

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT

February 23, 2005

SECY-05-0037

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0037 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Information Notice (IN) 2005-01: Halon Fire-Extinguishing System Piping Incorrectly Connected

On February 4, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to highlight a potential generic issue regarding incorrectly connected piping in the halon fire-extinguishing systems. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Information Notice (IN) 2005-02: Pressure Boundary Leakage Identified on Steam Generator Bowl Drain Welds

On February 4, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to highlight a potential generic issue regarding a pressure boundary leakage identified on steam generator bowl drain welds at a pressurized-water reactor plant. No specific action or written response is required for INs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2005-01: Changes to Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) Process and Staff Guidance

On February 7, 2005, NRC issued the subject RIS to inform addressees and other stakeholders of certain immediately effective changes to the NRC's NOED process and staff guidance. The RIS and the attached revised NRC Inspection Manual Part 9900: Technical Guidance supercede guidance on the same aspects of the NOED process currently in the NRC Inspection Manual.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

NMSS/Regional Division Directors' Counterpart Meeting

On February 2-3, 2005, Division Directors from NMSS met with their counterparts from the regional offices. The meeting included discussions on: security issues for NMSS and Agreement State licensees; training initiatives; program status updates for a number of activities across the materials and waste arenas; and longer-term challenges likely to face each program over the next 5-10 years. Managers from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, the Office of Human Resources, and the Office of State and Tribal Programs also participated. This was the first of two Division Director counterpart meetings to be held this year.

French Delegation Meets with NMSS Staff on Spent Nuclear Fuel

On February 7, 2005, staff from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, the Spent Fuel Project Office, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses met at NRC headquarters offices to discuss spent nuclear fuel (SNF) performance with representatives from the Commissariat à L'Energie Atomique, CEA Saclay, France. The Commissariat is conducting research on the long-term evolution of spent fuel. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on various safety issues involved in the transportation, storage, and disposal of SNF. The meeting included discussions on the integrity of high burn-up SNF; the release fraction of radionuclides; the hydride embrittlement of cladding; SNF matrix dissolution; and gap and grain boundary inventory of radionuclides. NRC staff also presented an overview of guidance currently under development, in particular, guidance on damaged SNF.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

NRC to Serve as the Designated Representative of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)

On February 8, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed an agreement for the NRC to serve as the designated representative of the AIT. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States and the AIT in Taiwan had signed an agreement on December 13, 2004, relating to the participation in the NRC program of Thermal Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance Research (CAMP) for a five year period. The NRC will serve as the AIT's designated representative for the purposes of that cooperation.

Fission Product Burnup Credit

On February 3, 2005, a meeting was held with representatives from the NRC, Department of Energy (DOE), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to discuss the status on ORNL acquisition of fission product burnup credit (FP BUC) data on behalf of DOE. ORNL presented the status of obtaining experimental data (from Cogema-France) needed to develop a technical basis to allow fission product burnup credit for loading spent nuclear fuel (SNF) assemblies in high-capacity casks. The DOE has tasked ORNL to coordinate the U.S. effort in obtaining the French FP BUC data for NRC, DOE and EPRI, and to negotiate with Cogema on behalf of DOE. A follow-up meeting is planned for May 2005.

Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting for Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Research and Development (R&D) of Multimedia Environmental Models

The subject meeting was held by teleconference on February 8, 2005. At this meeting seven of the nine participating agencies were represented. A subcommittee was established to examine the potential for renewal of the MOU in eighteen months and the consideration of recommendations from the participants for changes in the MOU. The Environmental Protection Agency, DOE, and NRC members were designated to participate on the subcommittee. At this meeting the Chair of the Steering Committee rotated from the US Geological Survey to the DOE. The activities of the working groups under this MOU continue to move the science of multimedia environmental modeling into areas where the agencies can share models and databases more efficiently and where the models themselves will more realistically simulate natural systems. In the long run these tools will make environmental analyses more credible and strengthen the bases for decisions involving environmental contamination. (For more information on the MOU see the website www.ISCMEM.org).

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Preliminary Notifications:

1. PNO-IV-05-002 Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION REQUIRED SHUTDOWN DUE TO A PARTIAL LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER.
2. PNO-IV-05-003 South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company - SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAK.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 11, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of February 4 through February 10, 2005:

Nuclear Materials Events Database (NMED), all available years	FOIA/PA-2005-0132
Case log of FOI requests from 1-1-04 to 12-31-04	FOIA/PA-2005-0133
Task Interface Agreements (TIAs) assigned to NRR from 2000 to present	FOIA/PA-2005-0134
NRC Contract NRC2600307, sections B, C, H, J, L & M, and modifications	FOIA/PA-2005-0135
Inventory of classified AEC records held by NRC	FOIA/PA-2005-0136
NRC Topical Reports since 1985 (with the exception of NEI/NUMARC Reports) that have been approved with SER date, reports rejected or withdrawn & date	FOIA/PA-2005-0137
Investigation 3-2002-040, exhibits, notes, correspondence, correspondence with United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), transcripts	FOIA/PA-2005-0138
Records on named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0139
Organization chart(s), staff directory, or phone book	FOIA/PA-2005-0140
Hematite MO, uranium fuels processing/fabrication facility (Referral by DOE)	FOIA/PA-2005-0141
Clinton Nuclear Power Station, state and local emergency plans	FOIA/PA-2005-0142

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) - NRC Receives the Summit Award

On February 10, 2005, during a CFC keyworker appreciation luncheon, the NRC was recognized for receiving the Summit Award, which is given to agencies that have a 3 percent increase in contributions from the previous year. The 2004 campaign has raised over \$55 million dollars in contributions.

