

# INFORMATION REPORT

January 30, 2006

SECY-06-0017

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
JANUARY 20, 2006

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\*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 - Emergency Technical Specifications Amendment Issued

On January 13, 2006, the NRC staff approved an emergency Technical Specifications (TS) amendment for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1. The amendment lowered the OTSG Level - Low allowable value of Limiting Condition for Operation. The amendment was needed because phenomena related to the new, replacement once-through steam generators (OTSGs) in ANO-1 tend to reduce the measured value of the level during normal operation by an amount greater than anticipated. The lower allowable value was intended to alleviate concerns that operating at 100 percent power with the current allowable value involved a risk of spurious emergency feedwater initiation, and the actuation time delay was intended to minimize the possibility of inadvertent actuations during anticipated transients such as main feedwater transients and main turbine trip. To decrease the likelihood of an inadvertent actuation of emergency feedwater, the licensee has been operating the ANO-1 facility at a derated power level of approximately 98 percent full power. The licensee requested an emergency TS amendment to avoid the continued derate of ANO-1 and allow for resumption of power to 100 percent. The NRC staff determined that emergency circumstances existed and that the licensee used its best efforts to make a timely application and could not avoid the emergency situation.

Nuclear Management Company, LLC - Request for Additional Information Regarding Event Notification 42129

On January 10, 2006, the NRC staff issued a request for additional information (RAI) to Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), related to a November 8, 2005, notification. NMC notified the NRC that the design basis for long-term cooling at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, was not correctly modeled. The notification stated that, "These errors in the modeling fidelity potentially impact the analytical basis for demonstrating compliance with the acceptance criteria of 10 CFR 50.46(b)(5), Long-term cooling."

In order to make a regulatory determination, the NRC staff is reviewing NMC's actions to establish that the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(b)(5) continue to be met. It is anticipated that NMC will provide the RAI response by February 6, 2006.

Meeting with Westinghouse Owners Group

On January 17, 2006, the staff held a public meeting with the Westinghouse Owners Group to discuss future activities on revising the Knowledge and Abilities Catalogs, NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123. The Catalogs are used for selecting operator examination content topics in the development of operator license examinations.

Flowserve Inspection

From January 10-13, 2006, the staff conducted an inspection of the Appendix B quality assurance program at the Flowserve facility in Raleigh, NC. Flowserve is a major supplier of safety related valves and flow control devices to the nuclear industry. The focus of the

inspection was to review implementation of corrective actions from the August 2004 Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) audit, and to review Flowserve's 10 CFR Part 21 program and commercial grade dedication process. Several potential findings in the areas of corrective actions, procedure adequacy and procedural guidance were identified.

Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC Early Site Permit (ESP) Application Supplement

On January 13, 2006, Dominion Nuclear North Anna LLC submitted a supplement to the North Anna ESP application to address a modified approach to the proposed Unit 3 cooling and to ensure that the plant parameter envelope remains bounding. This supplement addresses the safety and the environmental changes in the application resulting from the modified approach. Dominion plans to incorporate the information contained in this supplement in a future Revision to the North Anna ESP application.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Quarterly Management Meeting with USEC Inc. (USEC)

On January 12, 2006, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, and the Office of the General Counsel met with USEC to discuss the status and schedule of NRC's ongoing safety, safeguards, and environmental reviews of USEC's license application dated August 23, 2004, for the proposed American Centrifuge Plant, in Piketon, OH. This was the fifth NRC/USEC quarterly senior management meeting. Issues discussed included the status of NRC's safety, safeguards, and environmental reviews. NRC staff anticipates that the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in mid-April 2006, but issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) has been delayed to mid-April 2006. NRC staff attributed the SER delay to a few complex issues that have not been resolved. NRC noted that there was a common understanding on how to resolve these issues and that issuance of the SER in mid-April was contingent upon USEC providing NRC with the necessary information in a timely manner. USEC stated that it would work with NRC to resolve the issues.

Staff Attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Spent Fuel Management Seminar

On January 11-13, 2006, staff attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Spent Fuel Management Seminar of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, in Washington, D.C. NRC staff and managers presented papers on: (1) NRC activities on the potential Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository; (2) spent fuel storage and transportation experience; and (3) studies of tunnel fires and transportation packages. Other presentations at the meeting covered transportation and storage, and the status and progress of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE's) activities pertaining to spent fuel transportation and repository surface facilities.

Staff Observes DOE Surveillance of Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) Data Qualification Activities

On January 16-18, 2006, staff from NMSS and Region IV observed a DOE surveillance of work on the Yucca Mountain Project. The surveillance covered work performed at SNL, associated with the infiltration model for the proposed repository. The purpose of this surveillance was to evaluate the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of data qualification activities for this model. The NRC observers assessed how effective the DOE surveillance team was in achieving the surveillance objectives.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Agreement Between the NRC, the Russian Research Center (RRC) and the Nuclear Safety Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IBRAE) Severe Accident Research

On January 12, 2006, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the subject international agreement which defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC, RRC and IBRAE will cooperate in the area of severe accident research. Aside from NRC gaining additional data and knowledge related to severe accidents, this cooperative agreement will allow for further verification and validation of the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code for different accident sequences. The NRC uses the MELCOR code to evaluate potential risk and security scenarios for severe accidents, address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants, and to review new designs. This Agreement is effective for a period of five years.

Integrated Chemical Effects Test # 5 Data Report

On January 13, 2006, the subject report, which provides the experimental results associated with this test, was made publicly available through ADAMS (Accession No. ML053550433). This test simulated the chemical environment present in an ice-condenser pressurized water reactor containment water pool after a loss-of-coolant accident using representative amounts of containment materials. The report includes a description of the test observations and process control parameters, and the results of post-test analysis.

