

INFORMATION REPORT

November 21, 2008

SECY-08-0180

For: The Commissioners

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Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
NOVEMBER 14, 2008

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 14, 2008

Monticello Extended Power Uprate (EPU) Application

By application dated November 5, 2008, the licensee requested a 13% EPU for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The application requests NRC approval of the amendment by December 1, 2009, and contains plans to implement the EPU in two phases (the first phase within 120 days of NRC approval and the second phase in 2011).

The licensee indicated that their enclosed power uprate safety analysis report is formatted in accordance with RS-001, "Review Standard for Extended Power Uprates." The NRC staff is currently conducting an acceptance review of the application.

It is noted that the licensee for Monticello previously applied for a 5% EPU on March 31, 2008, which the licensee subsequently withdrew on June 25, 2008, when the staff informed the licensee that the application did not pass the staff's acceptance review.

Fourth Meeting of the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA)

From November 5 to 7, 2008, the staff participated in the fourth meeting of the CNRA Working Group on Operating Experience (WGOE) in Paris, France. The staff also participated in the WGOE chair and vice chair meeting, and the WGOE fire event task group meeting. The focus of the WGOE meeting was on analyzing specific events with safety significance from a regulatory viewpoint. The three events covered in detail were the Steam Generator hot leg nozzle cracks (Japan), the gas accumulation in emergency core cooling systems (U.S.), and Steam Generator clogging (France). Major developments in national Operating Experience Feedback systems were shared by each member country. In addition, potential joint efforts between the CNRA and Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. working groups were discussed.

AREVA (Erlangen, Germany) – Cyber Security Factory Acceptance Test (FAT)

From November 5 to 7, 2008, the staff conducted an audit of AREVA's Cyber Security Factory Acceptance Test in Erlangen, Germany. AREVA contended that the FAT tests are adequate in lieu of the Independent Verification and Validation Testing (IVVT). The IVVT requirements were only partially fulfilled during the FAT. The cyber security test procedures are in line with a normal FAT test and not an exhaustive IVVT test plan. Additional testing was not considered feasible due to the procedural requirements and time constraints. Any open issues will be resolved through the request for additional information process.

Management Changes at Energy Northwest

On November 6, 2008, Energy Northwest announced that Scott Oxenford will assume the position of Vice President (VP), Nuclear Generation/Chief Nuclear Officer, replacing Dale Atkinson. Mr. Oxenford is completing a rotation to the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations as a loaned executive. Mr. Atkinson will assume the new position of VP, Operational Support with oversight of emergency preparedness, security, quality, performance improvement, asset

control, and information services. Energy Northwest owns and operates the Columbia Generating Station. These changes are effective January 3, 2009. Energy Northwest also announced that Cheryl Whitcomb, VP, Organizational Performance & Staffing/Chief Knowledge Officer, will retire on January 30, 2009. Her responsibilities will be realigned to other VPs.

Public Meeting with Licensees Previously Using Alion-VUEZ for Generic Safety Issue – 191, Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance, Testing

On November 6, 2008, the staff participated in a Category 2 public meeting with licensees that were relying on the Alion-VUEZ testing method to determine head loss across the sump strainer following a loss of coolant accident. Alion Science and Technology provided two presentations describing the alternate plans for head loss testing and the options they are considering for refinements to the WCAP-16530 methodology for testing with chemical precipitates. The NRC staff provided initial comments and asked the licensees to provide more detailed plant-specific plans with the data that supports their chemical effects test decisions.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 14, 2008

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 4013 (DG-4013) "Radiological Environmental Monitoring for Nuclear Power Plants"

On November 5, 2008, the staff issued DG-4013 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is proposed Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 4.1, which describes a method that the NRC staff considers acceptable for use in establishing and conducting baseline environmental monitoring at nuclear power plants. DG-4013 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/environmental-siting/draft-index.html>.

Meeting of the Program Review Group and Management Board of the Nuclear Energy Agency Rig of Safety Assessment (ROSA) Project

On November 5 and 6, 2008, the staff attended a meeting of the ROSA Project to review progress on the current ROSA test series and to discuss the proposal for the follow-on ROSA-2 Project. Current ROSA activities will be completed by spring 2009 with the first draft of the ROSA final report planned for distribution in October 2009. Several ROSA post-test calculations using TRACE and FLUENT were presented, and the predictions showed good agreement with test results. The TRACE analyses were extended to existing pressurized-water reactors in Spain. These TRACE plant models provided reasonable results that were in agreement with the behavior observed in the ROSA tests. The follow-on ROSA-2 tests are scheduled to begin April 1, 2009, and will concentrate on large-scale test facility thermal-hydraulic testing.

