

INFORMATION REPORT

March 2, 2006

SECY-06-0050

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 17, 2006

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Office of Information Services	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business and Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P*
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/ Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste	S*

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Staff Issues Palisades License Renewal Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Public Comment

On February 14, 2006, the staff issued the draft of NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 27, Regarding Palisades Nuclear Plant," for public comment. This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's preliminary analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. It also includes the staff's preliminary recommendation regarding the proposed action: that the Commission determine that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Palisades Nuclear Plant are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

A 75-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on February 23, 2006, with the Notice of Filing of the draft SEIS by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register, and end on May 18, 2006. The staff has scheduled public meetings for April 5, 2006, in South Haven, Michigan, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft SEIS.

Information Notice (IN) on Galvanized Supports and Cable Trays with Meggitt Cables

On January 19, 2006, the Information Notice "Use of Galvanized Supports and Cable Trays with Meggitt Si 2400 Stainless-Steel-Jacketed Electrical Cables" was issued to the public for their use. This IN informs all licensees about adverse effects that occur due to a fire, as a result of reaction between the cable material and its supports.

Meetings Held to Discuss Testing Methodology

On February 10, 2006, the NRC staff held meetings with several replacement strainer vendors including two open meetings with Framatome/Areva and Alion, and a closed meeting with Control Components Incorporated. The discussions mainly concerned technical areas that have yet to be resolved regarding testing methodology in such areas as the near-field effect, chemical precipitation, and downstream effects. The two open meetings will help to facilitate a consistent approach among vendors in resolving the outstanding issues with regard to strainer testing. One of the open meetings further identified a patented design to add a filter downstream of the strainer to mitigate both downstream effects and head loss.

NRR Working to Resolve Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191

On February 14, 2006, NRR staff met with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Thermal Hydraulics to discuss progress and issues related to GSI-191 pressurized water-reactor sump strainer clogging. The staff described its overall approach to resolving the GSI. In addition, presenters summarized current status and work regarding downstream effects, coatings, and chemical effects. The Subcommittee had a

number of questions regarding the technical bases for the staff's future reviews of licensee submittals and to what extent the staff has provided guidance to the industry in addressing the various technical aspects of the GSI. The staff emphasized the importance of addressing undersized strainers, recognizing that the testing and technical work to reduce uncertainties regarding the GSI are not yet complete. The staff will meet with the ACRS Full Committee on March 9 to discuss GSI-191.

Duke Energy Proposed Resolving Vulnerabilities at Oconee

On February 7, 2006, NRR staff participated in a meeting with Duke Energy to discuss the licensee's plans and schedules for resolving tornado and high energy line break vulnerabilities at the Oconee units as proposed in a letter to the NRC dated January 31, 2006. Duke's resolution of these issues includes the submittal of License Amendment Requests to address licensing basis considerations, analytical approaches for resolving some vulnerabilities, and implementation of major plant modifications that include (for example) upgrading the station auxiliary service water pump to high head with the capability to provide secondary makeup to all three Oconee units, and providing protection for the inventory of the borated water storage tanks from the effects of tornado missiles. While the staff questioned the schedule for completing some of the proposed actions (June 30, 2009), the licensee explained that the schedules are preliminary estimates based upon long lead times for material procurement, outage schedule constraints, and tornado season considerations.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Staff Visits the Fran Ridge Large Block Test at the Yucca Mountain Site

On February 13, 2006, staff visited the Fran Ridge Large Block Test facility at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada, which is a 36-cubic-meter rock carved out of Yucca Mountain. The Department of Energy (DOE) used the rock for fracture mapping, flow, seepage, and transport experiments. DOE is currently planning to remove the rock to use the site for other purposes. Staff is evaluating whether the Fran Ridge Large Block Test facility could be used for validating NRC's computer simulation models.

