

# INFORMATION REPORT

August 2, 2006

SECY-06-0172

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
JULY 21, 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/<br>Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste | S  |

\*No input this week.

***/RA/***

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
L. Rakovan, OEDO

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

Meeting with NEI and Industry on Steam Generator Issues

On July 12, 2006, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry representatives to discuss several steam generator issues. The industry representatives presented the results of an effort to develop guidance for licensees to use in evaluating steam generator tube leakage under accident conditions. This effort was initiated to support implementation of the industry's steam generator initiative (i.e., NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines") and to specifically address the effects of loads other than pressure loads (e.g., bending loads) on steam generator tube leakage. Several new technical issues were also addressed during the meeting. The industry representatives indicated that they would evaluate the issues and determine what changes, if any, are needed to their guidance documents.

Construction Inspection Presentation at Nuclear Air Cleaning Conference

On July 18, 2006, the staff provided a presentation on the NRC's Construction Inspection Program at the 29<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Air Cleaning Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The conference is sponsored by the International Society for Nuclear Air Treatment Technologies. The presentation provided an overview of the NRC's 10 CFR Part 52 construction inspection process which is being developed.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process Public Meeting

On July 19, 2006, the staff hosted the monthly Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) public meeting at NRC Headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed Mitigating Systems Performance Index implementation, safety culture integration into the ROP, performance indicator issues and open and new frequently asked questions.

Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Staff Audits

During the week of July 10, 2006, Division of Engineering staff and contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory conducted an audit of the ESBWR containment structural design at the General Electric (GE) Nuclear Energy facility in San Jose, CA. Discussions were held on GE's responses to the staff's Request for Additional Information (RAI) in the structural design area. The audit was performed in support of the structural design review of GE's application for design certification of the ESBWR. A public exit meeting for the audit was held on July 14, 2006. GE agreed to provide revised responses to the RAIs.

ESBWR Design-Centered Working Group (DCWG) Meeting

On July 14, 2006, the staff held a public meeting with the industry's newly-formed ESBWR DCWG, composed of Dominion, Entergy, NuStart, and GE along with primary subcontractors Bechtel and Enercon. The meeting discussions focused on pre-combined license (COL) application activities. Presentations by the DCWG senior officials addressed the commitment to standardization, preliminary response to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2006-06, "New

Reactor Standardization Needed to Support the Design-Centered Licensing Review Approach,” plans and schedules, and key COL challenges. The North Anna and Grand Gulf COL applications are expected November 2007 and the River Bend COL application is expected in May 2008.

#### Meeting with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) Regarding the USAPWR Standard Design

On July 13, 2006, staff hosted a public meeting with MHI representatives. MHI personnel provided an overview of the company, status of activities, and the USAPWR design. MHI also presented suggested topics for near-term discussion and indicated their plans for submittal of a design certification application in March 2008.

#### DG-1145: Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (Light Water Reactor (LWR) Edition)

On June 30, 2006, a draft work-in-progress version of DG-1145 was posted on the NRC public website. The draft guide is being developed to provide COL applicants with information to prepare their applications. Staff is working to complete the draft guide which will be issued for public comment at a later date.

#### Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 (BV) Extended Power Uprate (EPU)

On July 19, 2006, NRC approved an 8 percent EPU for BV, which increases the licensed maximum steady state reactor core power level from 2689 megawatts-thermal (MWt) to 2900 MWt. The EPU amendment also approves full implementation of the use of an alternative source term in accordance with 10 CFR 50.67 and Regulatory Guide 1.183. This licensing action is in response to the licensee's application dated October 4, 2004. The NRC issued its letter accepting the BV application for detailed staff review on July 19, 2005.

The EPU will be implemented in three phases, with the Unit 1 implementation of the first phase (3 percent) beginning in August 2006, with full implementation being completed prior to startup from the fall 2007 refueling outage. The Unit 2 implementation of the first phase (3 percent) will begin with startup from the fall 2006 refueling outage, with full implementation being completed prior to startup from the spring 2008 refueling outage.

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

NRC Staff Attends House Subcommittee Hearing on Yucca Mountain Schedule

On July 19, 2006, NRC staff members attended a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality devoted to testimony by Mr. Ward Sproat, newly confirmed Director of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM). Mr. Sproat testified that DOE will submit a license application for a repository at Yucca Mountain to NRC no later than June 30, 2008. He also announced that if NRC were to grant construction authorization within 3 years, and if legislative changes that DOE proposed earlier this year were enacted, the repository would be able to accept spent nuclear fuel in 2017. Mr. Sproat assured several subcommittee members that independent, external assessments of the draft license application, and DOE's quality assurance programs, would not delay the proposed schedule. He also commented, in response to several questions, that further efficiencies in the schedule might be found by shortening the construction schedule for the repository once construction authorization was granted. In addition to committing to submitting an application to NRC by June 30, 2008, Mr. Sproat committed to: (1) staff and train the OCRWM organization to become a credible NRC licensee; (2) address the growing liabilities resulting from DOE's unmet contractual obligations to move spent fuel from nuclear plant sites; and (3) develop a comprehensive transportation plan that will address State, local, and Tribal concerns.