Public Meeting with Industry to Discuss Cooperation on Materials Research

On January 17, 2006, staff held the subject meeting at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, as a preliminary meeting supporting the February 6, 2006, Commission Meeting on Materials Issues. The industry outlined its program for defining materials degradation issues and an approach for resolution. The staff presented the Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment (PMDA) program, which analyzed plant components for susceptibility to degradation. Staff and industry also discussed programs for identifying proactive materials degradation research needs and areas for potential collaboration through the NRC/EPRI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure that neither party is unnecessarily duplicating efforts.

Quick-Look Report on Chemical Effects Head Loss Testing

On January 20, 2006, the subject report was made publically available through ADAMS (Accession No. ML060190713) as an attachment to Information Notice 2005-26, Supplement 1. Chemical effects/head loss tests were performed to assess potential formation of chemical by-products in a pressurized water reactor containment sump pool environment and the effects on sump clogging. Results showed that chemical products associated with tri-sodium phosphate buffered environments containing dissolved calcium may significantly affect head loss. A public meeting will be held on February 9, 2006, to discuss implications of these test results.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-06-001, Exelon Generation Co. - DEGRADED ACTUATORS FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC RELIEF VALVES.
2. PNO-III-05-016B, Braidwood 1 and 2 - POTENTIAL OFF-SITE MIGRATION OF TRITIUM CONTAMINATION (2ND UPDATE).
3. PNO-III-06-001A, Exelon Generation Co. - DEGRADED ACTUATORS FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC RELIEF VALVES (UPDATE).

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Contract Award

On January 11, 2006, grant no. NRC-04-06-069 was awarded to the National Academy of Sciences. The grantee shall provide a review of current industrial, research, and commercial uses of radiation sources and shall identify technically and economically feasible replacements for sources that pose a high risk to public health and safety in an accident or terrorist attack. The total estimated cost is \$647,704. The period of performance is fifteen months.

Acquisition Training for Project Managers

The five mandatory acquisition courses for Project Managers were offered between January 9-12, 2006. The Division of Contracts conducted the introductory "Overview" acquisition course. The Office of the General Counsel conducted the Organizational Conflict of Interest course. The remaining three courses were Preparing Statements of Work, Contract Administration, and Developing an Independent Government Cost Estimate. Guest presenters included staff from the Office of Administration, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of the Inspector General. As a result of this week long training session, 22 Project Managers obtained certifications.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
January 13, 2006 through January 19, 2006:

OIG report, case no. 05-02S	FOIA/PA-2006-0086
Sealed source device registrations issued to International Isotopes Idaho Inc., International Isotopes Inc., NRX Acquisition Corp., RadQual, LLC, etc., all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0087
Yale Univ., docket no. 030-00582 & other docket numbers, 1989, all records including inspection reports, violations, orders, licensing documents	FOIA/PA-2006-0088
NRC classified records inventory log	FOIA/PA-2006-0089
Mailing list - Referral by GSA	FOIA/PA-2006-0090

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
GUTIERREZ, MAURICIO	GENERAL ENGINEER	NRR
HITCHUK, BETTY J.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-II
KOZAL, JASON W.	NUCLEAR SYSTEMS ENGINEER/SCIENTIST	NSIR
LUPOLD, TIMOTHY R.	MATERIALS ENGINEER	NRR
ORTIZ MORALES, GRISEL M.	STUDENT ENGINEER TRAINEE (CO-OP)	RES
TESFAYE, GETACHEW	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
<b>Departures</b>		
GREENE, CHARLES A.	MATERIALS ENGINEER	RES
KAYE, KAREN M.	IT SPECIALIST (PLCYPLN)	IS
SCHOENGOLD, JOSEPH AARON	STUDENT ACCOUNTANT (CO-OP)	NSIR

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

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

Federal indictments in the Davis-Besse reactor head corrosion investigation, and a Justice Department fine against FirstEnergy for not providing accurate information to the NRC.

Local concerns of increased radiation emissions from Vermont Yankee if a power uprate is approved and implemented.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Region III OPA assisted at the Justice Department's press conference in Cleveland regarding the Davis-Besse indictments.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-007	Diaz Names Jeanne Lopatto Federal/International Assistant (1/19)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-003	NRC, Constellation to Discuss License Renewal Inspection Conducted at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant (1/19)
III-06-003	NRC Statement on Justice Department Davis-Besse Action (1/20)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 20, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
COMSECY-06-0001	1/3/06	Status of Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Business Process Improvement Activities January-December 2005
SRM on COMSECY-06-0001	1/19/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0001	1/19/06	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
SECY-06-0013	1/18/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 6, 2006

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (2/8/06).
2. Proposed rule: Extension of comment period, 10 CFR Part 73, RIN 3150-AH60, Design Basis Threat.
3. Proposed rule: Extension of comment period, 10 CFR Part 50, RIN 3150-AH29, Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements.
4. ACRS, notice of 529<sup>th</sup> meeting (2/9-11/06).
5. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (2/8/06).

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 20, 2006

Commissioner Merrifield Visit to Palo Verde

On January 18, 2006, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. The Commissioner toured the facility and discussed current performance with plant employees, licensee management and the NRC Resident Inspectors.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 20, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 3					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	Week of 02/13/06 <b>Tentative</b> SD-406	TBA	DOE, EPA, NRC, NEI, NWTB, NAS, State of NV	Status of Yucca Mountain license application and radiation standards	Senator Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Combs	02/07/06 <b>Tentative</b>	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senator Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Shane	mid-March SD-406	TBA	NRC	NRC Oversight	Senator Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works