NMSS'/Regional Division Directors' Counterpart Meeting

On February 9-10, 2006, in order to enhance communications between NMSS and the regions, NMSS Division Directors met with their counterparts from the regional Divisions of Nuclear Materials Safety at NRC Headquarters. The meeting included discussions on: (1) safety and security issues for NMSS and Agreement State licensees; (2) training initiatives; (3) various program status updates for a number of projects across the materials and waste arenas; and (4) discussions on the long-range changes envisioned for the various programs over the next several years. Managers, supervisors, and senior staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Information Services, and the Office of State and Tribal Programs also participated. This was the first of two Division Director counterpart meetings held this year. Plans call for the next meeting to take place in approximately 6 months.

Meeting of the Therapy Physics Committee (TPC), American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)

On February 7-8, 2006, an NMSS staff member attended a meeting of the TPC, AAPM, held in Houston, TX. The principal purposes of the meeting were to review the AAPM site visit report for the Radiological Physics Center located at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, and to review the report preparation status and activities of multiple task groups and subcommittees, many of interest to NRC's medical use regulatory program. The NRC Liaison advised TPC members of the availability of the NMSS Licensee Newsletter published quarterly, which can be found on the NRC public website. In addition, TPC members were advised that there is a paper on the adequacy of medical event definitions and communicating associated risks to the public, that the Commission is now considering. It was noted that development of the paper involved input from NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, which has three members with AAPM affiliation.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Decision on Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) on Issuance for Public Comment of a Draft NUREG on Fire Model Verification and Validation (V&V) (DPO-2005-006)

On February 13, 2006, the Director, RES, issued the subject decision. The DPO focused on whether the draft NUREG should be published without publishing certain benchmark exercise research reports which addressed potential issues and limitations with two of the five fire models in the V&V. An Ad Hoc Review Panel determined that it was acceptable to publish the draft NUREG for public comment. Based on a review of the panel's report and additional comments provided by the DPO submitter and staff, the Director, RES, agreed with the panel, and concluded that the issues and/or limitations of the fire models had already been successfully addressed by the RES staff in development of the draft NUREG.

Halden Project Releases Report Related to Alternate Source Terms

At the request of NRC, the Halden Research Project (HRP), a multinational research organization located in Norway, released its report, "The Treatment of Radioactive Fission Gas Release Measurements and Provision of Data for Development and Validation of the ANS 5.4 Model," into the public domain. The HRP work is associated with Regulatory Guide 1.183 - "Alternative Radiological Source Terms for Evaluating Design Basis Accidents at Nuclear Power Reactors." These data will be further used to validate the fission product release models, the first step in quantifying radiological consequences. Recently, the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group proposed a method of determining radioactive fission gas release based on efforts of the ANS 5.4 Working Group.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-06-002, Mostoller Landfill - IDENTIFICATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT A PENNSYLVANIA LANDFILL.
2. PNO-RIII-06-004, Dresden 2 and 3 - TRITIUM LEAKAGE.

February 17, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2006 (AH83 - Parts 170 and 171)

On February 10, 2006 (71 FR 7350), a proposed rule that would amend the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to the Commission's applicants and licensees was published in the Federal Register. The proposed rule is intended to ensure NRC compliance with the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended. The Act mandates that the NRC recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in Fiscal Year 2006, less amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund and for Waste Incidental to Reprocessing activities. The amount to be recovered for FY 2006 is approximately \$625 million. The comment period on this action closes March 13, 2006.

February 17, 2006

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Agency-Wide Corel Office Suite Upgrade

OIS is planning to upgrade all Windows desktops with a new Corel Office Suite. OIS is working with major stakeholders to test and evaluate WordPerfect Office 12 and the latest version just released from Corel this month, WordPerfect Office X3. A decision on the upgrade path will be made shortly, then program offices and regions will be notified of the upgrade process and given time to review and test the chosen product. The rollout is currently targeted for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year '06.

