (COL) application on July 30, 2008, for the proposed two-unit project in Levy County, Florida. The letter also formally communicated Progress Energy's intent to include a request for a Limited Work Authorization (LWA) with the COL application and to request that the LWA be approved by the fourth quarter of 2010.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Implementing Agreement on Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance and Cooperative Severe Accident Research Between the USNRC and the Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (BNRA)

On February 26, 2008, the EDO signed the cooperative implementing agreement between NRC and the BNRA.

This implementing agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the BNRA will continue its participation in the cooperative research program with NRC in the Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Program. This implementing agreement will also extend BNRA's research cooperation to include participation in our Cooperative Severe Accident Research Program. This cooperation will continue on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. The work performed under this implementing agreement will contribute to the agency's goal of leveraging our resources and expanding our data and knowledge base for thermal hydraulic and severe accident analyses. The work performed and exchanged under this implementing agreement also enhances the quality of the reactor safety codes through the expansion of the international user community, and through their subsequent applications and feedback. These codes are used by the NRC to (1) support regulatory decisions made as part of the licensing review process for applications such as power uprates, (2) assess emerging safety issues, (3) evaluate potential risk and vulnerability scenarios for severe accidents for operating plants, and (4) review advanced reactor designs. This implementing agreement will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Second Meeting of the TRACE Peer Review Panel

On February 27 and 28, 2008, the second TRACE peer review meeting was held at NRC headquarters. The panel consists of four internationally renowned experts in thermal-hydraulic system analysis. The reviewers' primary objectives were to identify flaws that would preclude using the code in auditing license applications, point out deficiencies that should be remedied, and recommend enhancements. Staff presentations and discussions addressed some of the reviewers' concerns described in preliminary reports. Staff will provide written responses to remaining concerns. The final peer review report will be completed in June 2008. The peer reviewers will present their findings before the ACRS thermal-hydraulic subcommittee on July 8, 2008.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Conduct Of Hostile Action-Based Emergency Preparedness (EP) Drills Training Seminar

On March 4, 2008, NRC staff attended a one-day training seminar, conducted by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and hosted by the State of South Carolina, on the conduct of hostile action-based EP drills as described in Revision 1 to NEI 06-04, "Conducting a Hostile Action-Based Emergency Response Drill." NRC staff provided a brief presentation discussing the path forward and provided support for a hostile action-based table-top drill. Those in attendance included staff members from the South Carolina Emergency Management Agency (EMA), licensee Security and EP managers from South Carolina, non-governmental support agencies (i.e., Red Cross), State and local law enforcement agencies, numerous representatives from local response agencies (i.e., fire, medical services), and representatives from FEMA Region IV and NRC Region II. The seminar provided a starting point and common focus for those attendees scheduled to conduct a future hostile action-based drill.

Conceptual Performance-Based Emergency Preparedness Regulatory Regimen

On March 5, 2008, NRC staff conducted an informational, publically observed meeting to discuss a conceptual performance-based emergency preparedness regulatory regimen. Industry, State and NEI professionals participated in the meeting and asked questions regarding the concept. NEI representatives stated that they would inform the staff of industry's interest in volunteering to pilot the performance-based regulatory regimen.

NRC Staff Presents at the National Defense University

On March 5, 2008, NRC staff presented a briefing for the Homeland Security Course at the National Defense University (NDU) on the nuclear terrorism threat, NRC's role in preventing nuclear terrorism, and security requirements for NRC licensees. This is the fifth consecutive year that NSIR staff have been invited back to provide the briefing at NDU.

Emergency Preparedness Rulemaking Public Meeting

On March 5, 2008, NRC staff conducted a public meeting in support of the publication of the emergency preparedness rulemaking draft preliminary rule language (ML080370069). Meeting attendees included members of the press, non-governmental organizations, State and local governments, industry representatives, and NEI. This meeting was an opportunity for staff to meet with stakeholders early in the rulemaking process and to hear stakeholder views on the issues included in the rulemaking. This early stakeholder involvement will allow the staff to incorporate stakeholder comments into the proposed rule, which is scheduled to be published in the *Federal Register* in February 2009.

Protective Action Recommendations Public Survey

On March 5, 2008, NRC staff received approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to begin the Protective Action Recommendations (PAR) public survey (OMB clearance number: 3150-0207). A contractor will conduct a random telephone survey of the approximately 5 million people who live within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant. It is expected that 2,500 calls will be placed to obtain 800 completed surveys. The survey will question the public regarding their willingness to follow directions for alternate protective actions, and the best methods for communicating advanced PAR strategies. Extensive outreach regarding the survey has been conducted with both internal and external stakeholders, including state officials. The state officials have been encouraged to inform their local governments and agencies. The results of this survey will help the NRC refine the guidance that has been provided to licensees regarding communicating protective actions to the public. The start date for the survey is being negotiated with the contractor. The NRC would like to present preliminary findings at the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference scheduled for the week of April 7, 2008.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Delegated Authority To Order Use of Procedures for Access to Certain Sensitive Unclassified Information (AI32 – Part 2)

On February 29, 2008, the NRC published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 10978), amending its rules of practice to delegate authority to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission (SECY). SECY receives the authority to issue orders requiring the use of certain procedures for access to sensitive unclassified information in adjudicatory proceedings. The NRC is also making final procedures available that would allow potential parties to NRC adjudications to gain access to safeguards information or sensitive unclassified non-safeguards information. The final rule becomes effective March 31, 2008.

