

INFORMATION REPORT

April 28, 2006

SECY-06-0096

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
APRIL 21, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Mitigating Systems Performance Index and Reactor Oversight Process Combined Meeting

On April 20, 2006, a Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) and Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) combined public meeting was held at NRC Headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed the status of full implementation of the MSPI, Consolidated Data Entry training, and resident inspector MSPI training issues. Meeting participants also discussed draft Significant Determination Process and inspection procedure revisions, safety culture issues, non-sensitive ROP security issues, performance indicator program improvement initiatives, and open and new performance indicator frequently asked questions.

Staff Issues Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 License Renewal Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

On April 17, 2006, the staff issued the Final Supplement 25 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2. The supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) represents the completion of the staff's environmental review of the license renewal application submitted by Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), now doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. The report contains the NRC's finding that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue the Notice of Availability of the final SEIS in the April 28, 2006, Federal Register. The NRC can then proceed with the renewal actions after a 30-day period expires (May 28, 2006), provided that no Federal agency refers matters in dispute in the final SEIS to the Council on Environmental Quality.

NRR and Division of New Reactor Licensing Reorganization

A reorganization of Divisions within NRR became effective on April 16, 2006. The organizational changes mostly impacted the Division of New Reactor Licensing (DNRL), which increased from two to five branches. The changes are consistent with the goals of NRR's October 2005 reorganization to prepare the office for the increase in new reactor licensing workload and allow for an increase in the first-line supervisory oversight. These organizational changes reflect the growth in anticipated new reactor applications and begin to align the organization towards a design centered review approach. It is expected that additional organizational changes will be needed in the future, consistent with evolving new reactor licensing activities.

Public Meeting on the Proposed Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 52

On April 18, 2006, the NRC staff held a public meeting to discuss issues associated with the proposed rule to amend 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," which was published in the Federal Register on March 13, 2006 (71 FR 12781). Over 40 representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, nuclear power plant licensees,

vendors, law firms representing nuclear power reactor licensees, and NRC staff attended the meeting. The two main topics of discussion were: (1) alternatives to the proposed change criteria for design certification severe accident design features; and (2) proposals to amend requirements related to NRC's authorization of limited work activities as described in Section 50.10(e). Stakeholders were encouraged to submit written comments on these issues in response to the proposed rule notice or in another form where proposals went beyond issues addressed in the rule.

Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses Presentation to NRC Staff

On April 19, 2006, the staff hosted a presentation by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) to understand its capabilities and potential support functions for future NRR activities. This was a follow-up meeting to the one held on February 15, 2006. Discussions concentrated on the long-term ongoing needs of NRR and how CNWRA may fit into that paradigm. CNWRA and staff are considering expanding the CNWRA charter to include support of reactor activities.

Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Design Certification Quality Assurance Follow-up Inspection and Reliability Assurance Program Discussions

From April 11-13, 2006, the staff conducted an ESBWR quality assurance follow-up inspection at the General Electric Nuclear Energy (GENE) facilities in Wilmington, NC. An inspection report will be issued shortly. The staff previously conducted an inspection the week of November 15, 2005. The staff discussed the Reliability Assurance Program for the ESBWR with the GENE staff, and requests for additional information will be provided as part of the ESBWR design certification review.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Meeting with Transnuclear

On April 19, 2006, the staff met with representatives of Transnuclear (TN), Inc., to discuss transportability of TN-40 metal storage casks used for storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Prairie Island nuclear station. There were discussions on TN's proposed plan for testing the impact limiters and on the use of burnup credit in satisfying the criticality requirements under transportation conditions. TN presented its methodology and the results of its analyses. TN is planning to submit its application in June 2006.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Fuel Solutions Revision (Amendment 4) (AH786 Part 72)

On April 18, 2006, the NRC published a direct final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 19806) that amends the Fuel Solutions entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (Amendment 4) (AH86 - Part 72). This action modifies the cask design to permit longer surveillance intervals for casks with heat loads lower than the design basis heat load and permit visual inspection of the cask vent screens or measurement of the cask liner temperature to satisfy periodic monitoring requirements. The direct final rule becomes effective July 3, 2006.

On April 18, 2006, the NRC published the companion proposed rule to this direct final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 119831). The comment period closes May 18, 2006.

Implementation of the Nuclear Export and Import Provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005

On April 20, 2006, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 20336) that implements the nuclear export and import provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The final rule facilitates exports to specific countries of high-enriched uranium for medical isotope production in reactors that are using low-enriched uranium or have agreed to convert to low-enriched uranium. The final rule also revises the definition of byproduct material and requires specific licenses for the export and import of Radium-226 that meet IAEA threshold values. The final rule becomes effective August 7, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of April 14 through April 20, 2006:

OI report & transcript re: investigation of allegation of discrimination by Exelon against named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0177
OI Report 3-2004-012, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0178
Indian Point 3, flooding or leakage re: the CVCS & WHUT tank areas, from 1980 to 4-14-06, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0179
Fixed gauge licensees in RIV jurisdiction (program code 03120 in MLTS database)	FOIA/PA-2006-0180
Safety visit to Lipman Hall 002, Rutgers Univ. within last 2 weeks re: radioactive iodine incident; credentials of named NRC employees	FOIA/PA-2006-0181
Companies administering radiological services, 50 states	FOIA/PA-2006-0182
Debate in Bush administration on the Baltics, Aug/Sept 1991; recognition of Ukraine; future relationship of the U.S. with Soviet Union (Referral by George Bush Library)	FOIA/PA-2006-0183
Beaver Valley Power Plant, incident re: duffel bag with cash found in arriving tractor trailer, 4/18/06, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0184

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Arrival		
CADOUX, CLAUDE	CONSULTANT	NSIR
FORDER, GAY DAWN	SECRETARY	ADM
Departures		
CAHILL, STEPHEN J	BRANCH CHIEF	R-II

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

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

The 20th anniversary of Chernobyl.

