

INFORMATION REPORT

December 21, 2006

SECY-06-0241

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 8, 2006

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
New Reactors	B*
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	C
Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs	D
Nuclear Regulatory Research	E
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	F*
Administration	G
Information Services	H
Chief Financial Officer	I*
Human Resources	J
Small Business and Civil Rights	K*
Enforcement	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
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/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

NRC/Technical Specifications Task Force Public Meeting Regarding Administrative Processing of Generic Changes to the Standard Technical Specifications

On November 30, 2006, the Technical Specification Task Force and the staff conducted a public meeting regarding generic changes to the Standard Technical Specifications (i.e., Travelers). The staff and the Task Force discussed the NRC administrative processes associated with Task Force Travelers, and reviewed the status of Travelers formally proposed by industry. The Task Force also presented and solicited the NRC feedback on Travelers under consideration for submission to the NRC.

Public Meeting on the Proposed Revision to NUREG-1122 "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Pressurized Water Reactors" and NUREG-1123 "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Boiling Water Reactors"

On November 29, 2006, the staff held a public meeting with members of the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group and Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group to discuss their proposed revisions to the "Generic Section" of the pressurized water reactor and boiling water reactor "Knowledge and Abilities Catalogs," NUREGs -1122 and -1123, respectively, that the NRC uses to develop operator licensing examinations. The staff expects to complete its review of the industry proposed revisions and publish the draft revisions to the NUREGs for public comment during early part of 2007.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

Meeting with Westinghouse Electric Company on Minimum Margins of Subcriticality Related to License Renewal

On December 4, 2006, the staff met with Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) managers and staff to consider plans to resolve the remaining technical issue associated with renewal of license SNM-1107 for the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and identify a path forward on agreement on a minimum margin of subcriticality under abnormal operating conditions at the facility. The meeting was attended by representatives of other fuel fabrication facilities who provided comments on the issues discussed.

Public Meeting with Transnuclear, Inc.

On December 5, 2006, staff had a pre-application meeting with Transnuclear, Inc. to discuss Transnuclear, Inc. plans to amend the Certificate of Compliance for the Standardized NUHOMS® dry cask system. The amendment would be to: (1) include the light-weight transfer cask that was used under an exemption at Fort Calhoun Station so that it can be used by any Part 72 general licensee; and (2) use the standardized storage technical specifications. Transnuclear, Inc. tentative schedule is to submit the amendment in March 2007, and to request approval by March 2008. The staff raised several issues including how contingency planning for off-normal events (e.g., crane malfunctions) will be addressed and Transnuclear, Inc. requested aggressive schedule given the content of the proposed amendment. Transnuclear, Inc. indicated it would consider the staff's feedback, and agreed that another pre-application meeting would be appropriate.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

Public Meeting Involving Shieldalloy

On December 5, 2006, as part of its decommissioning plan review process, the staff held a press conference and public information meeting in Newfield, New Jersey. Both were covered by local television and print media. Prior to the meeting, NRC management met with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) officials to discuss decommissioning the site. There were approximately 120 attendees at the public meeting. All were opposed to Shieldalloy's decommissioning proposal to leave 18,000 cubic meters of radioactive slag and 15,000 cubic meters of radioactive baghouse dust at the site under restricted use conditions. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the offices of Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, three local Assemblymen, the Mayor of Newfield, staff from NJDEP and from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

December 8, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

Publication of NUREG/CR-6920, "Risk-Informed Assessment of Degraded Containment Vessels"

During the week of November 27, 2006, RES published the subject NUREG, which documents the results of research conducted at Sandia National Laboratories on degraded nuclear power plant containments. This study was performed to enhance the agency's understanding of containment degradation (e.g., by loss of prestressing or corrosion of the steel shell or liner, reinforcing bars, bellows, or prestressing tendons) and how degradation reduces the structural integrity of typical U.S. reinforced-concrete and steel containments.

Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel National Aeronautics Space Administration Science Laboratory Meeting at Kennedy Space Center

On November 28-29, 2006, the Mars Science Laboratory 2009 (MSL09) project team and the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel (INSRP) met for a technical exchange concerning the mission, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This was the second technical meeting for INSRP. The meeting was attended by, the NRC technical advisor to the INSRP panel.

Meeting with Japan Nuclear Energy Safety (JNES) Organization to Discuss Future Information Exchange

On November 29, 2006, the staff met with JNES representatives to discuss the exchange of research results and related information in the area of reactor materials degradation. The RES and JNES representatives agreed that sharing research results should begin after finalization of an agreement between the two parties.

Agreement Between the NRC and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI) in the Area of Severe Accident Research

On December 4, 2006, the Acting Executive Director for Operations signed the subject international agreement, which defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the SKI will continue to cooperate in the area of severe accident research. This cooperative Agreement will expand the NRC's related data and knowledge base, and independently verify the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code for different accident sequences. The NRC uses the MELCOR code to evaluate potential risk and security scenarios for severe accidents, address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants, and review new designs. The next step is for the Agreement to be signed by officials of SKI. This Agreement will remain in effect for a period of 3 years.