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 29 - March 6, 2008:

Allegations R1-2007-A-0040, R1-2007-A-0118, all records including allegation review board and OI records	FOIA/PA-2008-0138
Solar Planet, dba Supra Technologies, License No. 04-23959-01E, complete license package and related paperwork	FOIA/PA-2008-0139
Number of Schedule A Certification hires by year and how many were in each of Office of Personnel Management's classification for people with disabilities	FOIA/PA-2008-0140
Radiac Research Corp Facility, 33 South First Street and 261 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11211, records created on or after October 1, 2004, records not available in ADAMS	FOIA/PA-2008-0141
Communications between Senator John McCain and NRC from January 4, 2005, to present	FOIA/PA-2008-0142
Communications between Senator Barack Obama and NRC from January 4, 2005, to present	FOIA/PA-2008-0143
Millstone, Units 2 and 3, final safety analysis report, Chapter 2	FOIA/PA-2008-0144
Neutron Products Inc., 22301 Mt. Ephraim Road, Montgomery County, Dickerson, Maryland, records regarding contamination in soil, groundwater, etc., investigations, correspondence to the Environmental Protection Agency and Maryland Department of the Environment	FOIA/PA-2008-0145

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
JENSEN, NEIL	CONSULTANT	OGC
KING, MARY	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	NRR
LADUN, RICHARD	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RI
Departures		
BATEMAN, WILLIAM	CHIEF, MATERIALS AND CHEMICAL ENG BR	NRR
HANSEN, ALLEN	SENIOR THERMAL ENGINEER	NMSS
SULLIVAN, JOSEPH	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RI
WILLIAMS, GORDON	RESIDENT INSPECTOR (PWR)	RII

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the following:

Energy Solutions request to import low-level radioactive waste from Italy

Recent contamination event at the Sabia facility in Idaho Falls, and the NRC's inspector response

Oyster Creek nuclear plant's license renewal and Commission's postponement of the decision

Public meetings on license renewal of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Red oil issue in the mixed oxide licensing review

Annual assessments for all nuclear power plants

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA coordinated staff interviews with the Federal Times about compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-042	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, March 18-20, 2008 (03/3)
08-043	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant (03/4)
08-044	NRC Issues Annual Assessments for Nation's Nuclear Plants (03/6)
08-045	NRC Meeting with Public April 3 on Environmental Scoping for Bellefonte New Reactor Application (03/6)
08-046	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate in Hearing on New Reactor Application for North Anna Site (03/6)
08-047	Grand Gulf Application for New Reactor Available on NRC Website (03/7)
08-048	NRC 20th Annual Regulatory Information Conference March 11-13, 2008, to Focus on Enhancing Safety During the Global Nuclear Renaissance (03/7)
Regions:	
II-08-008	NRC to Hold Public Meeting March 18, 2008, at Metropolis, Illinois to Discuss Regulatory Safety Performance at Honeywell (03/7)
IV-08-007	NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letter To Sabia, Inc. Following Contamination Event (03/5)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0027	2/29/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 22, 2008

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Dominion Virginia Power, Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene on a Combined License for North Anna Unit 3, Docket No. 52-017.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems, notice of meeting (March 20, 2008).
3. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (March 19, 2008).
4. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Power Uprates (Hope Creek), notice of meeting (March 20-21, 2008).
5. Requests for Licenses to Import and Export Radioactive Waste, Extension of Time for Comment and Intervention, Docket Nos. 110-05711 (Import); 110-05710 (Export).
6. Final rule, 10 CFR Part 2, RIN 3150-AI08, Interlocutory Review of Rulings on Requests by Potential Parties for Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information and Safeguards Information.
7. Request for a License to Import Radioactive Waste (AREVA NP Inc.).
8. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Notice and Memorandum, In the Matter of Department of Energy (High-Level Waste Repository; Pre-Application Matters, Advisory Pre-License Application Presiding Officer Board).

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Presentation to Society of Nuclear Medicine

On March 7, 2008, a senior health physicist from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety delivered a presentation to the Greater New York Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine at its annual spring symposium in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Topics discussed were risk-informed and performance-based inspections, and the updates to licensing and inspection procedures due to the revised definition of byproduct material in the NARM Rule. Attendees included nuclear medicine physicians and technologists and radiation safety professionals.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 7, 2008

Director of the Office of Human Resources Visits Region II

On March 4, 2008, the Director of Human Resources visited the Region II office and met with regional management and staff on matters of mutual interest.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 7, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 6					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	03/05/08 SD-366	3:00 pm	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	U.S.-Russian Federation Agreement on Uranium Antidumping Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) • Nuclear Energy Institute • LES • USEC • Exelon • United Steel Workers
Powell	03/12/08 SD-366	2:15 pm	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	Efforts to Reform Federal Hard Rock Mining Law	<p><u>Panel 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Government Accountability Office • U.S. Department of Interior • Forest Service • Northwest Mining Association • Western Progress • Bill Brancard, Director of the Mining and Minerals Division, State of New Mexico • Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department <p><u>Panel 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Shirley - President, Navajo Nation • Dr. Charles Miller, NRC • (DOE) • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • David Ulibarri, State Senator (D), New Mexico • National Mining Association

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ENCLOSURE R

Kron	03/13/08 342 Dirksen	2:30 pm	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security (Senators Carper / Coburn)	“Agencies in Peril: Are We Doing Enough to Protect Federal IT and Secure Sensitive Information?”	<u>Panel 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OMB • GAO <u>Panel 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darren Ash – CIO, NRC • Veterans’ Affairs • State Department • USAID
Powell	Spring 08 TBD	TBD	House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Inattentive Guards at Peach Bottom and other Security Related Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD