

# INFORMATION REPORT

May 26, 2006

SECY-06-0123

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
MAY 19, 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/**

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
R. Taylor, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Combined Mitigating Systems Performance Index and Reactor Oversight Process Working Group Public Meeting

On May 17, 2006, the staff hosted the subject monthly meeting. Meeting participants discussed Combined Mitigating Systems Performance Index implementation issues and training schedules, ROP assessment issues, Performance Indicator (PI) improvement issues, safety culture topics, and open and new PI frequently asked questions.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station License Renewal Public Meetings

On May 17, 2006, the staff conducted two public meetings at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's license renewal application. The meetings were conducted at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The staff held an open house for one hour prior to each meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to speak informally with staff and view NRC informational displays and brochures.

In addition to the public meetings, the staff and its contractors conducted an environmental site audit from May 1-4, 2006. The scoping period ends on June 16, 2006. The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is scheduled to be published in December 2006 and the final SEIS is scheduled to be published in July 2007.

Staff Issues NUREG-1850 entitled "Frequently Asked Questions on License Renewal of Nuclear Power Reactors"

On May 12, 2006, the staff published the subject NUREG. This compendium of questions and answers is designed to inform the public on all aspects of the license renewal process and provides information on a number of related topics such as health physics, emergency preparedness, alternative energy sources and how to access additional information for specific facilities. Questions were selected from past reviews, grouped into broad categories, and answered in a clear and concise manner.

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Issued for Nine Mile Point License Renewal

On May 19, 2006, the staff issued the Final Supplement 24 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Final SEIS represents the completion of the staff's environmental review of the license renewal application for Nine Mile Point. The SEIS includes the staff findings that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The EPA is expected to issue the Notice of Availability of the final SEIS in the Federal Register on May 26, 2006. Provided that no Federal agency refers matters in dispute in the final SEIS to the Council on Environmental Quality, the NRC would be allowed to proceed with the renewal actions after a 30-day period expires (June 26, 2006).

#### Events in Support of the Expected Vogtle Early Site Permit Application

During the week of May 8, the staff participated in a series of public outreach events near the Vogtle site in support of the upcoming Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) Early Site Permit (ESP) application. On May 11, 2006, the staff conducted an open house followed by a public meeting to inform the public of the NRC's ESP review process and to address any questions or concerns. In support of pre-application activities for the expected August 2006 ESP submittal for the Vogtle site, the staff participated in a site tour of the proposed ESP site. The staff found this tour helpful in understanding the layout of the proposed site.

#### Department of Energy Publishes Interim Final Standby Support Rule in Federal Register

On May 15, 2006, the Department of Energy published its interim final rule and request for comment on "Standby Support for Certain Nuclear Plant Delays" in the Federal Register. The interim final rule is effective June 14, 2006 and written comments may be submitted up to June 14, 2006.

#### Byron 1 and Braidwood 2 Sump Modifications

On May 16, 2006, NRR staff met with Exelon representatives to discuss Exelon's response to Generic Letter 2004-02 "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," for the Byron and Braidwood facilities. The licensee requested the meeting to discuss its intention to request an extension to the requirement of the Generic Letter to have all modifications completed by the end of 2007. The licensee has two downstream modifications for both Byron, Unit 1 and Braidwood, Unit 2 that it would like to complete during the planned spring 2008 outages. The NRR staff expects to receive a docketed extension request from Exelon by May 26, 2006.

#### Tennessee Valley Authority Power Uprate Meeting

On May 17, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting with representatives of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two issues on the Browns Ferry (BFN) Units 1, 2, and 3 Extended Power Uprate licensee amendment request: (1) TVA's basis for crediting containment overpressure for mitigating a loss-of-cooling accident and special events and (2) instrument setpoints associated with digital instrumentation. The NRC staff verbally requested, and TVA agreed to provide, information responding to staff's questions about the submittal. No commitments or regulatory decisions were made by the NRC staff during the meeting.

#### General Electric (GE) Site Visit Regarding Interim Methods Topical Report Review

During the week of May 15, 2006, staff traveled to General Electric (GE) offices in Wilmington, NC, for an onsite audit of records in support of the review of topical report NEDC-33173P,

"Applicability of GE Methods to Expanded Operating Domains." This topical report is referenced by Browns Ferry's Extended Power Uprate (EPU) application and may be used in the Hope Creek EPU application. The staff was able to reviewed GE proprietary information and data, which will help finalize requests for additional information thereby expediting the review process and enabling the staff to meet the Browns Ferry EPU application target dates.

#### Site Audit of the North Anna Early Site Permit Application Dose Calculations

On May 16, 2006, the staff conducted an audit of the dose calculations provided in Revision 6 of Dominion's Early Site Permit application for the North Anna site. During the audit, the staff found errors in General Electric's (GE) dose calculations for its economic and simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) design. The errors included the use of an inappropriate source term for evaluating the consequences of a fuel handling accident as well as mistakes in converting between radiological units of measure. The results of these dose calculations were used by Dominion to justify, in part, the acceptability of the ESBWR as a surrogate design for the North Anna site. Dominion is expected to submit corrected dose calculations and results for the staff's review by May 24, 2006.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Technical Exchange on Yucca Mountain Pre-Closure Safety Analysis

On May 16-17, 2006, NRC and Department of Energy (DOE) staff held a technical exchange on pre-closure safety analysis and supporting information for the proposed Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository. The exchange covered the reliability of structures, systems, and components in pre-closure safety analysis, and 10 CFR Part 63 pre-closure safety analysis regulatory requirements. It was attended by the State of Nevada, other stakeholders, and interested members of the public.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Dry Storage Information Forum

On May 9-11, 2006, NMSS staff attended and made presentations at NEI's "Dry Storage Information Forum" in Key Biscayne, FL. This forum is an annual meeting to allow for an open exchange on items of interest to dry spent fuel storage licensees, regulators, 10 CFR Part 71 and 72 certificate holders, vendors, consultants, and supporting organizations. This year, for the first time, DOE attended the forum and provided perspectives on Yucca Mountain design and licensing, including an overview of the Transport, Aging, and Disposal canister concept.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Seismic Issues Related to Future Reactor Siting

On May 11-12, 2006, staff from RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation participated in a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to continue the dialogue regarding the resolution of seismic issues related to future reactor siting. Discussion focused on the review of industry task reports and the industry's plan for integrating the task results. Also discussed were action items from the March 24, 2006, public meeting (see meeting summary, dated April 6, 2006, ADAMS ML060950593); NRC's progress in drafting a new Regulatory Guide (DG-1146), "Identification and Characterization of Seismic Sources and Determination of Performance-Based Safe Shutdown Earthquake Ground Motion"; and an acceptance criterion for the performance-based approach for determining the safe shutdown earthquake ground motion. NRC and NEI plan to hold a follow-up meeting in mid-July 2006 to further discuss DG-1146.

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Preliminary Notification

- PNO-III-06-012A, Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc., MANUAL REACTOR SHUTDOWN FOLLOWING FEEDWATER PUMP TRIP (UPDATE).

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
May 12 through May 18, 2006:

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Middletown, IA, number of employees compensated for exposure to radioactive materials, beryllium or beryllium products	FOIA/PA-2006-0202
Dow Chemical/Spectralite, Madison, IL, FUSRAP site, licenses for uranium & thorium, 1943-46, 1951 to present; General Steel Castings & General Steel Industries, Granite City, IL, licenses for uranium, iridium-192, cobalt, between 1953 & 1974	FOIA/PA-2006-0203
Allegations made by named individual re: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant between 1-1-00 & present	FOIA/PA-2006-0204
FAIR Act Inventory, crosswalk document that links the functions identified on the FAIR list to the actual employee positions; position, series, PDs	FOIA/PA-2006-0205
Allegation RIII-05-A-0072, disposition of concerns 1, 2 & 3	FOIA/PA-2006-0206