Progress on the Hidden Text Issue

OIS staff has finished briefing all information technology (IT) coordinators about the hidden text issue and provided them with additional information to disseminate to their staffs. OIS is currently completing work on an automated script that will examine each WordPerfect document used to generate a PDF file that is currently publicly-available in ADAMS to determine if the document uses any of the WordPerfect features/codes that could potentially result in "hidden" text in the final PDF file. The use of the automated script will greatly reduce the number of existing documents that each office/region might have to examine to ensure that hidden text was not inappropriately released. OIS has also met with the Professional Development Center (PDC) to discuss incorporating information regarding "hidden text" into its appropriate PDC classes.

IT/Information Management (IM) Strategic Planning

On February 9, 2006, IT/IM Strategic Planning activities continued at the OIS Managers' Off-Site meeting. A facilitated working session was used to begin the development of strategies and measures for the six strategic goals. The OIS Strategic Planning Subgroup is now working on refining the draft strategies and measures for discussion with the OIS Strategic Planning Team on February 21. An update on the process was presented at the OIS All-Hands Meeting on February 15, in preparation for soliciting staff input on the strategies and measures. On February 23, a video teleconference session will be held with the Regional IT/IM Strategic Planning Group (ISPG) representatives. After that meeting the final agencywide IT/IM Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals, reflecting ISPG and IT Advisory Council comments, will be provided to the Chief Information Officer.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of February 10, 2006 through February 16, 2006:

Nuclear Materials Events Database (NMED), all years available	FOIA/PA-2006-0107
Strange Co., 342 N. Western Ave., license no. 12-12877-01, all records (MLTS1001210780)	FOIA/PA-2006-0108

USS King deck logs	FOIA/PA-2006-0109
Argonne National Lab research conducted on high-burnup reactor fuel, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0110
Records on named individuals	FOIA/PA-2006-0111
OI Report 1-2003-011, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0112
Nuclear Management Co. Fitness-For-Duty Program at Kewaunee & Point Beach, 1-1-01 to present; OI Reports 3-2002-04 & 3-2002-020	FOIA/PA-2006-0113
Statistical breakdown of FOIA requester types for FY2005, number of requests received & distribution percentage	FOIA/PA-2006-0114
Braidwood tritium spill resident inspector condition report A2000-04281; communications with Region III, NRR, OGC & Commission	FOIA/PA-2006-0115
Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, NRC's strategic plan to identify critical infrastructure & key resources & protect them from terrorist attacks, executive summary or similar	FOIA/PA-2006-0116
Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, NRC's strategic plan to identify critical infrastructure & key resources & protect them from terrorist attacks, Table of Contents	FOIA/PA-2006-0117
Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, NRC's strategic plan to identify critical infrastructure & key resources & protect them from terrorist attacks, first 3 pages of plan	FOIA/PA-2006-0118

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 17, 2006

Arrival		
BERRIOS, ILKA T.	MECHANICAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RES
BOWER, PHYLLIS A.	BRANCH CHIEF	ADM
DEMPSEY, MARLENE	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG
EVEN, CHRISTOPHER J.	REACTOR INSPECTOR (NSPDP)	R-II
REGNER, LISA M.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
WILLBANKS, CHARLES	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
Retirements		
MARKEN, SHELLY L.	PROGRAM ASSISTANT	CFO
Departures		
FORDER, JAMIE L.	PROGRAM SUPPORT ASSISTANT	NSIR
LOEFFLER, APRIL M.	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR
VELAZQUEZ-LOZADA, ALEXANDER	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
ZIPKIN, SHANA C.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Media Interest

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

Chairman's Platts speech (2/13) on New Reactors.

Exelon testing for tritium at all of its reactors resulting from issues at Dresden, Braidwood and Bryon.

Oyster Creek license renewal.

Private Fuel Storage license application process and issuance.

