

INFORMATION REPORT

March 20, 2008

SECY-08-0037

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 14, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA Tamara E. Bloomer For/

Vonna L. Ordaz
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

License Renewal Audit for Beaver Valley Power Station Units 1 and 2

On March 3-7, 2008, the Division of License Renewal staff conducted the license renewal aging management program, aging management review, and the time-limiting-aging analysis at the Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2. The staff anticipates requesting additional information from the licensee regarding independent offsite power sources and operating experience for the 15 new aging management programs.

University of Florida License Renewal

On March 6, 2008, the Division of Policy and Rulemaking staff, along with technical staff from Brookhaven National Labs, the assigned contractor, visited the University of Florida to discuss outstanding issues associated with the University's application for a renewed license. The NRC staff, contractor, and members of the University staff, discussed the outstanding request for information and toured the facility.

License Renewal Acceptance Review for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station (TMI), Unit 1

On March 10, 2008, the staff completed the acceptance review for the TMI, Unit 1 license renewal application submitted by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC, on January 8, 2008, to extend the operating license for an additional 20 years. The acceptance review determined that the application contains sufficient information for docketing. TMI, Unit 1 is a pressurized water reactor designed by Babcock & Wilcox with a current operating license that expires at midnight on April 19, 2014.

Public Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

On March 13, 2008, the Division of Risk Assessment staff participated in a Category 2 public meeting with NEI and industry representatives at NRC Headquarters to discuss a process to address issues related to fire probabilistic risk assessment implementation using guidance contained in NUREG/CR-6850, "EPRI [Electric Power Research Institute] /NRC-RES [Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research] Fire PRA [Probabilistic Risk Analysis] Methodology for Nuclear Power Facilities." Licensees are relying on the guidance provided in this NUREG/CR to implement the transition to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

Tioga Pipe Vendor Inspection

Between March 3 and March 7, 2008, representatives from NRO and Region II conducted an inspection at the Tioga Pipe Supply Company, Inc. facilities located in Philadelphia and Easton, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the inspection was to verify the implementation of a quality assurance program consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, and reporting and dedication programs consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 21. Tioga is an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Material Certificate holder that procures and upgrades or dedicates material to ASME Code requirements for use in the commercial nuclear industry.

International Vendor Inspection Observations

Between March 3 and March 7, 2008, representatives from NRO participated in a technical exchange with Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN, the French nuclear regulator) in Dijon, France. The purpose of the exchange was to continue sharing insights on the construction of new reactors and the oversight of vendors providing parts and services to operating reactors and new construction projects. The NRC staff observed three ASN vendor inspections of different manufacturing facilities ranging from valve manufacturing to forging and machining of heavy components.

Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to Discuss Operator Licensing

On March 5, 2008, representatives from NRO met with NEI and industry representatives to discuss industry initiatives and issues related to the training, qualification, and licensing of control room operators. Topics discussed included documentation of experience used to meet the "cold license" eligibility guidance for individual operators, and overall operating crew experience.

Meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to Discuss New Reactor Applications

On March 12, 2008, representatives from NRO met with representatives from EPA National Environmental Policy Act and Radiation Protection Offices to discuss differences in designs expected in new reactor license applications compared to current operating reactors, particularly regarding environmental effects. EPA reviews the environmental impact statements prepared by NRC as part of its review of license applications. This discussion was part of a continuing outreach effort between EPA and NRC, facilitated by the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, that will assist EPA with ensuring that it has adequate resources available to support the review of the NRC's environmental impact statements.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

Meeting with Brazilian and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Officials

On March 7, 2008, NRC staff met with officials from the Nuclear Industries of Brazil (operator of Brazil's uranium fuel fabrication facility in Resende); the Brazilian regulator, Comissao Nacional de Energia Nuclear; and the IAEA's scientific secretary for fuel cycle safety. The NRC staff gave presentations on the requirements of Subpart H of 10 CFR Part 70; administrative aspects of a good criticality safety program; criticality safety events; and criticality hazards and controls that may be pertinent to Brazil's wet uranium fuel fabrication process.

Meeting with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Office of the Inspector General

On March 7, 2008, staff from the Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and Office of the Inspector General (OIG) met with the DOE-OIG. The purpose of the meeting was to review some of DOE's preliminary findings on the location of DOE-owned nuclear materials, as reported in the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS) database. DOE requested a copy of the NRC's rulemaking actions regarding improvements to the NMMSS database, which NRC has provided. DOE also requested a listing of sites that NRC visited, pursuant to Temporary Instruction 2800/035, "Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Bulletin 2003-04, Regarding Inventories of Source and Special Nuclear Materials Tracked in the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System."

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Meeting on Neutron-Absorber Materials

On March 10, 2008, at NRC Headquarters, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety staff participated in an ASTM task group meeting on neutron-absorber materials. The task group discussed an ASTM standard practice for establishing a qualification program for neutron-absorber materials for nuclear criticality control for the Transportation, Aging, and Disposal Canister in a geologic repository.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

Staff Presentation on Basic Safety Standards

From March 10-14, 2008, a senior staff member of FSME attended and chaired an International Atomic Energy Agency drafting meeting for the Revision of the International Basic Safety Standards in Vienna, Austria.

Pennsylvania Agreement State Status

On March 12, 2008, FSME staff delivered three official copies of the Agreement which will discontinue the Commission's regulatory authority over certain radioactive materials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for the Commonwealth to assume that regulatory authority, to the State capital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the Governor's signature. The Governor is expected to sign the Agreement by the effective date of March 31, 2008.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

PNO-II-08-001A – Global Nuclear Fuel - Americas L.L.C.

UPDATE - ALERT DECLARED BASED ON MODERATOR ALARM IN MODERATOR-LIMITED
PROCESS VESSEL

On March 7, 2008, NRC Special Inspection Team (SIT) members completed inspection activities and debriefed Global Nuclear Fuel Americas L.L.C (GNF-A) senior management officials regarding their independent evaluation of events associated with the January 30, 2008 declared Alert. The SIT evaluation included assessment of emergency response activities, determination of contributing factors leading to the declared Alert, evaluation of criticality controls associated with conversion process line maintenance, the potential for onsite/offsite health or environmental impacts, and evaluation of proposed corrective actions. In addition, SIT members reviewed corrective actions and directly observed conversion process line restart activities. Results of the SIT inspection are expected to be publically available in April.

Protective Action Recommendations (PAR) Public Telephone Survey

On March 11, 2008, a public telephone survey began in nuclear power plant emergency planning zones to determine public tendencies with respect to implementation of PARs during an emergency and how to best communicate this information. The survey is expected to take approximately three weeks and is part of the NRC's PAR study. Approximately 2,500 phone calls will be made during the survey.

PNO-II-08-004 – Southern Company

ALERT DUE TO 1B EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR EXHAUST HEADER FAILURE AT
FARLEY

On March 13, 2008, the Farley Nuclear Power Plant began a two hour surveillance run of the 1B Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG). Approximately 30 minutes into the run the control room received fire alarms for the 1B diesel generator room. The system operator reported the room was full of smoke and the carbon dioxide (CO₂) fire suppression system had discharged. The control room manually shutdown the 1B EDG due to the event. The licensee declared an Alert at 1644 CDT due to toxic substance CO₂ being released in a safety-related area. The licensee terminated the Alert at 1836 CDT following evacuation of the CO₂ via the building ventilation exhaust system.

Federal Firearms Disabilities Public Meeting

On March 14, 2008, NRC hosted a Category 2 public meeting to discuss a draft generic communication; "Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2088-yy 'Notice Regarding Federal Firearms Disabilities.'" The staff's target for issuing the RIS is April 30, 2008.

PNO-IV-08-002A – Sabia, Inc.

UPDATE OF SR-90 CONTAMINATION EVENT

This updates information provided in PNO-IV-2008-002, regarding the contamination of a worker when a strontium-90 (Sr-90) source was breached (EN #44023) at the licensee's facility on February 29, 2008. During this event, a worker contaminated his hands, face, and clothing, and inhaled some of the Sr-90. Following the event, the licensee secured the facility to prevent the release of Sr-90 to unrestricted areas.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration (ADM)
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Interlocutory Review of Rulings on Requests by Potential Parties for Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) and Safeguards Information (SGI) (3150-AI08 – Part 2)

On March 10, 2008, the NRC published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 12627), amending its rules of practice to provide for expedited (and, in this case, “interlocutory”) review by the Commission of orders on requests by potential parties for access to certain SUNSI and SGI. The final rule becomes effective April 9, 2008.

Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness (EP) Regulations (3150-AI10 – Part 50)

On March 12, 2008, the NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 13157); making available preliminary draft rule language that would constitute amendments to its regulations on EP. The release of the preliminary draft requirements is intended to inform stakeholders of the current status of the NRC’s activities on its EP rulemaking. The NRC is not soliciting formal public comments on the preliminary draft rule language at this time, but will accept comments for NRC consideration in the development of the proposed rule until July 1, 2008. This preliminary draft rule language may be subject to significant revisions during the rulemaking process.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: HI-STORM 100 Revision 5; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule (3150-AI24 – Part 72)

On March 12, 2008, the NRC published in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 13071), a document withdrawing a direct final rule published on December 31, 2007 (72 FR 74162). The rule would have revised the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 cask system listing within the “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks” to include Amendment No. 5 to the Certificate of Compliance. The NRC has taken this action because it has received a significant adverse comment in response to the direct final rule; this comment will be considered as a comment to the companion proposed rule that was published concurrently with the direct final rule. The withdrawal of the direct final rule is effective March 12, 2008.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 7 2008 through March 13, 2008:

Audits or investigative reports regarding any and all inspections by NRC in response to recommendations set forth in the report of the GAO titled, "Nuclear Safety and Health Counterfeit and Substandard Parts are a Government Concern," dated October 16, 1990	FOIA/PA-2008-0146
Allegation NRR-1999-A-0018, including all correspondence between NRC and named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0147
Gamma-knife incident of October 24, 2007, NRC's investigation	FOIA/PA-2008-0148

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 14, 2008

Arrivals		
ALVARADO, AARON	CONTRACT SPECIALIST	ADM
BUNTER, SHEILA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRO
CRLENJAK, RICHARD	CONSULTANT	NRR
DANIEL, RICHARD	TECH ASST. PROJ MGR	NRO
DEMARSHALL, JOSEPH	REACTOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRO
GALLARDY, VIVIAN	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS
GEORGIEV, GEORGE	SENIOR MATERIALS ENGINEER	NRO
GUNTER, WILLIAM	PLAN&SCHEDULING ANLYST	NRO
HARDY, RAY	IT SECURITY SPECIALIST	OIS
HOWARD, PATRICK	CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER	EDO
HYLTON, ETOY	LICENSING ASSISTANT	NRR
JACKSON, LINDA	ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	SBCR
MATTHEWS, DANNY	MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM ANALYST	RIV
PENG, SHIE-JENG	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRO
RYERSON, PAUL	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE (LEGAL)	ASLBP
SHEDLOSKEY, JOHN	CONSULTANT	NRR
SIMPLER, GARY	FACILITIES SECURITY SPECIALIST	ADM
TRUONG, TUNG	ELECTRONICS ENG (DIGITAL I&C)	NRO
Departures		
BELL, JIMMY	CONSULTANT	ACRS
MARSH, BRUCE	CONSULTANT	ACRS
RUND, JONATHAN	ATTORNEY	OGC
WYMER, RAYMOND	CONSULTANT	ACRS

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 14, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) hearing's oral arguments on Indian Point nuclear power plant's license renewal application

Nuclear loan guarantees

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

Annual Assessments for all nuclear power plants

Confirmation of Kristine Svinicki as a fourth Commissioner and the reconfirmation to a second term of Commissioner Jaczko

Public meeting discussing the potential pressurized water reactor weld issues

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA Headquarters and the Regions supported the Regulatory Information Conference and participated in a counterpart meeting engaging in problem-solving and developing creative approaches to new media strategies and opportunities.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-049	Harris Application for New Reactors Available on NRC Website (3/10)
08-050	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing on License Renewal Application for Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant (3/10)
08-051	ASLB Requests Information from Potential Parties to Yucca Mountain Hearing (3/10)
08-052	NRC Establishes Edward McGaffigan Jr. Award for Lifetime Achievement in Public Service (3/11)
08-053	NRC Public Meeting March 13 to Discuss Potential Pressurized Water Reactor Weld Issues (3/11)
08-054	NRC and Great Britain Renew Nuclear Safety Cooperation Agreement (3/13)
08-055	NRC Announces Chief of New Computer Security Office (3/14)
08-056	Statement of NRC Chairman Dale E. Klein on the Confirmation of Kristine Svinicki as an NRC Commissioner (3/14)
08-057	Statement of NRC Chairman Dale E. Klein on the Confirmation of Gregory Jaczko to a Second Term (3/14)

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Regions:	
IV-08-008	NRC TO Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (3/14)

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-08-0024	02/25/08	Delegation of Commission Authority to Staff to Approve or Deny Emergency Plan Changes that Represent a Decrease in Effectiveness
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0032	03/07/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 29, 2008
2. SECY-08-0026	02/28/08	Annual Report on Court Litigation (Calendar Year 2007)

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material; Notification of Impending Waiver Termination.
2. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes; Notice of Meeting (April 28-29, 2008).
3. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting (March 19, 2008).
4. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor - (April 09, 2008).

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 7					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Kron	03/12/08 TBA	9:30	House Select Energy Independence and Global Warming (Representatives Markey / Sensenbrenner)	Nuclear Energy and Global Warming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amory Lovins, Cofounder – Chairman and Chief Scientist, Rocky Mountain Institute • Sharon Squassoni, Senior Associate, Nonproliferation Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace • David Lochbaum, Director, Nuclear Safety Project, Union of Concerned Scientists
Powell	03/12/08 SD-366	2:15	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"> • GAO • DOI • 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 • EPA • David Ulibarri, State Senator (D), New Mexico • National Mining Association

Kron	03/12/08 SD-342	2:30	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 • Cyber Security Industry Alliance <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