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
ANDRUKAT, DENNIS W.	GENERAL ENGINEER	NRR
BAQUERA, MICAH T.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
BARTHOLOMEW, AARON	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
DINH, THINH	FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER	NRR
GARAN, NESRIN E.	LAW CLERK	OGC
JOCHIM, CHRISTINE A.	LAW CLERK	OGC
KALKMAN, ADAM N.	STUDENT CLERK	OI
MARENCHIN, THOMAS	NUCLEAR PROCESS ENGINEER (CRIT INSP)	NMSS
MATTINGLEY, JOEL T.	BUDGET ANALYST	CFO
MEHLHAFF, ZACHARY M.	STUDENT TRAINEE (IT SPECIALIST)	RIV
MOONEY, BARRETT L.	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RII
MOORE, JOHARI A.	ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NMSS
PETERKA, NICHOLAS E.	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RII
PORTER, RUTH M.	LAW CLERK	OGC
ROBB, KEVIN R.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
SPEER, CHRISTOPHER A.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NMSS
ST. JOHN, JOSEPH S.	LAW CLERK	OGC
TAYLOR, RENEE C.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
THAIVALAPPIL, RAJALAKSHMI S.	ACCOUNTANT	CFO
WRIGHT, KATHRYN A.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
<b>Departures</b>		
BERG, LAWRENCE J.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
OMELIA, KEVIN D.	MAIL AND FILE CLERK	RII
WILSON, BENJAMIN ALLEN	NUCLEAR ENGINEER (CRITICALITY)	NMSS

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

NRC Hosts Small Business Procurement Fair

On May 18, 2006, SBCR hosted a Small Business Procurement Fair at NRC Headquarters. Representatives from 24 small businesses from a variety of industry groups displayed their products and services and distributed corporate capabilities information. Approximately 200 NRC management and staff members from 16 offices participated in the event. The fair provided an excellent opportunity for face-to-face meetings with key potential business partners and many attendees requested that NRC host similar outreach activities in the near future.

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

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

NRC's investigation of a hole drilled into a pipe at Turkey Point earlier this year.

NRC's process for reviewing uprate requests by nuclear plants.

The environmental review process for license renewal applications by nuclear plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff assisted at end-of-cycle meetings for nuclear power plants and at the environmental scoping meeting for the Pilgrim plant license renewal review, including advance outreach to local media to explain the review process.

Commissioner Merrifield was interviewed by the Chicago Tribune regarding fuel damage.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-066	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Emergency Preparedness for Nuclear Power Plants on May 19 <sup>th</sup> in Rockville, Maryland (5/15)
06-067	New Reactor Construction Inspection Center to Be Established in NRC's Atlanta Regional Office (5/17)
06-068	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 31 - June 1 in Rockville, Maryland (5/17)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-033	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Review Associated With Proposed Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant License Extension (5/18)
III-06-023	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Palisades Nuclear Power Plant (5/15)
III-06-024	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Kewaunee Nuclear Plant (5/19)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending May 19, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0066	05/16/06	Regulatory and Resource Implications of a Department of Energy Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program
Commission Voting Record on 06-0066	05/16/06	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-06-0065	05/17/06	Office of Inspector General Recommendations on Decommissioning Funding Assurance
Voting Record on SECY-06-0065	05/17/06	(same)
3. SECY-06-0101	05/4/06	Emergency Preparedness for Daycare Facilities Within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Update on Staff Actions and Request for Commission Approval for Related Staff Actions
4. SRM-COMEXM-06-0003	05/11/06	Regulation of Reprocessing Facilities
Voting Record for COMEXM-06-0003	04/18/06	(same)
<b>Information Paper</b>		
SECY-06-0108	05/12/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 5, 2006
<b>Memoranda</b>		
M060515A	05/15/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0090 - Pa'ina Hawaii, LLC, LBP-06-4, 63 NRC 99 (Jan. 24, 2006) (Admitting Two Environmental Contentions and Granting Standing); LBP-06-12, 63 NRC (March 24, 2006) (Admitting Three Safety Contentions)

M060516A	05/16/2006	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session - SECY-06-0091 - Hydro Resources, Inc. (In Situ Leach Mining License), 40-8968-ML. Draft Order Affirming LBP-06-1 (PID - Radioactive Air Emissions)
----------	------------	--

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Christine Kehoe, California Senate, responds to letter asking whether a truck carrying Low Specific Activity radioactive waste water from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) to licensed waste disposal facility in Utah may have leaked in locations along the transport route.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Request to Amend a License to Import Radioactive Waste - Perma-Fix/DSSI, Inc.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (6/13-14/06).
3. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems, notice of meeting (6/27/06).
4. ACRS, Meeting of the Joint ACRS Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and Human Factors, notice of meeting (6/28/06).