NRC's special inspection at Palisades.

License renewal reviews at Vermont Yankee and Oyster Creek.

Discovery of a trunk full of money in a truck entering Beaver Valley.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted Chairman Diaz in his visit to Turkey Point, including a press conference and several media interviews.

OPA staff assisted at various end-of-cycle meetings for nuclear plants, and public meetings regarding license renewal at Oyster Creek.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-055	NRC, FERC Commissioners to Discuss Grid Reliability April 24 in Washington (4/17)
06-056	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impacts from Extended Operation of Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 (4/18)
06-057	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 4-5 in Rockville, Maryland (4/19)
Regions:	
I-06-024	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant (4/17)
I-06-025	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Civil Penalty Against Firm in Puerto Rico for Loss of Portable Nuclear Gauge (4/18)
I-06-026	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant (4/19)
I-06-027	NRC and Pennsylvania Company, GeoMechanics, to Discuss Apparent Violations Involving Nuclear Gauge (4/19)

I-06-028	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant (4/21)
II-06-022	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Oconee Nuclear Plant (4/17)
II-06-023	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at McGuire Nuclear Plant (4/17)
II-06-024	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Catawba Nuclear Plant (4/17)
II-06-025	Media Advisory: NRC Chairman to Visit Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant April 21 (4/17)
II-06-026	NRC to Discuss Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Unit 1 Restart and 2005 Performance of Units 2 and 3 (4/21)
III-06-017	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Dresden Nuclear Power Plant (4/19)
III-06-018	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Palisades Nuclear Plant (4/20)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 21, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0075	3/31/06	Transfer of Mississippi to NRC Region IV
2. SECY-06-0080	4/6/06	Final Rule: National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (RIN 3150-AH48)
3. SRM on SECY-06-0053	4/20/06	Package Performance Study Status Report
Voting Record on SECY-06-0053	4/20/06	(same)
4. SRM on SECY-06-0041	4/21/06	Proposed Strategy to Support Implementation of the New-Reactor Construction Inspection Program
Voting Record on SECY-06-0041	4/21/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0078	3/31/06	Status of Resolution of GSI-191, "Assessment of [Effect of] Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance"
2. SECY-06-0074	3/31/06	Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment for Calendar Year 2005
3. SECY-06-0076	3/31/06	FY 2005 Results of the Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors and Status of the Ongoing Development of the Program
4. SECY-06-0088	4/17/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 7, 2006
Memoranda		
- M060315A	4/20/06	Briefing on NSIR Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated April 12, 2006, provides a summary of actions taken by the NRC in response to recommendations contained in various GAO reports that address NRC activities.
2. Letter to Congressman Eliot Engel, dated April 10, expresses appreciations for discussion about security at nuclear power plants.
3. Letter to Congress, dated April 10, 2006, provides the final report by NRC's 2005 Hurricane Season Lessons Learned Task Force.

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Chairman Nils J. Diaz Visits the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant

On April 21, 2006, Chairman Diaz and staff, accompanied by Regional management, visited the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant for a site tour, meeting with licensee management and held a press conference.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 17-21, 2006, the Regional Office held the NRC ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the North Anna, H. B. Robinson, St. Lucie, Joseph M. Farley and Surry Nuclear Power Plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

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Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

Senator Durbin Visits Braidwood

On April 18, 2006, Senator Dick Durbin (IL) visited the Braidwood Nuclear Power Station viewing the circulating water discharge line where past tritium leaks occurred and then meeting with local officials and residents in nearby Godley, IL. Regional management and staff accompanied the senator.

Special Inspection at Palisades

On April 20, 2006, the staff began a special inspection at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant to review the circumstances surrounding an incident in which a storage container of previously used in-core neutron detectors, being manipulated under water in the refueling area, rose unexpectedly to the surface. Six workers in the area received radiation doses with the highest dose being less than 50 millirems.

Commissioner McGaffigan Visits Davis-Besse

On April 21, 2006, Commissioner Edward McGaffigan visited the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, meeting with the NRC resident inspectors and with licensee management, and touring the facility. Regional management accompanied the Commissioner on the visit.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 21, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 15

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	April	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	04/25/06 2154 RHOB	2:00	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
Shane	05/22/06 TBA	TBA	NRC, DOE, and others	New Nuclear Power Plants	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Shane	late May TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Reps. Barton/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Shane	06/22/06 TBA	9:30	NRC, GAO, NEI, Public Interest Groups	GAO Report on Reactor Oversight Process	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

The Senate and House are in recess until April 24.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 21, 2006

As a result of its 531th meeting (April 6-8, 2006), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

Date	
April 19, 2006	Response to Your March 29, 2006 Letter Regarding Standard Review Plan, Section 14.2.1, "Generic Guidelines for Extended Power Uprate Testing Programs"
April 20, 2006	Draft Final Regulatory Guide 1.205, "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants"

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