

INFORMATION REPORT

April 29, 2008

SECY-08-0060

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
APRIL 18, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA Georgette M. Price for/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Information Exchange with Japanese Nuclear Energy Safety (JNES) Organization

Between April 8-11, 2008, the Division of Component Integrity and the Division of Safety Systems staff discussed technical issues related to Pressurized Water Reactor and Boiling Water Reactor sump clogging with the JNES in Tokyo. Specific topics of this information exchange included regulatory approaches to issue resolution, chemical effects, head loss testing, debris loading sequences, models on head loss correlations, and JNES progress in development of an integrated analysis computer code. In addition to the technical discussions, the NRC staff traveled to a Japanese test facility in Yokasuka in order to observe demonstrations of chemical effects and head loss testing equipment. During the meetings and testing facility tours the NRC staff obtained technical information that will be beneficial for resolution of sump blockage issues at U.S. plants.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805 Pilot Observation Visit

On April 14-15, 2008, an NFPA 805 Pilot Observation Visit was held with Duke Energy and Progress Energy at Duke Energy Headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina. On April 16, 2008, a public meeting was held to discuss the pilot plant implementation of NFPA 805. Staff from the NRR Division of Risk Assessment (DRA), the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) assisted in conducting the Pilot Observation Visit and the public meeting.

Prairie Island License Renewal

On April 15, 2008, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) submitted an application for renewal of the operating licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant is located within the city limits of Red Wing, Minnesota on the West bank of the Mississippi River in SE Minnesota. The current operating licenses for Prairie Island Unit 1 and Unit 2 expire at midnight, August 9, 2013, and October 29, 2014, respectively. By this application, NMC requests that both Prairie Island Unit 1 and Unit 2 operating licenses be extended for 20 years beyond their current expiration dates to midnight, August 9, 2033 for Unit 1 and October 29, 2034 for Unit 2. The staff will perform an acceptance review of the application in accordance with 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Monthly Meeting

On April 16-17, 2008, NRR, the Division of Inspection and Regional Support held the monthly ROP public meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for discussion of staff initiatives and a method for industry feedback. On the first day, participants discussed the Mitigating Systems Performance Index, reactor assessment issues, performance indicator issues, reactor inspection issues, and open and new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

During the second day's session on safety culture, the NRC staff provided stakeholders with working level thoughts and draft changes related to the ongoing safety culture assessment involving:

- Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program"
- IMC 0612, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports"
- Inspection Procedure (IP) 95003, "Supplemental Inspection for Repetitive Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Yellow Inputs, or One Red Input"
- IP 71152, "Identification and Resolution of Problems"

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Annual Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Coordination Meeting

On April 10, 2008, NRO management and staff participated in an annual coordination meeting with the Vice President, Training and Accreditation, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss INPO and NRC initiatives and issues related to the training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel. Topics discussed included new reactor accreditation, the National Academy for Nuclear Training electronic learning system, revisions to Academy and INPO documents, an update of accreditation activities, and the future of training in the nuclear industry. No new policy issues were identified during the meeting.

Public Meeting Regarding Review Schedule of the US-APWR Design Certification Application

On April 15, 2008, NRO staff participated in a meeting with representatives from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) to discuss MHI's updated submittal plans for design information in the US-APWR design certification and the impact of the submittal plan on the review schedule. MHI indicated it had made improvements to its submittal plan for both the sump strainer design and stress analysis reports. MHI also discussed the contents of future technical reports and plans to revise the US-APWR Design Control Document. The staff will consider the information provided by MHI before finalizing the US-APWR review schedule.

Public Meeting with Southern Nuclear Operating Company Regarding Vogtle Combined License Application

On April 17, 2008, NRO staff participated in a public meeting with representatives of Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC). The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the staff with the recently-tendered Vogtle Units 3 and 4 combined license (COL) application. This meeting provided the initial opportunity for SNC to familiarize the staff with the overall structure and format of the Vogtle Units 3 and 4 COL application and address any technical questions related to the application. The meeting consisted of presentations by several SNC representatives who discussed the differences between the Vogtle subsequent COL (S-COL) application from the reference COL, various departures, variances and exemptions and the integration of the Vogtle Early Site Permit application with the Vogtle S-COL application.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Request to Renew the Paducah and Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plants' (GDP) Certifications