Public Meeting to Discuss Transport of VSC-24 Dry Storage Canisters

On July 13, 2006, staff met with representatives of Energy Solutions, at NRC Headquarters, for a pre-application meeting. Energy Solutions is planning to submit an application, in September 2006, for transporting 58 canisters loaded with 24 PWR spent fuel assemblies in vertical storage casks (VSC) currently in dry storage sites at the Palisades, Point Beach, and Arkansas Nuclear One reactor sites. The canisters had been designed for storage only. Energy Solutions is planning to submit its application, using Burnup Credit for the criticality safety control under transport conditions. At the meeting, Energy Solutions presented its methodology and the results of its Burnup Credit analyses.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 21, 2006

SPAR Model Development with Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Meeting

On July 12-13, 2006, RES staff met with INL staff to discuss the status and future direction of the SPAR Model Development Project. The major topics discussed were integration of the external events, low power shutdown and large early release frequency models in the current internal events model, long term expectations and uses of the SPAR models, and SAPHIRE version 8 enhancements which are necessary for the SPAR model integration effort. The result of this effort will provide an easier to use and more efficient analytical tool in support of the Reactor Oversight Process.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 21, 2006

Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) Involving Emergency Preparedness for Day Care Centers and Nursery Schools (DPO-2005-008)

On July 14, 2006, the Director, NSIR, issued a decision on a DPO involving emergency preparedness for day care centers and nursery schools (DPO-2005-008). On September 7, 2005, an NRC employee submitted a DPO that focused on the adequacy of preplanned evacuation resources and preplanned relocation centers for day care centers and nursery schools within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth") and on whether the Commonwealth and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) have failed to comply with DHS/FEMA guidance. On June 8, 2006, an Ad Hoc Review Panel provided the results of its independent review to the Director, NSIR. The panel concluded that DHS has arrived at a defensible finding of reasonable assurance that children at day care facilities and nursery schools would be evacuated in the event of a radiological emergency at a power plant in the Commonwealth. The panel concluded that the DHS/FEMA finding is consistent with the relevant regulations and guidance documents as well as legal implementation of Federal, State, and local requirements. The panel recommended that NSIR continue to work with DHS/FEMA, as it undertakes an across-the-board review of their guidance documents, to emphasize the value of clear guidance to the public and others outside of the radiological emergency preparedness community. Based on a review of the panel's report, the Director, NSIR, agreed with the panel's conclusions and recommendations.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

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

Implementation of the Nuclear Export and Import Provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005:  
Correction (AH88 - Part 110)

On July 14, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 40003) correcting minor typographical errors in a final rule 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 International Atomic Energy Agency threshold values.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE F

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

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

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Budd Company, Red Lion Rd., Philadelphia, PA, groundwater remediation information | FOIA/PA-2006-0248 |
|---|-------------------|

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE G



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

| <b>Arrival</b>        |                                  |       |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| BUCKBERG, PERRY H.    | PROJECT MANAGER                  | NRR   |
| CARDENAS, DANIEL      | SECURITY SPECIALIST              | NSIR  |
| CIRCLE, JEFF A.       | SR. RELIABILITY AND RISK ANALYST | NRR   |
| CONWAY, KIMBERLY      | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | NRR   |
| DEXTER, ROBERT        | SECURITY SPECIALIST              | NSIR  |
| FELIZ ADORNO, NESTOR  | REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | R-III |
| GHASEMIAN, SHAHRAM    | ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST           | OE    |
| HOFFMAN, ADAM         | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | NRR   |
| HUI, WILLIAM W.       | PROJECT MANAGER                  | NRR   |
| JACKSON, JAMES F.     | ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE             | ASLBP |
| MCCANN, EDWARD V.     | FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER         | NRR   |
| MCKINLEY, RAYMOND R.  | OPERATIONS ENGINEER              | R-I   |
| NG, CHING H.          | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | NRR   |
| RADES, PAUL S.        | AUDITOR/MANAGEMENT ANALYST       | OIG   |
| REED, WILLIAM H.      | ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE             | ASLBP |
| RIVERA-LUGO, RICHARD  | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | RES   |
| RODRIQUEZ, MICHAEL E. | SECURITY SPECIALIST              | NSIR  |
| SCHNETZLER, BONNIE A. | SECURITY SPECIALIST              | NSIR  |
| STECKEL, JAMES A.     | PROJECT MANAGER                  | NRR   |
| TOMLINSON, JOYCE      | REACTOR INSPECTOR                | R-I   |
| VAUGHN, JAMES E.      | SECURITY SPECIALIST              | NSIR  |
| WILKINS, LYNNEA E.    | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)         | NRR   |
| <b>Departures</b>     |                                  |       |
| BRIGGS, CHRISTINE M.  | CORRESPONDENCE ANALYST           | EDO   |
| COLEMAN, RJ           | CHIEF, BUDG POLICY & OPER TEAM   | CFO   |

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE I

|                     |                          |      |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------|
| WILKINS, LYNNEA E.  | GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP) | NRR  |
| COMPTON, MAKEEKA K. | SECRETARY (OA)           | NRR  |
| GABOSSY, ANDREA C.  | MANAGEMENT ANALYST       | NSIR |
| WEDEWER, HARRY E.   | CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR    | OGC  |
| ZABKO, JOHN G.      | HEALTH PHYSICIST         | STP  |

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE I

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

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

Union of Concerned Scientists' petition to NRC regarding tritium releases from nuclear power plants.

