

INFORMATION REPORT

October 11, 2006

SECY-06-0209

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
SEPTEMBER 29, 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 September 29, 2006

NRC Staff Visit to Component & Controls, Inc. (CCI) Test Facility in Switzerland

During September 19-21, 2006, NRR and Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards staff, observed sump strainer coatings transport related testing at CCI in Winterthur, Switzerland. CCI is one of five vendors providing sump strainers for licensees that are performing strainer modifications in response to Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance." CCI provided multiple presentations and laboratory demonstrations related to head loss, chemical effects, and downstream testing in support of the licensees' GSI-191 evaluations.

NRC License Renewal Management Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) License Renewal Working Group

On September 26, 2006, NRR management and staff met with the NEI License Renewal Working Group and industry representatives to discuss generic license renewal topics and license renewal process improvements. NEI representatives discussed their agreement with recent staff proposals improving review efficiencies, obtaining accurate NRC and contractor costs for budgeting, and crediting current programs for license renewal. NEI also provided an updated status of 2006 applications for Wolf Creek and Shearon Harris. In addition, NEI requested the status of the NRC staff review of a white paper they provided on removing the Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) XI.E6 aging management program on electrical cable connections from the GALL Report. Staff responded that a working group is being formed to discuss the issue, and that it would treat the proposal as an industry proposed Interim Staff Guidance. NRR management provided an update to NEI on the transition schedule for the reorganization to the new Office of New Reactors.

North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP)

On September 28, 2006, the staff issued to Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC a revised Supplement 1 to the Final Safety Evaluation Report for the North Anna ESP application. This supplement reflects the staff's review of Revision 9 of the ESP application, which addressed ensuring tritium concentrations in liquid effluent released are below regulatory limits. A review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is pending.

Risk-Informed Technical Specifications (TS) Initiative 5B

On September 28, 2006, the NRC staff issued a final safety evaluation in connection with industry guidance document NEI 04-10, Rev. 0, "Risk-Informed Technical Specifications Initiative 5B, Risk-Informed Method for Control of Surveillance Frequencies." On the same day, the staff issued license amendments for Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, approving relocation of surveillance test intervals of various TS surveillance requirements to a new, licensee-controlled document, the Surveillance Frequency Control Program. This amendment application was submitted by Exelon on June 11, 2004 as a pilot submittal in support of Initiative 5b.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

International High-Level Waste (HLW) Workshop in Japan

On September 12-15, 2006, Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWA) staff participated in a HLW workshop on design confirmation and demonstration of the integration of engineered barrier systems in the safety case. In cooperation with the European Commission, the workshop was organized by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This was the fourth workshop in a series of four. The workshop specifically considered the strategy, approaches, and methods, for confirming and demonstrating the design of engineered barrier systems, in terms of key constraints and requirements, which include long-term safety, engineering practicality, and quality assurance. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and organizations from Japan, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Taiwan also participated. Proceedings, summarizing all four workshops, will be published in the spring of 2007.

Corrosion Workshop on HLW

On September 25-26, 2006, staff participated in a Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) Workshop on Localized Corrosion of Alloy 22 in Yucca Mountain Environments, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss data, analyses, studies, and models of localized corrosion of Alloy 22 in aqueous environments, that could exist in a potential repository at Yucca Mountain. Staff from NRC and CNWRA made presentations, along with contractors for DOE, the Electric Power Research Institute, State of Nevada, and Nye County. The issues discussed include evolution of Yucca Mountain Environments, localized corrosion testings, localized corrosion modeling, dust/salt deliquescence, and consequence of localized corrosion. As a result of the workshop, the importance of general corrosion was also recognized.

Volcanic Hazard Workshop on HLW

From September 26-27, 2006, staff observed Workshop 3 of DOE's Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Assessment Update program, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of this workshop for DOE's Expert Panel on Volcanism is to provide individual preliminary assessments for group discussions. After completion of the panel's assessment (anticipated in 2007), DOE will produce a report updating the projected probability of volcanic activity intercepting the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE will use this report in support of a planned license application for the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository.

Board Meeting on HLW Safety Case and Meeting with State of Nevada

On September 27, 2006, staff attended a public meeting of the NWTRB, in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. The meeting was part of DOE's efforts to develop and articulate a safety case for a proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. During the meeting day, NRC staff met with representatives of affected units of local government and other stakeholders attending this meeting.