By letters dated April 10, 2008, NRC staff received the applications from the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) for the renewal of the certificates of compliance, for the GDPs that are located near Paducah, Kentucky and Piketon, Ohio. NRC issued the initial certificates of compliance for the GDPs on November 26, 1996, and assumed regulatory oversight for the GDPs on March 3, 1997. The GDPs were last issued renewed certificates of compliance on December 29, 2003, and those certificates expire December 31, 2008. The USEC renewal requests are for a five-year period (the maximum allowed by statute), extending from the current expiration date to December 31, 2013. NRC regulations (10 CFR 76.43) require that the NMSS Office Director render a Director's Decision, on the application within six months of receipt. That decision, along with a Report to Congress, required by Section 1701 of the Atomic Energy of Act of 1954, as amended, will be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

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Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

The Nuclear Energy Agency Holds 116th Session of the Steering Committee

During the week of April 14-18, 2008, FSME, participated in the Nuclear Energy Agency's 116th session of the Steering Committee in Paris, France. FSME led the U.S. delegation and participated in discussions on radioactive waste management, radiation protection, public health, and nuclear safety and regulation. The Executive Director for Operations also participated in the policy debate on "Life Management of Nuclear Power Facilities" as part of the meeting.

Presentation to the Savannah River Site Citizen's Advisory Board Waste Management Committee

On April 15, 2008, staff from FSME participated in a meeting of the Savannah River Site Citizen's Advisory Board Waste Management Committee in Aiken, South Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Committee a status of high-level waste tank closure activities at the Savannah River Site that are being conducted pursuant to Section 3116 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. The meeting included time for separate agency presentations by the NRC, the U.S. Department of Energy, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Region 4 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. There was also an opportunity for the Committee to question a panel comprised of representatives from all four agencies. The NRC staff presented the results of NRC monitoring activities since May 2007, when the Committee was last briefed by NRC.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Next Generation Nuclear Plant Phenomena Identification and Ranking Tables (PIRTs) Report
NUREG/CR-6944

On April 14, 2008, the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research published NUREG/CR-6944, titled "Next Generation Nuclear Plant PIRTs. The report, posted on NRC's public web site, describes in five volumes (volumes 2 through 6) the deliberations of five expert panels in the topical areas of: (1) accident analysis and thermal-fluids, including neutronics; (2) fission product transport; (3) high temperature materials; (4) graphite; and (5) process heat and hydrogen production. Volume 1 (Main Report) summarizes the findings.

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Expansion of the National Source Tracking System (NSTS); Proposed Rule (3150-AI29 - Parts 20 and 32)

On April 11, 2008, the NRC published a proposed rule (73 FR 19749) to amend its regulations to expand the current NSTS to include certain additional sealed sources. The proposed amendment would require licensees to report certain transactions involving these sealed sources to the NSTS. These transactions would include the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly, or disposal of the nationally tracked source. The proposed amendment would also require each licensee to provide its initial inventory of nationally tracked sources to the NSTS and annually verify and reconcile the information in the system with the licensee's actual inventory. Comments on the proposed rule are due June 25, 2008.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of April 11-17, 2008:

Program Manager position, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, names and comments made by individuals contacted for supervisory verification and reference	FOIA/PA-2008-0181
Allegation RIV-1999-A-0097, including all correspondence between named individual and NRC	FOIA/PA-2008-0182
OI Report 4-2008-001	FOIA/PA-2008-0183
Staveley formerly known as Conam, 182-198 Internationale Blvd., Glendale Heights, DuPage County, Illinois 60139, material license and environmental concerns	FOIA/PA-2008-0184
Information on named individual in NRC's personnel access data system (PADS)	FOIA/PA-2008-0185
Troy incident associated with the Simon test, 4-24-1953 (Operation Upshot-Knothole)	FOIA/PA-2008-0186
RFQ ASB 04-232 and all bids submitted	FOIA/PA-2008-0187
OI Report 4-2007-040 and copy of transcript of interview with named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0188
Turkey Point, EA-07-138, all documents regarding Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty including but not limited to OI Report 2-2006-013	FOIA/PA-2008-0189
RFP HR-08-699, Employee Assistance Program, copy of proposal submitted by company awarded the contract	FOIA/PA-2008-0190

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Departures		
BROWN, CAROL	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	ACRS
MCCABE, WILLIAM	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	OCFO
NGUYEN, NEIL	IT SPECIALIST (INFOSEC)	OIS

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
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OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Earthquake in southeastern Illinois caused Palisades and DC Cook nuclear power plants, both in Michigan to declare an unusual event;

Proposed rule to expand the National Source Tracking System;

Reanalysis of metal fatigue for reactor recirculation nozzles at the Oyster Creek nuclear plant;

Power Resource Inc. recent notice of violation from the state of Wyoming for slow groundwater remediation at its in-situ leaches recovery facility;

Low-level waste imports; and

New Jersey's plans for a state supported new energy master plan.