Arrival		
Donna M. Chenier	Consultant	OIP
Departures		
Randall Brown	Consultant	HR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

Halliburton's report of a missing well-logging source, which was subsequently located.

Hearings on a proposed uranium enrichment plant in New Mexico.

The status of the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear plants in Ohio.

NRC's FY 2006 budget request to Congress.

Other Items of Interest

OPA facilitated an interview of Chairman Nils J. Diaz by CNN on nuclear power plant security.

OPA staff provided support at Atomic Safety & Licensing Board hearings in Lea County, N.M.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-023	NRC FY 2006 Budget Increases Nuclear Reactor Safety Program (2/7)
05-024	NRC Considers Changes to Regulations on Safeguards Information (2/8)
05-025	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet Feb. 23-25 in Rockville, Maryland (2/8)
05-026	NRC Testifies on Energy Policy Act of 2005 Before Congressional Committee (2/10)
05-027	NRC Issues Draft Safety Evaluation for Clinton Early Site Permit Application (2/10)
05-028	NRC Discussions with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India (2/11)
Regions:	
I-05-007	NRC Officials to Meet with Pennsylvania Hospital to Discuss Oversight of Radiation Safety Program (2/10)
IV-05-005	NRC Staff to Meet with Entergy Operations, Inc. to Discuss Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2, License Renewal Inspection (2/10)
IV-05-006	NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (2/11)
IV-05-007	NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Arizona Public Service Co. for Palo Verde (2/11)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
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Visit by Delegation from Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission

On February 9, 2005, a four-person delegation from Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission met with staff from NRC's Office of the Inspector General to discuss regulatory review and audit practices.

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0229	12/6/04	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' 10 CFR 26.6 Exemption Request
SRM on SECY-04-0229	01/10/05	(same)
Voting Record on SECY-04-0229	01/10/05	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0028	02/07/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 28, 2005
2. SECY-05-0021	01/27/05	Annual Report on Court Litigation (Calendar Year 2004)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Rep. Joe Barton, dated February 4, 2005, responds to request for information relating to NRC's implementation of data quality guidelines and procedures.
2. Letter to Congress, dated February 2, 2005, provides NRC's Annual Report of the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2004.

Federal Register Notices

1. Notice of Reconstitution, Hydro Resources, Inc., Docket No. 40-8968-ML, ASLBP No. 95-706-01-ML.
2. Proposed Rule: Protection of Safeguards Information, 10 CFR Parts 2, 30, 40, 50, 52, 60, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76 and 150, RIN 3150-AH57.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting on Early Site Permit Applications, notice of meeting (3/2/05).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Periodic Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Management Meetings with Alabama and Florida

During the week of February 1, 2005, a Region I State Agreements Officer held periodic meetings with the States of Alabama and Florida to discuss their radioactive materials programs. No performance issues were identified in either program. The next IMPEP reviews are scheduled for April 2006 for Alabama and February 2007 for Florida.

Spent Fuel Storage At Millstone Station

During the period of January 31 to February 11, 2005, Region I staff and management, with the assistance of Spent Fuel Program Office Staff, conducted an inspection and observed licensee activities in preparation for the movement of spent fuel into an onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut. The purpose of the NRC-observed dry run was to verify that the equipment and station procedures, including licensee staff training, are adequate to support the safe loading of casks and storage of the casks at the ISFSI. Millstone is using the NUHOHMS 32-PT system with storage in horizontal storage modules. Actual movement of spent fuel will commence once licensee followup actions from the dry run are complete.

Management Review Board Meeting on New Hampshire Materials Program

During a special meeting of the Management Review Board (MRB) on February 10, 2005, Region I staff and New Hampshire State representatives discussed the results of a periodic conference call held on January 25, 2005, regarding the State's progress with its Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The State's radioactive materials program is currently in heightened oversight based on its performance in the last two Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) reviews conducted in 2001 and 2004. Based on discussions with the State, the program's performance since the last IMPEP review has been satisfactory in most performance areas with the exception of staffing and training, and regulations required for compatibility. The MRB concluded that the program will continue under heightened oversight until a follow-up review is performed during the summer of 2005.

Tour of Radiological Facilities at the Medstar Georgetown Medical Center

On February 10, 2005, a Region I staff accompanied the Director of the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards and Mr. Julio Barcelo Vernet, Commissioner Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, Spain, and his assistant, on a tour of the radiological facilities at the Medstar Georgetown Medical Center (MGMC). The group visited the facilities of the MGMC's Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine departments and viewed the licensee's CyberKnife, High Dose Remote Afterloader and their combination Positron Emission Tomography/Computerized Tomography devices.

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 11, 2005

Visit by Commissioner Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, Spain

On February 8, 2005, Mr. Julio Barceló Vernet, Commissioner Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, Spain, visited the Turkey Point nuclear plant for a site tour and met with licensee management. On the following day, Commissioner Vernet visited the Region II office and met with senior managers and staff.

Honeywell Licensee Performance Review Meeting

On February 7, 2005, the Deputy Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, conducted a public meeting to discuss the Licensee Performance Review for Honeywell Specialty Chemicals in Metropolis, Illinois.

USEC Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On February 8, 2005, the Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant to observe operations at the plant and to meet with the resident inspectors .

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 6</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	02/16/05 2318 RHOB	11:00	White House Office of Science and Technology, DOE, NSF, DHS, DOC	FY06 Budget : Federal R&D	Reps. Boehlert/Gordon Science
Shane	02/17/05 SD-342	10:00	TBD	Government Programs at High Risk of Waste, Fraud and Abuse	Senators Voinovich/Akaka Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the DC Subcommittee Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
Madden	03/03/05 SD-366	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April	TBD	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Exelon CEO, IBEW rep, City Council rep near Grand Gulf	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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