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ENCLOSURE B

Chemical Consequence Levels at the Proposed Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF)

On August 25, 2006, the Director, NMSS, issued a decision on a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) involving chemical consequence levels at the proposed MFFF (DPO-2005-005). On June 21, 2005, an NRC employee submitted a DPO that focused on chemical consequences from some potential events at the proposed MFFF, the applicant's proposed mitigative strategies for such events, using limits based on Temporary Emergency Exposure Limits (TEELs) from DOE, and whether the NRC staff's position accepting the use of TEELs would endorse limits that do not provide adequate assurance of safety.

On April 4, 2006, an Ad Hoc Review Panel provided the results of its independent review to the Director, NMSS. The Panel concluded that there is no basis for reversing the NRC position on the use of TEELs, chemical consequence limits do not need to be reopened, and the applicant need not submit additional information on the docket regarding the use of TEELs. The Panel also concluded that establishment of an expert NRC panel to develop values to be substituted for the TEEL values is not justified, and that a rulemaking process to promulgate NRC's own chemical consequence limits would not be cost-effective, based on safety considerations. However, the Panel recommended that a review of chemical consequence limits be conducted before the issuance of the operating license.

Based on a review of the Panel's report, the Director, NMSS, agreed with, and adopted, most of the Panel recommendations. However, he did not agree with, and did not adopt, the recommendation that a review of chemical consequence limits should be conducted before the issuance of the operating license. He noted that NRC had already reviewed and approved the TEEL values as the design bases of the principal structures, systems, and components, and stated that to reopen that review, after NRC had already approved the final design bases, without some supporting contrary safety finding, would constitute an inconsistent and unstable regulatory approach, contrary to NRC's principles of good regulation.

Solvent Flammability Limits at the Proposed MFFF

On August 25, 2006, the Director, NMSS, issued a decision on a DPO involving solvent flammability limits at the proposed MFFF (DPO-2005-009). On September 23, 2005, an NRC employee submitted a DPO that focused on the applicant's proposed approach to the use of controls to reduce the likelihood of solvent-fire explosion events at the proposed MFFF, and whether the NRC staff's position accepting the applicant's approach would provide adequate assurances of safety, as well as a concern that the staff did not contact the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 69 Committee for clarification of the NFPA 69 code.

On June 2, 2006, an Ad Hoc Review Panel provided the results of its independent review to the Director, NMSS. The Panel concluded that the DPO did not raise any safety concerns that have technical or legal implications for the staff's approval of the Construction Authorization Request (CAR). The Panel noted that the applicant made the business decision to proceed with the two-step licensing process, knowing the associated uncertainties and potential risks. The Panel concluded that the staff's approval of the CAR was in accordance with relevant regulations for the two-step licensing process, and is therefore consistent with the regulatory framework, and is not precedent-setting. The Panel recommended that, if the staff finds the applicant's safety strategies and controls ineffective during the operating licensing phase, the staff should

consider appropriate Agency regulatory processes, such as backfit, to ensure the protection of public health and safety. With respect to the consultation with the NFPA Committee for code clarification, the Panel determined that the NMSS staff, based on professional expertise and experience, has the authority to evaluate and make determinations on appropriate code application during the review process. Therefore, the Panel did not recommend any additional action.

Based on a review of the Panel's report, the Director, NMSS, agreed with, and adopted, the Panel's recommendations, subject to the clarification that, with regard to the backfit process, if the staff becomes aware of the need for significant changes to safety strategies and controls, or other issues that would call into question its conclusions in the CAR, during the operating licensing phase, this new information would be reviewed at that time, consistent with backfit requirements, to the extent they are applicable.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

Implementing Agreements Between the NRC and the Technical Research Center of Finland (VTT) and the Korea Institute for Nuclear Safety (KINS) in the Area of Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) for Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking (PWSCC) in Nickel Base Materials and Dissimilar Metal Welds

On September 20, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed the subject Implementing Agreements which define the terms and conditions by which the NRC and VTT, and NRC and KINS, will cooperate in the area of non-destructive examination technology research. The NRC, KINS, and VTT (with its technical partner, Helsinki University of Technology) will participate in these cooperative research programs on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. Both VTT's and KINS' contributions will consist of in-kind contributions of research results with total value of approximately \$400K each. A goal of the cooperative research is to assess the reliability of existing and emerging NDE techniques to address the problem of PWSCC. This program will allow the NRC to improve the quality and regulatory effectiveness of standards covering in-service inspections for structural integrity. These Implementing Agreements entered into force upon signature and will remain in effect through December 2007 with VTT, and December 2009 with KINS.

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Ground-Water Monitoring Meeting

On September 19-20, 2006, staff supported the subject meeting which addressed the role of ground-water contamination modeling and monitoring programs in licensing, the evaluation of case studies of radionuclide releases, field experience and insights, and opportunities for integrating ground-water modeling and monitoring. Presenters included staff from the NRC and its contractors, scientists and engineers from a Department of Energy National Laboratory, investigators from the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey, members of academia, and representatives from the nuclear industry. Insights and information obtained from the meeting will be utilized by the inter-office Technical Advisory Group on ground-water and performance monitoring, and incorporated into RES's research to develop and test an integrated ground-water monitoring strategy for nuclear facilities.

Standardized Plan Analysis Risk (SPAR) External Events Models and Handbooks

During the week of September 25, 2006, staff completed a set of SPAR external event models and handbooks as a part of the Risk Assessment Standardization Project. Events include fires, seismic events, high winds, flooding, and other external events. The models and handbooks have been made available for trial use by NRC analysts for the Significance Determination Process, the Accident Sequence Precursor Program, and similar event risk analyses. These products were developed by RES in response to an Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation user need.

International Conference on Safety and Reliability for Managing Risk (ESREL 2006)

On September 18-21, 2006, staff chaired sessions and presented a paper at the subject conference in Estoril, Portugal. Conference topics included advanced methods and tools for performing Probabilistic Safety Assessments, discussions of the path forward in challenging areas (e.g., human reliability analysis, advanced computational methods), and lessons learned from applications.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

Occupational Dose Records, Labeling Containers, and the Total Effective Dose Equivalent (AH40 - Parts 19, 20, and 50)

On September 22, 2006, the NRC published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 55382) that would make several amendments to the regulations pertaining to radiation protection. The proposed rule would limit the routine reporting of annual doses to workers to those whose annual dose exceeds a specific threshold, amend the definition of the total effective dose equivalent to be consistent with current Commission policy, modify the labeling requirements for certain containers, and remove the requirement that licensees obtain cumulative exposure records for workers unless the individuals are authorized to receive a planned special exposure. The comment period for this action closes December 6, 2006.

Facility Change Process Involving Items Relied on for Safety (AH96 - Part 70)

On September 27, 2006, the NRC published a direct final rule in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 56344) that clarifies a requirement pertaining to facility change processes involving items relied on for safety. This action clarifies that if an item relied on for safety is not needed to meet specified performance requirements, the licensee may remove or replace it without NRC staff approval. The direct final rule becomes effective December 11, 2006.

On September 27, 2006, the NRC published the companion proposed rule to this direct final rule in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 56413). The comment period closes October 27, 2006.

Lanmark Technology, Inc.

On September 22, 2006, an 8(a) set-aside contract, no. NRC-38-06-401, was awarded to Lanmark Technology, Inc. The Contractor is required to provide maintenance of official personnel records on-site at NRC Headquarters. The period of performance is one year base period, with four one-year options. The total estimated price is approximately \$600,000, including all options.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of September 21 through September 28, 2006:

Security clearance reviews or updates on named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0315
Tennessee Valley Authority Phosphate Branch, Muscle Shoals, AL (1941 - present), documentation on general construction of facility, manufacturers of furnaces, pumps, valves, etc.	FOIA/PA-2006-0316
PRAB-02-01, "Assessment of [Boiling Water Reactor] BWR Main Stream Line Release Consequences," referenced in NUREG-1765 & Inspection Manual Chapter 0609H	FOIA/PA-2006-0317
Procurement card holders & approving officials	FOIA/PA-2006-0318
Office of Inspector General Reports 0670-IG & 0566-IG	FOIA/PA-2006-0319
Safety Light Corporation, documents re: Sealed Source Device Registrations NR-0579-D-101-G & NR-0579-D-112-G	FOIA/PA-2006-0320

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 29, 2006

Arrivals		
BALARABE, SARAH A.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
BARCLIFT, TIFFANY	HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT (OA)	HR
BIERNIK, JAMES B.	TRAINING PROGRAM SPECIALIST	HR
BLACK, DARWANA N.	SECRETARY (OA)	OGC
CALVO, ANTONY	IT SPECIALIST	RES
COURSEY, MICHAEL S.	GENERAL ENGINEER/PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	RII
CULPEPPER, MICHAEL V.	HUMAN CAPITAL PROGRAM MANAGER	HR
DUFFEY, GERARD J.	PROGRAM ANALYST	RI
FELTS, RUSSELL N.	SECURITY RISK ANALYST	NSIR
HAMM, MATTHEW	MECHANICAL ENG/REACTOR ENG.	NRR
HOLSTON, COLEDA	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS
MOY, ROMENA	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	ADM
PATEL, PRAVIN	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	NRR
PIRTLE, GARY L.	CONSULTANT	NSIR
RAZO, JASON M.	HEALTH PHYSICIST (NSPDP)	RIV
REBER, ERIC H.	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
ROACH, EDWARD H.	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	NSIR
ROBINSON, PONLEARASMEY	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
SHARPE, MICHELE	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (NSPDP)	ADM
SPRINGER, MICHAEL L.	CONSULTANT	ADM
STUYVENBERG, ANDREW	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
WADE, SHANTECE M.	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS

Retirement		
PARK, EDNA S.	CHIEF, PAYMENT, POL AND OBLIG TEAM	CFO
SAVIO, RICHARD P.	SR TECH ADV TO THE EXECUTIVE DIR	ACRS
VORA, JITENDRA P.	SENIOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	RES
WEDDLE, DAVID E.	MAIL SERVICES ASSISTANT	ADM
Departure		
CADOUX, CLAUDE G.	CONSULTANT	NSIR
CRLENJAK, RICHARD V.	CONSULTANT	NRR
DELLA GRECA, ANIELLO L.	CONSULTANT	NRR
DIPALO, ANTHONY J.	CONSULTANT	NSIR
FORD, F. P.	CONSULTANT	ACRS
HOLBROOK, BOBBY L.	CONSULTANT	RII
HOLLAND, WILLIAM E.	CONSULTANT	NRR
JOHNSON, JON R.	CONSULTANT	NRR
JORDAN, MICHAEL J.	CONSULTANT	NRR
KEETON, JACK M.	CONSULTANT	NRR
PARKER, MICHAEL E.	CONSULTANT	NRR
SCHENTER, ROBERT E.	CONSULTANT	NMSS
WATSON, EVELYN E.	CONSULTANT	NMSS
WILLIAMS, JULIAN H.	CONSULTANT	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

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

The condition of Oyster Creek's drywall liner.

Opposition by New Jersey officials to a decommissioning plan submitted by Shieldalloy.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Region I OPA, with staff support, conducted a media workshop in Massachusetts for reporters who cover the nuclear power industry.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-118	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet October 4-6 in Rockville, Maryland (9/27)
06-119	NRC Receives Operating License Application for Proposed Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina (9/27)
Regions:	
II-06-039	NRC Schedules Regulatory Conference to Discuss Harris Nuclear Plant Concern (9/29)
IV-06-021	NRC Issues Order Barring Individual from Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (9/25)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0195	09/11/06	Transition Plan for the Regulation of Certain Byproduct Materials Mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005
2. SRM-SECY-06-0186	09/26/06	Increasing Licensing Terms for Certain Fuel Cycle Facilities
Commission Voting Record on 06-0186	09/26/06	(same)
Information Papers		
- SECY-06-0202	09/26/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 15, 2006

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Reconstitution, United States Enrichment Company, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, procedures for meetings.
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, notice of meeting (10/24/06).

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

V.C. Summer Public Meeting

On September 27, 2006, representatives from South Carolina Electric & Gas Company attended a public meeting in the Regional Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss planned activities associated with the Fall 2006 refueling outage at the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station.

September 29, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 29, 2006

Waterford-3 and Source Production and Equipment Company

On September 27-28, Commissioner Lyons and Region IV staff met with representatives of the St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center, the Waterford-3 nuclear power plant, and the source Production and Equipment Company located near New Orleans, LA. The Commissioner toured each facility and discussed facility status with the representatives.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 35					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Decker	09/26/2006 2247 RHOB	2:00	House Government Reform Committee, National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations Subcommittee (Reps. Shays, Kucinich)	Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and steps to strengthen the nonproliferation regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Hans Blix - Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission ▶ William Tobey - National Nuclear Security Administration ▶ Andrew Semmel - State Department ▶ Jack David - Department of Defense ▶ Gene Aloise - Government Accountability Office ▶ Thomas Graham Jr. - Global Security Institute ▶ Baker Spring - Heritage Foundation ▶ Jonathan Granoff - Global Security Institute ▶ Henry D. Sokolski - Nonproliferation Policy Education Center ▶ Frank von Hippel - International Panel on Fissile Materials
Sahm	TBA	TBA	House Education & Workforce, Workforce Protections Subcommittee (Reps. Norwood, Owens)	H.R. 2561, Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act	▶ N/A (markup)