Other Public Affairs Items:

International reporters and wire services interviewed Chairman Klein during his participation at the Convention of Nuclear Safety in Vienna, Austria;

OPA supported the Senate hearing on nuclear terrorism; and

OPA Regional staff assisted in numerous end-of cycle meetings.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-075	Deadline Extended Until April 23 to Pre-Register for Public Comment Sessions on Vogtle Early Site Permit (4/15)
08-076	Vogtle Application for New Reactors Available on NRC Website (4/15)
08-077	NRC Updates Policy on Conducting New Reactor Licensing Hearings (4/16)
08-078	NRC Dockets Application for New Reactors at Harris Site in North Carolina (4/18)
08-079	Complete Calvert Cliffs Application for New Reactor Available on NRC Website (4/18)
08-080	NRC Accepts Application for New Reactor at Grand Gulf (4/18)

Regions:	
I-08-026	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Impact Statement for Three Mile Island 1 License Renewal Application (4/15)
I-08-027	NRC to Discuss Annual Assessment for Nine Mile Point Plant at Two Public Meetings Set for April 23 in Fulton, N.Y. (4/16)
II-08-024	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment of Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant (4/18)
III-08-015	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Byron Nuclear Power Plant (4/18)

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
SECY-08-0049	4/14/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending April 18, 2008
SECY-08-0046	4/2/08	Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment for Calendar Year 2007
Memoranda		
M080408	4/16/08	SRM – Joint Meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the (NRC)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Governor James H. Douglas, Vermont, dated April 11, 2008, responds to request for additional plant performance information related to Vermont Yankee.
2. Letter to Congressman Bart Gordon, dated April 9, 2008, responds to letter expressing concerns about an application submitted to NRC by EnergySolutions for a license to import 20,000 tons of low-level radioactive waste into the U.S.
3. Letter to Borbala Vajda, President, National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) in Bucharest, Romania, dated April 9, 2008, expresses congratulations on her appointment as President of CNCAN.
4. Letter to Congressman David Price, dated April 7, 2008, responds to letter regarding the NRC Inspector General report on "NRC's Oversight of Hemyc Fire Barriers."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Conduct of New Reactor Licensing Proceedings; Final Policy Statement.
2. Dominion Virginia Power, Supplement to Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene on a Combined License for North Anna, Unit 3; Order Imposing Procedures for Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) and Safeguards Information (SGI) for Contention Preparation, Docket No. 52-017.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, Notice of Cancellation of 4/18/2008 Meeting.
4. ACRS, notice of 552nd meeting (5/8-10/2008).

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

On April 14-18, 2008, the Regional Office held the Annual Assessment meetings for the Browns Ferry and Surry Nuclear Power Plant. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Process at the sites.

American Association of Blacks in Energy Career Fair

On April 17-18, 2008, the Acting Regional Administrator attended the American Association of Blacks in Energy Career Fair in Houston, Texas.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 2008

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Public Annual Assessment Meeting

On April 16, Region IV staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in Port Gibson, Mississippi, to discuss Grand Gulf Nuclear Station's safety performance for 2007. Participants included Entergy managers and Region IV staff. Approximately 20 people attended the presentation, including several members of the public and one member of the local media.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 12					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	04/15/08 342 DSOB	10:00	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Senators Lieberman / Collins)	Nuclear Terrorism: Confronting the Challenges of the Day After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashton B. Carter – Co-Director, Preventive Defense Project, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Cham E. Dall – Director, Institute for Health Management and Mass Destruction Defense, University of Georgia; Roger C. Molander – Senior Research Scientist, RAND Corp.; Jonh R. Gibb – Director, New York State Emergency Management Office
Decker	04/16/08 138 DSOB	2:00	Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Energy and Water (Senators Dorgan / Domenici)	Nation's Nuclear Weapons Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom D'Agostino, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; George Miller, Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Mike Anastasio, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory; and Tom Hunter, Director, Sandia National Laboratory.
Shane/Dacus	05/15/08 TBD	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	New Reactors and License Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRC Commission Others TBD
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

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