

INFORMATION REPORT

April 4, 2005

SECY-05-0055

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0055 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 25, 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 March 25, 2005

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2005-05, Regulatory Issues Regarding Criticality Analyses for Spent Fuel Pools and Independent Spent Fuel Pools and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations

On March 23, 2005, NRC issued the subject RIS to all operating and decommissioning pressurized-water reactor (PWR) facilities regarding potential inconsistencies between the regulatory bases of spent fuel pools and independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs). More specifically, the RIS (1) alerts addressees to findings at PWR facilities suggesting that the spent fuel pool licensing and design bases and applicable regulatory requirements may not be met during loading, unloading, and handling of dry casks in the spent fuel pools; (2) emphasizes the importance of maintaining subcritical conditions for spent fuel storage in moderated environments; and (3) encourages addressees to review the current spent fuel pool and ISFSI licensing and design bases at their facilities to ensure compliance during dry cask loading, unloading, and handling operations. No specific action or written response is required for RISs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facility and consider actions, as appropriate.

Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI's) Presentation on Results of Integrated Chemical Effects Testing

On March 21, 2005, NRR staff attended a meeting hosted by the Nuclear Energy Institute to observe EPRI's presentation on the results of integrated chemical effects testing being performed by Los Alamos National Laboratory at the University of New Mexico. The results were presented to various vendor representatives who are responsible for designing both passive and active sump screens to resolve the pressurized-water reactor sump clogging issue. NRC staff attended the meeting to gain a perspective on how the industry is going to approach the problem of chemical precipitants, including their impact on screen head loss and downstream components.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Meeting with Commissioner and staff of the Japanese Nuclear Safety Commission

On March 17, 2005, NMSS staff met with Commissioner Higashi, of the Japanese Nuclear Safety Commission, his technical counselor, and representatives of the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization and the Institute of Applied Energy. The staff provided an overview of NRC's high-level waste (HLW) regulatory program. Commissioner Higashi was especially interested in the potential impact of pending revisions regarding the period of compliance in the Environmental Protection Agency's standards for Yucca Mountain and NRC's treatment of risk and probability in its regulation of long-term disposal of HLW.

Winter Meeting of Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS)

On March 17, 2005, ISCORS, which is co-chaired by NRC, held its quarterly meeting at Department of Energy Headquarters in Washington, DC. Various Federal and state agencies presented their experiences with using x-ray personal security screening systems. These representatives from the Customs and Border Protection, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Army, Transportation Security Administration, Secret Service, and States of Illinois and Pennsylvania were soliciting guidance from ISCORS to help agencies make policy and implement decisions regarding the use of x-rays to screen people. The subcommittees also provided their quarterly updates to the committee members. The next quarterly meeting will be held in June.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Meeting of the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Expert Panel

On March 14 -18, 2005, RES staff held the fifth meeting with the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) Expert Panel. The PMDA PIRT is identifying locations and components in light water reactors that could be susceptible to future materials degradation phenomena and provide a basis for the development of proactive regulatory and industry actions to avoid, mitigate, and/or manage potential future degradation of reactor components. The expert panel reviewed and compared scores from each participant for the final set of components covering the pressurized water reactor (PWR) plant type. In this review, the panel used the methodology developed in prior meetings to examine individual system components and assign values of susceptibility for various degradation mechanisms, confidence in the susceptibility calls, and knowledge level of the degradation mechanisms. In addition, the panel revised draft sections of the report of the PWR results. A draft report for all PWR components examined will be developed by June 2005, and a final draft report for both the boiling water reactor and PWR systems examined will be developed by December 2005. Results from this activity will be used to guide research and regulatory actions to address proactive assessment and management of materials degradation in operating reactors.

Publication of NUREG-1816, "Independent Verification of the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Results for the Pilot Plants"

On March 21, 2005, RES published the subject NUREG which provides independent verification of the results of the MSPI pilot program. This research activity supported the development of the MSPI and ongoing staff efforts to implement the MSPI on an industry-wide basis.

Agreement Between NRC, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety in the Area of Severe Accident Research

On March 23, 2005, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed an international Agreement between the NRC, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS). This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC, KAERI, and KINS will continue cooperating in the area of severe accident research, contribute to expanding the NRC's data and knowledge base in the area of severe accident research and independently verify the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code. The work performed and exchanged under this Agreement also enhances the quality assurance of our reactor safety codes through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent code assessments and feedback. The NRC uses this code to evaluate potential risk and vulnerability scenarios for severe accidents, to address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants, and to review new designs. This Agreement will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

March 25, 2005

ENCLOSURE C

Meeting with Framatome ANP

On March 24, 2005, the NRC staff met with representatives of Framatome ANP, Inc., to discuss plans for the European pressurized reactor (EPR) pre-application review. Framatome, a subsidiary of AREVA and Siemens, presented a high level overview of its plans for submitting a Design Certification Document by the end of 2007. During the pre-application Phase 1, which should continue until December 2005, Framatome has stated its intent to engage the staff in several meetings to discuss topics related to the EPR design such as Design Codes and Standards, Probabilistic Risk Assessment, and Safety Analysis. For Phase II of the proposed pre-application, which is expected to start in January 2006, Framatome will request the NRC to review three topical reports on Critical Heat Flux Correlations, Transient and Accident Analysis Code Applicability Report (including fuel mechanical design), and Severe Accident Evaluation. Framatome's goal is to deploy EPR plants in the U.S. and is in the process of staffing a dedicated U.S. organization committed to preparing a high quality design certification. The central task driving the length of the pre-application period is the engineering work required for U.S. design conversion from European standards and the development of a high-quality submittal.

The EPR is considered by Framatome to be an evolutionary reactor design. The EPR design is a 4-loop pressurized water reactor (PWR) with active safety injection systems and is similar to current operating PWRs in the U.S. However, it has several unique design features such as a double-walled containment, four independent safety injection trains in separate buildings, and a corium spreading area and in-containment reactor water storage tank. Construction is under way in Finland to build an EPR at the Olkiluoto nuclear power site and is scheduled to go online sometime in 2009. Framatome indicated that it is looking to solidify wide-spread support from domestic utilities in the U.S.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

PNO-IV-05-006, Conan MMP Inspection, Inc - OVEREXPOSURE DURING RADIOGRAPHY OPERATIONS.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
March 18 through March 24, 2005:

High-level waste operation pollution levels, plans for funding & abatement of nuclear leakage & pollution, from 1-1-90 to present	FOIA/PA-2005-0180
Solid waste generated at NRC from 1-1-03 through 12-31-04, invoices, contracts, weigh tickets, bills, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0181
Medical sites using radioactive materials including positron emitting isotopes, & cyclotrons; & facilities that use Medical Linear Accelerators	FOIA/PA-2005-0182

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Arrivals		
Jerome J. Blake	Consultant	R-II
Tiana G. Dawson	Student Volunteer	ADMIN
Jack M. Keeton	Consultant	NRR
Nicola Sanchez	Paralegal Specialist	OGC
Departure		
Kim Ottenstein	Sr. Visual Information Specialist	OIS

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

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

A leak at Hope Creek nuclear plant prompting a reduction in power.

The National Academies of Science report on spent fuel security.

Potential falsification of data on Yucca Mountain.

Duke Power's intention to apply for a combined license for a new nuclear plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-050	NRC Signs Agreement with Belgium to Share Nuclear Safety Information (3/22)
05-051	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant (3/24)
05-052	NRC Returns FirstEnergy Application to Renew Licenses of Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant (3/24)
05-053	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Monticello (3/24)
05-054	NRC Issues Amendments to Specialty Medical Board Certification Criteria (3/24)
05-055	NRC Issues Advisory to Nuclear Facility Operators for Personnel Security Controls (3/25)
Regions:	
I-05-013	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment of Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant (3/22)
I-05-014	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment of Millstone Nuclear Power Plant (3/23)
I-05-015	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant (3/23)
II-05-011	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at North Anna Nuclear Power Plant (3/23)
II-05-012	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Surry Nuclear Power Plant (3/23)
III-05-008	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Palisades Nuclear Power Plant (3/24)
IV-05-008	NRC to Discuss Performance Assessment of Waterford 3 Nuclear Plant (3/22)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated March 17, 2005, responds to letter concerning the two radioactive sources imported from Russia by Haliburton Energy Services.
2. Letter to Congress, dated March 17, 2005, responds to letter concerning emergency alert and notification system requirements for the Indian Point Energy Center.
3. Letter to Thomas F. Reilly, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dated March 14, 2005, responds to letter urging the NRC to take a close look at the various concerns raised by the National Academy of Sciences.
4. Letter to Congress, dated March 14, 2005, provides the monthly report for January 2005 on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 35, RIN 3150-AH19, Medical Use of Byproduct Material - Recognition of Specialty Boards.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station - Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On March 23, 2005, Region I issued a letter to the licensee regarding three apparent violations at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station that are being considered for escalated enforcement. A closed predecisional enforcement conference is scheduled for April 8, 2005, to discuss these violations. The violations are based on an investigation conducted by the NRC's Office of Investigation concerning an incident involving a control room shift crew on June 29, 2004.

March 25, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 25, 2005

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of March 21-25, 2005, Regional staff held the Annual Assessment Meetings for the Catawba, V. C. Summer, and Robinson nuclear plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Management Meeting with Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC

On March 24, 2005, the Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection attended a public meeting held at the NRC headquarters offices in Rockville, Md. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's management oversight of fissile material operations at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility and decommissioning activities at the former fuel fabrication plant in Hematite, MO.

Knowledge Management - 30th Anniversary of Browns Ferry Fire

On March 22, 2005, Region II conducted a training session for the Regional staff on the 1975 Browns Ferry Unit 1 fire event and discussed the lessons learned from the event.

Diversity Day Celebration

On March 23, 2005, the Region II Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee sponsored a Diversity Day Celebration in the Region II office. The Affirmative Employment and Diversity Program Manager, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights, participated in the celebration and conducted training for the EEO Advisory Committee members.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 25, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 12

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	April 5 2247 RHOB	10:00	Senators Reid/Ensign, Governor Guinn, R-NV, DOI, DOE, State of NV reps, and NWTRB	Oversight Hearing on Safety of Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Madden	April 6 SD-366	10:00	TBA	Confirmation Hearing on Nomination of David Garman to be Undersecretary of Energy	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April/May	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
Shane	TBA SD-342	TBA	TBA	Markup S 494 - Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act	Sen. Collins/Lieberman Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Note: The Senate is in recess. The chamber will reconvene 2 p.m. Monday, April 4, and be in a period of morning business. No roll call votes are expected. The House is in recess. It is expected to reconvene on Tuesday, April 5, at 2 p.m. for legislative business.