Public Meeting to Discuss High Priority Regulatory Guides for New Reactors

On December 5, 2006, RES conducted a public meeting to discuss the high priority Regulatory Guides (RGs) being developed in support of new reactor licensing. The purpose of the meeting was to provide additional opportunity for stakeholders to discuss with the staff, their comments

December 8, 2006

ENCLOSURE E

on the RGs currently out for public comment. Participants agreed to provide the comments through the public comment process.

Commissioner Lyons' visit to the National Institute for Standards and Technology's (NIST) to tour Fire Research Laboratory and Research Reactor

On December 6, 2006, Commissioner Lyons toured the NIST Fire Research Laboratory and Research Reactor, and was provided a broad overview of NIST's capabilities and technical expertise. The Commissioner was able to view a series of calibration tests being performed on the large hood in the fire testing laboratory and received a briefing on current NIST work with RES on verifying and validating fire models for NRC use. He was provided a briefing on the state-of-the-art neutron research projects NIST was currently involved in at their research reactor.

December 8, 2006

ENCLOSURE E

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

Facility Change Process Involving Items Relied on for Safety: Confirmation of Effective Date (AH96 - Part 70)

On December 1, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 69430) confirming the effective date of a September 27, 2006, direct final rule (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 confirmed effective date for this direct final rule is December 11, 2006.

December 8, 2006

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of December 1 through December 7, 2006:

Amarillo Power, Units 1 & 2, response to regulatory issue summary	FOIA/PA-2007-0047
Report No. 078-154-A - Part 2 of 2 re: Radioactive Material in Uncontrolled Location, Norton, MA, approved June 12, 1979	FOIA/PA-2007-0048
OI Report 4-2006-003	FOIA/PA-2007-0049
Federal employees in the State of Georgia; title/position, pay grade/step, work location, date of employment	FOIA/PA-2007-0050
NRC Job Announcement NSIR/DSO-2006-009, selection process, evaluation of KSAs, resumes, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0051
Allegation RIV-1998-A-0144, including all correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2007-0052

December 8, 2006

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending December 8, 2006

Arrivals		
COOPER, LATOYA	CLERK	NMSS
CRLLENJAK, RICHARD	CONSULTANT	NSIR
DELLA GRECA, ANIELLO	CONSULTANT	NSIR
DIPALO, ANTHONY	CONSULTANT	NSIR
GREEN, JAMIE	SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST	NRR
HABIB, DONALD	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
KEETON, JACK	CONSULTANT	NSIR
PANICKER, MATHEW	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
POSLUSNY, CHESTER	SR. PROGRAM MANAGER	NRR
SANDERS, PEGGY	RECORDS MANAGEMENT ANALYST	IS
SCHAFFER, STEVEN	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NRR
SHNAYDER, YANA	BUDGET ANALYST	OGC
STARTZ, PAUL	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RII
WILLIAMS, JULIAN	CONSULTANT	NSIR
WILLIAMS, VALERIE	SECRETARY (OA)	NSIR
Departure		
DENNIS, STEVEN	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
DIMORA, SHANNINE	SECRETARY (OA)	RI
FLEMMING, JASON	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
GONZALEZ-GARCES, DENISE	STUDENT ENGINEER TRAINEE (CO-OP)	RES
JOCHIM, CHRISTINE	STUDENT LAW CLERK	OGC
SAVITSKY, RICHARD	OPERATIONS MANAGER	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Polonium, its uses in industry and potential health hazards.

Shieldalloy's decommissioning plan for its New Jersey site.

Issues with security guards at South Texas Project.

NRC's denial of petitions regarding license renewal reviews for nuclear plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Public Affairs assisted the Chairman during his visit to a BWXT facility in Indiana, which received wide local coverage.

OPA also assisted staff at a public meeting in New Jersey regarding Shieldalloy's decommissioning plan.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-148	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request a Hearing on License Renewal Application for Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant (12/5)
06-149	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (12/8)
Regions:	
III-06-033	NRC Returns Point Beach to Routine Oversight (12/4)

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 8, 2006

South Texas Project Public Meeting

On December 4, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in the Region IV offices with South Texas Project Electric Generating Station (STPEGS) plant management and security staff members. The meeting was held to discuss security-related issues at STPEGS. Members of the public attending in person or on the phone included representatives of National Public Radio, Houston; Platt's New Service; The Matagorda (TX) Advocate; and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Arkansas Nuclear One Closed Meeting

On December 7, 2006, the staff held a closed meeting in the Region IV offices with Arkansas Nuclear One plant management and security staff members. The meeting was held to discuss security-related issues at Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2.