Palo Verde financial assessments associated with units being offline.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Mike Weber, NSIR, spoke to AP about security and the Design Basis Threat.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-024	NRC Terminates ACHP Consultation, Prepares to Issue License to Private Fuel Storage (2/13)
06-025	NRC Releases Results of its 2005 Safety Culture and Climate Survey (2/16)
06-026	NRC Issues Report for Comment on Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Cask Response to Caldecott Tunnel Fire Scenario (2/17)
06-027	NRC Issues Final Safety Evaluation for Clinton Early Site Permit Application (2/17)
Regions:	
II-06-002	NRC to Continue Heightened Inspections at Honeywell although Plant Operated Safely During Past Year (2/14)
I-06-008	New NRC Resident Inspector Assigned to Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant (2/16)
II-06-003	NRC Sends Augmented Inspection Team to Review Security at Florida Nuclear Power Plant and Issues Confirmatory Action Letter (2/17)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 17, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-05-0234	02/15/06	Adequacy of Medical Event Definitions in 10 CFR 35.3045, and Communicating Associated Risks to the Public
Commission Voting Record on 05-0234	02/15/06	(same)
Memoranda		
1. M060131B	02/14/06	SRM-Briefing on Strategic Workforce Planning and Human Capital Initiatives
2. M060206A	02/17/06	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Materials Degradation Issues and Fuel Reliability
3. M060208B	02/17/06	Staff Requirements - Briefing on RES Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated February 10, 2006, provides the December 2005 report on the status of NRC's licensing and other regulatory activities.
2. Letter to Congress, dated February 10, 2006, provides NRC's Annual Report of Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2005.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (3/8/06).
2. ACRS Meeting of the Subcommittee on Early Site Permits, notice of meeting (3/8/06).

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Farley Management Meeting

On February 14, 2006, Region II management met with representatives from the Southern Nuclear Company, Inc., in the Regional Office to discuss Farley nuclear plant's operating performance and other site issues.

February 17, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 17, 2006

Nebraska Public Power District - Cooper Nuclear Station

On February 10, 2006, Bill Fehrman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nebraska Public Power District, announced his resignation. Mr. Fehrman will accept a position as Senior Vice President with MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, effective April 1. Mr. Fehrman's replacement has not been named.

Entergy Operations, Inc. - River Bend Nuclear Station

On February 10, 2006, the River Bend nuclear reactor unit was shut down to inspect possible causes of moisture carryover from the unit's steam dryer to the outlet steam lines. On February 15, 2006, River Bend completed inspection of the steam dryer and found no evidence of cracking or defects. NRC inspectors observed the inspections. The licensee determined that the method they used for detecting moisture carryover was not accurate. The licensee's methodology for measuring moisture carryover relied primarily on the amount of Sodium 24 that was detected in the main steam lines. However, Iodine-135 activity in the steam plant resulting from known fuel leaks was misidentified as Sodium-24, which resulted in a false indication of moisture carryover. Region IV is coordinating with NRR to evaluate this issue for a potential generic communication.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 17, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 6					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	02/14/06 SD-366	10:00	Energy Information Administration	Energy Outlook and Trends	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	03/07/06 SR-232A	2:45	Linton Brooks-National Nuclear Security Administration, Joseph Rispoli-Assistant Secretary fo Energy for Environmental Mgmt.	FY 2007 Budget - Nuclear Weapons and Environmental Cleanup	Senators Sessions/Nelson Strategic Forces Armed Services
Decker	03/08/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy-Overview	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Shane	03/09/06 SD-406	TBA	NRC	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Decker	03/09/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy-Environmental Management	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/14/06 Tentative	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

February 17, 2006

ENCLOSURE R

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 6

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/15/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy - Nuclear Waste Disposal	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/23/06 Las Vegas, NV	10:00	NRC, GAO, DOE/OCRWM, DOE/IG, Bechtel	Yucca Mountain Project: Persistent Management and Quality Assurance	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Combs	03/28/06 or 03/30/06 TBD	TBD	NRC, GAO, DOE/NNSA, DHS/Customs and Border Protection	GAO findings with regard to counterfeiting an NRC license and general availability of exempt quantity radioactive sources	Senators Coleman/Levin Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs