

INFORMATION REPORT

February 2, 2006

SECY-06-0023

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
JANUARY 27, 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 January 27, 2006

End of Cycle Assessment Meeting Preparations

On January 19, 2006, the staff provided training for the four regional offices on the development of substantive cross-cutting issues in preparation for the upcoming end-of-cycle performance assessment meetings. This training included discussions of the NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) - 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," criteria for a substantive cross-cutting issue, recent changes to IMC-0305, and questions from the regional offices.

Risk Management Technical Specifications Meeting

On January 19, 2006, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute and industry owner group representatives to discuss the status of Risk Management Technical Specifications (RMTS) initiatives. The RMTS initiatives are a significant agency effort to risk-inform the Standard Technical Specifications. The status of the active RMTS initiatives were discussed and meetings to resolve open issues were planned for the upcoming months. The RMTS initiatives include: (1) modifying the plant end states of Actions in Technical Specifications; (2) allowing licensee use of risk tools to calculate completion times for Actions; (3) allowing licensee determination of surveillance frequencies; and (4) assessing hazard barrier support system effects on technical specification systems. Progress is being made on many initiatives and the meeting brought focus to the areas needing immediate attention and work. The next RMTS meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2006.

Issues Related to Examination and Qualification of Licensed Power Plant Personnel

On January 23, 2006, the Associate Director for Operating Reactor Oversight and Licensing and staff met with the Vice President, Training and Accreditation, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), for a public meeting on licensed operator training and qualification. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss INPO's and NRC's initiatives and issues related to the examination and qualification of licensed nuclear power plant personnel. No new policy issues were identified during the meeting.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Staff Issues Letter on Seismic Design of Yucca Mountain Facilities

On January 25, 2006, staff issued a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) providing feedback on DOE's proposed pre-closure seismic design and compliance demonstration methodology of Yucca Mountain facilities. The seismic design of Yucca Mountain facilities is one of the priority pre-licensing issues identified by the staff. The letter informs DOE that its proposed methodology requires additional supporting analyses to demonstrate compliance with 10 CFR Part 63. The letter also provides recommendations for how DOE could demonstrate compliance with the Part 63 performance objectives. The staff is prepared to discuss its feedback in detail at a future technical exchange with DOE.

NRC and Center for Nuclear Waste and Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) Staff Activities

On January 17-19, 2006, staff from NRC and CNWRA attended a course, which was held at Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, on the TOUGHREACT and TOUGH2 codes for modeling flow and transport in unsaturated rock. The TOUGH2 code has been used in DOE's performance assessment models of the potential Yucca Mountain Repository. After the workshop, NRC and CNWRA staff visited a drift-shadow experiment site at the Hazel-Atlas mine in the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch, CA. The drift-shadow experiment is being conducted as part of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's Science and Technology Program. The objective of the drift-shadow experiment is to determine the extent to which water might be diverted around drifts, and could be used to evaluate possible effects in the unsaturated zone below a potential geologic repository. The experiment site is being characterized and infiltration experiments are planned for 2006.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Human Reliability Workshop

From January 16-20, 2006, RES and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff participated as invited guests in the subject workshop at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The workshop objective was to obtain recommendations on the selection of human reliability analysis (HRA) methods for use in both a design and more detailed probabilistic risk assessment of NASA's Crew Exploration Vehicle, which is intended to replace the Space Shuttle. This interaction allowed the staff to further pursue NRC/NASA collaboration and to improve the NRC's HRA data methods.

Publication of Draft NUREG-1824, "Verification and Validation of Selected Fire Models for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" for Public Comment

On January 20, 2006, staff published for comment the subject seven-volume draft NUREG which documents verification and validation efforts for five different fire modeling tools. This research supports the revised 10 CFR 50.48, which allows reactor licensees to voluntarily adopt National Fire Protection Association Standard 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electricity Generating Plants." The public comment period runs through the end of March 2006.

Meeting with North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC)

On January 23, 2006, staff participated in the subject meeting in Princeton, New Jersey. The NERC and the NRC are working under a Memorandum of Agreement to add detailed nuclear power plant (NPP) electrical parameters to the NERC electrical models used in seasonal operational assessments, wide-area planning, and technical studies. The meeting resulted in the development of criteria that will be used to screen NERC grid models for potential impact on electrical performance of NPPs.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Preliminary Notification

PNO-III-06-0002, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant - SECURITY EVENT AT DAVIS-BESSE.

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Design Basis Threat: Reopening of Comment Period (AH60-Part 73)

On January 24, 2006, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 3791) reopening the comment period on a proposed rule that would amend the regulations pertaining to its design basis threat requirements. The proposed rule would make the security requirements imposed by the Commission's April 29, 2003, design basis threat orders to existing licensees generically applicable. The proposed rule would redefine the level of security requirements necessary to adequately protect public health and safety and common defense and security. The proposed rule would revise design basis threat requirements for radiological sabotage and the theft or diversion of NRC-licensed strategic special nuclear material. The comment period for this action now expires on February 22, 2006.

Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements; Extension of Comment Period (AH29-Part 50)

On January 25, 2006, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 4061) extending the comment period on a proposed rule that would amend the regulations applicable to nuclear power plant licensees. The proposed rule would permit licensees to voluntarily implement a risk-informed alternative to the current requirements for analyzing the performance of emergency core cooling systems during loss-of-coolant accidents. The proposed rule would also establish procedures and criteria for requesting changes in plant design and procedures on the basis of the results of the new analyses. The comment period for this action now closes March 8, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
January 20, 2006 through January 26, 2006:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| OI report 4-2004-033 | FOIA/PA-2006-0091 |
| MD 8.7 "Reactor Operating Experience Program," 2005 | FOIA/PA-2006-0092 |
| Current mechanical contract, monthly pricing | FOIA/PA-2006-0093 |
| St. Louis Airport Site, all agreements containing indemnification provisions re: contractual activities including processing of uranium, disposal of materials from the processing of uranium | FOIA/PA-2006-0094 |

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

| Arrival | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| MAYNARD, OTTO L. | MEMBER | ACRS |
| MOULTON, CHARLES E. | FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER | NRR |
| Departures | | |
| WASHINGTON, BRITTNEY MARIE | STUDENT CLERK | ADM |
| WHITE-PYLE, MARSHANDA L. | SECRETARY (OA) | NRR |

January 27, 2006

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

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

Progress Energy's announcement that it plans to apply to NRC for two new reactors at its Shearon Harris site in North Carolina.

Submittal of license renewal applications for Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim nuclear plants.

NRC's review of safety issues at Palo Verde.

Tritium contamination of residential water wells near the Braidwood plant.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA Region IV assisted the Regional Administrator in his appearance before the Arizona Corporation Commission in Phoenix regarding Palo Verde.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Press Releases | |
| Headquarters: | |
| 06-008 | NRC's 18 th Annual Regulatory Information Conference to Be March 7-9 in Rockville, Md. (1/24) |
| Regions: | |
| IV-06-001 | Performance Issues at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (1/26) |

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

| Document Released to Public | Date | Subject |
|--|----------|--|
| Decision Documents | | |
| 1. SECY-06-0007 | 01/09/06 | Staff Plan to Make a Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Revision to 10 CFR Part 50 |
| 2. Cmr. McGaffigan vote on COMSECY-05-0054 | 01/27/06 | Policy Revision: Handling, Marking, and Protecting Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) |
| 3. Cmr. Jaczko vote on COMSECY-05-0054 | 01/27/06 | Policy Revision: Handling, Marking, and Protecting Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) |
| Information Papers | | |
| SECY-06-0015 | 01/23/06 | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 13, 2006 |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated January 13, 2006, provides the November monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing and other regulatory activities.
2. Letter to Daniel Metcalfe, Department of Justice, dated January 13, 2006, responds to request for agencies to designate a Chief FOIA Officer.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 52, RIN 3150-AH56, AP1000 Design Certification.
2. Request to Amend a License for the Export of Radioactive Waste.
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice (2/13/06).
4. Proposed Rule: 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 50, 60, 61, 63, 70, 71, 72, and 76, RIN 3150-AH59, Clarification of NRC Civil Penalty Authority over Contractors and Subcontractors Who Discriminate Against Employees for Engaging in Protected Activities.
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Revised Meeting Notice.
6. ASLB Notice of Hearing re: Louisiana Energy Services, L.P.

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Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Meeting Between Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and NRC

On January 25, 2006, staff from Region I and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards met with PADEP representatives to discuss the path forward for decommissioning the Quehanna Site located in Karthaus, PA. The meeting included a recap of the decommissioning project to date and discussions of planned building demolition activities, including radiological release criteria, and planned amendments to the Decommissioning Plan. Additionally, since the Quehanna Site is located within a State forest, representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry made a presentation on planned future uses of the site by the Bureau.

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Chairman Diaz Visits Brunswick Nuclear Plant

On January 24, 2006, Chairman Diaz and staff, accompanied by the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, visited the Brunswick Nuclear Plant for a site tour.

Commissioner Lyons Visits Framatome-ANP Richland Fuel Facility

On January 24, 2006, Commissioner Lyons and staff visited the Framatome-ANP Richland Fuel Facility for a site tour and a meeting with licensee management.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

Commissioner Lyons visit to Columbia Generating Station

On January 25, 2006, Commissioner Lyons visited Columbia Generating Station. His visit included an extensive tour of the facility and meetings with the Resident Inspectors and senior licensee management.

Arizona Corporation Commission

On January 26, 2006, the Regional Administrator attended an Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) meeting and answered questions regarding the safety performance of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. ACC has jurisdiction over the quality of service and rates charged by public service utilities, such as Arizona Public Service Company. The meeting was informative and effective in addressing ACC's questions regarding recent technical issues and forced outages at Palo Verde. The Regional Administrator also addressed general questions regarding nuclear plant security and NRC oversight activities.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 27, 2006

| CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 3 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------|--|--|--|
| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
| Combs | Week of 02/13/06 Tentative 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 Tentative | 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 |

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 27, 2006

As a result of its 167th meeting (January 10-12, 2006), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

| Date | Subject |
|------------------|---|
| January 23, 2006 | Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 63 Proposed Rule |

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