Region II (RII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Decision and Corrective Actions on Differing Professional Opinion regarding Farley Application of Control Rod Technical Specifications

On March 8, 2006, the Regional Administrator, Region II, issued a decision on a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) regarding the application of Technical Specifications at Farley (DPO-2005-007). On August 2, 2005, an NRC employee submitted a DPO regarding the appropriate application of Technical Specifications on June 17, 2005, when two control rods in a shutdown bank did not return to the full out position following the performance of a surveillance procedure, and the appropriate documentation of the issue in an inspection report. On February 15, 2006, the panel provided the results of its independent review to the Regional Administrator. The panel concluded that Farley was in compliance with the Technical Specifications for the plant conditions related to the control rod system on June 17 and 18, 2005, and no enforcement action is warranted. The panel also concluded that the inspection report should have contained documentation of the inspection activities performed for this issue. The panel recommended that management have discussions with the staff on (1) the importance of reviewing the background information and bases for major amendments and licensing actions, (2) the documentation requirements of Inspection Manual Chapter 0612 regarding what information should be included in inspection reports to ensure expectations are clear and future reports accurately document all inspections performed by the staff, and (3) the availability and purpose of regional instructions on available alternatives for resolving disagreements on technical issues. Based on a review of the panel's report and additional comments from the DPO submitter, the Regional Administrator agreed with the panel's conclusions and recommendations. The actions to respond to the panel's recommendations were completed on May 18, 2006.

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Region Begins Special Inspection at the Kewaunee Plant

On May 18, 2006, the staff began a special inspection at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station, located at Kewaunee, Wisconsin. The inspection is looking into a situation in which plant operators apparently made changes to the startup procedure without proper review or authorization during plant startup on May 17. Specifically, the special inspection is reviewing the licensee's review of the operators' actions, the logic of the startup procedure itself, and the reason for the procedure change.

Monticello End-of-Cycle Performance Meeting

On May 17, 2006, the staff met with representatives of Nuclear Management Co. in Monticello, Minnesota, to discuss the end-of-cycle performance assessment for the Monticello Nuclear Power Station.

Byron Station Resumption of Liquid Radioactive Waste Discharges

During the week of May 8-12, 2006, Exelon resumed use of the normal blowdown line at Byron Station for liquid radioactive waste discharges to the Rock River. Three releases were performed successfully with no leakage detected from the line's vacuum breaker valves. During a previous attempt to resume use of the blowdown line on April 20, 2006, Exelon identified leakage in three vacuum breaker vaults and suspended release from the blowdown line. These most recent successful discharges were conducted after the licensee had implemented corrective actions for the leaking vacuum breakers.

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

Congressional Visit to River Bend Station

On May 13, 2006, U.S. Congressman Bobby Jindal visited River Bend Station. Congressman Jindal represents the First District of Louisiana and is a member of the House Committees on Homeland Security, Resources, and Education and the Workforce.

San Onofre Annual Assessment Public Meeting

On May 16, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in San Clemente, California, to discuss San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station's safety performance for 2005. Approximately 40 people attended the presentation, including Southern California Edison Company officials, representatives of the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (a coalition of offsite emergency response organizations), one member of the media, and several members of the local community. Questions and comments received from the public were primarily focused in the areas of security, offsite emergency response, and spent fuel storage.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending May 19, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 19					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	05/16/06 2359 RHOB	3:30	Markup	Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Reps. Lewis/Obey Appropriations
Combs	05/16/06 SD-366	10:00	DOE, EPA, State of Nevada, NWTB	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Schmidt/ Keeling	05/17/06 SD-628	9:30	Dr. Dale Klein	Confirmation hearing for Dr. Dale Klein to be a Commissioner of the U.S. NRC	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Shane	05/22/06 SD-366	2:30	NRC, DOE, and others	Nuclear Plant Development	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	05/23/06 2203 RHOB <b>Classified Briefing</b>	2:00	NRC, GAO	Follow-up to 4/4/06 Hearing on GAO report concerning the Design Basis Threat process	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations Government Reform
Shane	TBA 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 and other topics	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE R

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 19, 2006

**As a result of its 532<sup>nd</sup> meeting (May 4-5, 2006), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.**

Date	
May 17, 2006	Modified Draft Final Revision 4 to Regulatory Guide 1.97, "Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants"
May 17, 2006	Report on the Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2

May 19, 2006

ENCLOSURE S