NRC's expectations for new reactor applications.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA's Director and Region II Public Affairs Officers assisted the Chairman during his visit to Vogtle and discussions with local journalists.

OPA worked extensively with the New York Times Magazine for an article on nuclear power published July 16.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Press Releases</b> |   |
| <b>Headquarters:</b>  |   |
| 06-095                | NRC Approves Power Uprate for Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant (7/20)                                      |
| <b>Regions:</b>       |   |
| I-06-042              | Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hear Oral Argument in Vermont Yankee License Renewal Proceeding (7/21) |

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

| Document Released to Public            | Date     | Subject   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>Decision Documents</b>              |          |   |
| 1. SECY-06-0125<br>(Redacted Version)  | 06/01/06 | Proposed Reorganization of the Offices of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and State and Tribal Programs        |
| SRM-SECY-06-0125<br>(Redacted Version) | 06/01/06 | (same)  |
| 2. SECY-06-0143                        | 07/05/06 | Stakeholder Comments and Path Forward on Decommissioning Guidance to Address License Termination Rule Analysis Issues |

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Congress (Senator Inhofe and Congressman Barton), dated June 30, 2006, provides the Annual Status Report on the Results of the Security Inspection Program for Calendar Year 2005.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Renewal notice for the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, for a period of two years.
2. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, ORDER (Setting Oral Argument Schedule and Inviting Written Limited Appearance Statements), In the Matter of Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Vermont Yankee).
3. Proposed rule, Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material, 10 CFR Parts 20, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 50, 61, 72, 110, 150, 170, and 171, RIN: 3150-AH84.

Region I (RI)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 21, 2006

Audit of Region I's Radiation Safety Program

From July 18-20, 2006, the annual audit of the Region I Radiation Safety Program was conducted by the Region IV Radiation Safety Officer. The scope of the audit included as low as reasonably achievable practices, personnel training, personal dosimetry, survey instrumentation and control of records. There were two findings that were minor in nature and will be entered into the Region I corrective action program for resolution. The overall conclusion was that the Region I program was adequate to protect Region I employees and conformed to the requirements of Management Directive 10.131 and Regional Office Instruction 0860.1.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

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

Chairman Visits Vogtle Nuclear Plant and Region II Office

On July 17, 2006, the Chairman and Regional Administrator visited the Vogtle Nuclear Plant for a site tour and met with licensee management.

Meeting with Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization

On July 20, 2006, the staff participated in an informal meeting with Dr. Hideki Nariai, the President of the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization. During the meeting, the NRC and Japan staffs discussed the NRC's inspection program and inspector training.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending July 21, 2006

Entergy Operations, Inc. (River Bend Station) Regulatory Conference

On July 20, 2006, Region IV conducted a Regulatory Conference with Entergy Operations, Inc. to discuss a preliminary White inspection finding at River Bend Station. The apparent violation of NRC requirements involved the use of seismic monitoring instrumentation as input to classifying potential seismic emergencies. Representatives from River Bend Station discussed the adequacy of the violation and the significance level of the NRC finding. One member of the public attended the meeting via the teleconference bridge.

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

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

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 27**

| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE          | TIME  | WITNESS | SUBJECT  | COMMITTEE   |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|--|---|
| Shane       | TBD<br>SD-342         | 2:30  | TBA     | Cyber Security Issues  | Senators Coburn/Carper<br>Federal Financial Management,<br>Government Information, and<br>International Security<br>Homeland Security and Governmental<br>Affairs |
| Decker      | 07/18/06<br>SD-366    | 10:00 | TBA     | Energy Needs of India and the role<br>of nuclear power in meeting these<br>needs | Senator Domenici/Bingaman<br>Energy and Natural Resources   |
| Shane       | 07/18/06<br>2203 RHOB | 2:00  | TBA     | Evaluating Federal Paperwork<br>Reduction Efforts                                | Reps. Miller/Lynch<br>Regulatory Affairs<br>Government Reform   |
| Combs       | 07/19/06<br>2322 RHOB | 2:00  | DOE     | DOE's schedule for Yucca Mountain  | Reps. Hall/Boucher<br>Energy and Air Quality<br>Energy and Commerce   |



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

**As a result of its 172<sup>nd</sup> meeting (July 17-20, 2006), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.**

| <b>Date</b>   |   |
|---------------|---|
| July 18, 2006 | The 2006 Draft Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection |

July 21, 2006

ENCLOSURE S