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 1187 (DG-1187) "Concrete Radiation Shields and Generic Shield Testing for Nuclear Power Plants"

On November 7, 2008, the staff issued DG-1187 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.69, which describes a method acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with the regulations regarding the design and construction of concrete radiation shields in nuclear power plants. DG-1187 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 14, 2008

Petition for Rulemaking: Anthony R. Pietrangelo, Nuclear Energy Institute; Consideration of Petition in the Rulemaking Process (PRM-50-75)

On November 6, 2008, the NRC published a document (73 FR 66000) in the *Federal Register* stating that the NRC is considering the issues raised in a petition for rulemaking submitted by Anthony R. Pietrangelo, on behalf of the Nuclear Energy Institute, in the ongoing "Risk-Informed Redefinition of Large Break Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Requirements" rulemaking (Docket ID NRC-2004-0006). The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its regulations to allow the use of an alternative to the currently required double-ended rupture of the largest pipe in the reactor coolant system in ECCS evaluation models.

Petition for Rulemaking: David J. Modeen, Nuclear Energy Institute; Consideration of Petition in the Rulemaking Process (PRM-50-71)

On November 6, 2008, the NRC published a document (73 FR 66000) in the *Federal Register* stating that the NRC is considering the remaining open issues raised in a petition for rulemaking submitted by David J. Modeen, on behalf of the Nuclear Energy Institute, in the ongoing "Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Cladding Acceptance Criteria" rulemaking (Docket ID NRC-2000-0004). The petitioner requested, among other issues, that the NRC amend its regulations to allow nuclear power plant licensees to use zirconium-based cladding materials other than Zircaloy or ZIRLO, provided the cladding materials meet the requirements for fuel cladding performance and have been approved by the NRC staff. In response to this petition, the NRC amended Section 50.44 of its regulations (68 FR 54123, September 16, 2003) to eliminate the requirement to use Zircaloy or ZIRLO cladding. The remaining open issues from PRM-50-71 and associated public comments will be addressed in the ongoing "Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Cladding Acceptance Criteria" rulemaking.

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

Information and Records Services Division Presents at Local Conference

On November 6, 2008, a member from the Information and Records Services Division presented a workshop on "Appraisal Theory and Practice" for the Mid-Atlantic Region Archives Conference (MARAC) in Silver Spring, Maryland. Appraisal is the process of determining the value of records in order to specify the length of time they should be retained by office staff, and what to do with them when they are no longer needed. Nearly 30 attendees, who included representatives from the National Archives and Records Administration, local governments, consulting firms, non-profits, and the private sector, learned about the many strategies, tools, and techniques available to guide and document appraisal decisions. Attendees were also provided with an opportunity to practice using some of these techniques through hands-on exercises.

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

Turkey Point Unit 3 power outage, March 2006, notes and documents provided to NRC from the Federal Bureau of Investigations	FOIA/PA-2009-0028
Allegation, RIV-2007-A-0028, RIV-2007-A-0093, RIV-2007-A-0096, Office of Investigations Report of Investigation 4-2007-049	FOIA/PA-2009-0029
<i>Federal Register</i> 30 FR8185, dated June 26, 1965, and 35 FR6427 dated April 22, 1970 in PDF format	FOIA/PA-2009-0030
Radioactive material license/permit for companies doing business near Altus AFB, Jackson County, Oklahoma, and Vance AFB, Garfield County, Oklahoma, city/county list provided	FOIA/PA-2009-0031
Radioactive material License/permit for companies doing business near Patrick AFB, Brevard County, Florida, city/county list provided	FOIA/PA-2009-0032
NRC utility bills for either August, September, or October 2008, to include electric, natural gas, water, sewer	FOIA/PA-2009-0033

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

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Special Inspection launched at Beaver Valley nuclear plant in Shippingport, Pennsylvania, in response to the discovery of air trapped in a safety system

Radioactive contamination of consumer products, in cheese grater and elevator buttons, as well as scrap metals

Other Public Affairs Items:

Chairman Dale Klein during his visit to India answered questions from the international press.

OPA sent a letter to the Orange County Register in response to a blog item that misrepresented a draft NRC report for the Office of New Reactors on reviewing Tsunami hazards for new power plants.

OPA participated in the Exelon community information night and fielded media questions at the La Salle Nuclear power plant near Ottawa, Illinois.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-204	NRC's Victor McCree Named as One of the Most Influential Black Engineers in 2008 (11/10)
08-205	NRC Opens Help Desk to Assist Public with Electronic Filings in Licensing Proceedings (11/10)
08-206	NRC Publishes Survey Results on Nuclear Accident Response Strategies to Protect the Public (11/13)
Regions:	
I-08-061	NRC Sends Special Inspection Team to Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant (11/12)
III-08-041	NRC Issues an Order to Radiography Company for Inadequate Safety Practices (11/12)
IV-08-041	NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letter to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Lab in Boulder, Colorado (11/12)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 14, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-08-0161	10/24/08	Review of Research and Test Reactor License Renewal Applications
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0175	11/07/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending October 31, 2008
2. SECY-08-0171	11/05/08	Plan for Stabilizing Fire Protection Regulatory Infrastructure

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated November 7, 2008, submits NRC's semiannual report on the status of its licensing and other regulatory activities.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor, notice of meeting (12/03/2008).
2. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (12/03/2008).
3. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy and Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (12/02/2008).
4. ACRS, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Early Site Permits, notice of meeting (12/03/2008).