

INFORMATION REPORT

March 9, 2007

SECY-07-0048

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 2, 2007

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*No input this week.

/RA/

Michael R. Johnson
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Coatings Meetings with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and Nuclear Utilities Coatings Council (NUCC)

From February 13 to 16, 2007, the staff participated in protective coatings meetings associated with the 2007 Paint and Coatings Expo in Dallas, Texas. On February 13 and 14, 2007, the staff attended the coatings aging task group meetings sponsored by EPRI and the Nuclear Utilities Coatings Council (NUCC). This working group was formed to address the failures of protective coating systems that the nuclear industry experienced inside the reactor containment building. This meeting served as a forum to share results of the project to date and to make decisions on the next steps in the project. On February 15 and 16, 2007, the staff attended meetings of ASTM Committee D33 on "Protective Coating and Lining Work for Power Generation Facilities." The annual ASTM Committee meeting was conducted to revise existing coatings standards and to propose new standards.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Public Meeting with Department of Energy (DOE) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) on Standardized Canister Design

On February 22, 2007, staff met with representatives of the DOE/Idaho Field Office and their contractors from INL to discuss the design of the Standardized Canister. DOE is designing the canister for storage, transportation, and disposal of DOE-owned spent nuclear fuels (i.e., spent fuels discharged from research reactors, production reactors, etc.). DOE is planning to submit a topical report that addresses the design aspects of the Standardized Canister with respect to NRC Regulatory requirements. The meeting focused on the criticality analyses that have been performed for the canister. DOE and INL have performed a series of criticality analyses for certain types of research reactor spent fuel. The criticality analyses were performed for water moderated and unmoderated single canisters, as well as arrays of nine canisters, to represent a possible shipping configuration. DOE and INL plan to consider basket and fuel configuration under accident conditions for water moderated canisters. A future meeting to discuss structural issues is also planned.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Public Meeting With Stakeholders Regarding NRC Risk-Informed Initiatives

On February 23, 2007, staff held a public meeting with stakeholders to discuss the NRC's risk-informed initiatives. The meeting focused on the staff's plans to improve the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan (RIRIP). The staff noted that the proposed RIRIP improvements resulted from Commission direction to improve the RIRIP so that it is an integrated master plan for activities designed to help the agency achieve the Commission's goal of a holistic, risk-informed, and performance-based regulatory structure. Stakeholders attending the meeting indicated that they were supportive of efforts to simplify the RIRIP and clearly define the future direction of risk-informed initiatives. The staff indicated that they would continue to interact with stakeholders and solicit their input.

Meeting With Delegation from Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) and the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry to Discuss Fire Safety Research

On February 23, 2007, staff met with representatives from JNES and the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry to share information and discuss issues related to fire safety research. The staff presented information about current fire research on the CAble Response to Live FIRE (CAROLFIRE) project, fire modeling verification and validation, fire probabilistic risk analysis, and fire human reliability analysis activities. The representatives from JNES shared information about their recent fire experiments performed for their mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility.

Resolution of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-196, Boral Degradation

In accordance with Management Directive 6.4 entitled "Generic Issues Program," the staff has completed all actions necessary for resolution of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-196, "Boral Degradation," without imposing new or additional generic actions for dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel. The decision to close out this GSI was based upon the staff's technical assessment, which was endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste.

Joint Meeting with the Department of Energy on the Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) Technique for the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP)

On February 27-28, 2007, staff conducted the subject meeting during which experts identified key safety phenomena and assessed the existing technical knowledge base in four subject areas: (1) thermofluidics and accident analysis; (2) high temperature materials and graphite; (3) fission product transport and dose calculations; and (4) process heat and hydrogen co-generation. The PIRT effort supports two elements of the NGNP licensing strategy mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005: (1) identifying analytical tools needed for confirmatory safety analyses and (2) surveying research and development needs in preparation for NGNP license review. A follow-on meeting to finalize the NGNP PIRT is scheduled for mid-April 2007.

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ENCLOSURE E

Public Meeting of Task Working Group (TWG) Designated by the Digital Instrumentation and Control (I&C) Steering Committee to Address Digital System Communications that Involve Equipment Assigned to Different Safety Divisions

On February 23, 2007, the subject TWG, composed of staff and industry representatives, met to discuss issues related to licensing digital I&C systems in new and operating nuclear power plants and fuel facilities. This first meeting focused on preparing a project plan for developing guidance for designers and reviewers about cross-channel interactions (such as exchanges of information and of actuation requests) in nuclear safety systems (including interactions with non-safety systems). This TWG will determine what types of cross-channel interactions have been or will be proposed, and will establish guidelines for design and review.

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ENCLOSURE E

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Power Reactor Security Requirements; Reopening of Public Comment Period (AG63 - Parts 50, 72, and 73)

On February 28, 2007, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 8951) that reopens the comment period until March 26, 2007, for this rulemaking. The comment period was reopened in response to requests that the comment period be extended beyond the date of the rescheduled public meeting on this action.

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 23 through March 1, 2007:

Contract NRC-27-01-001	FOIA/PA-2007-0130
Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC) correspondence between NRC & CBNC from August 31, 2006 & January 31, 2007	FOIA/PA-2007-0131
Contract NRC-27-01-001	FOIA/PA-2007-0132
Contract NRC-27-01-001	FOIA/PA-2007-0133
NUREG/BR-0073, NRC Project Manager's Handbook	FOIA/PA-2007-0134
Material License Tracking System database information on specific program codes	FOIA/PA-2007-0135

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Arrivals		
BLAKE, KATHLEEN	SECRETARY	FSME
DEMPSEY, HEATHER	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
FEDERLINE, MARGARET	CONSULTANT	NMSS
FONT, OSVALDO	NSPDP ENGINEER / SCIENTIST	RES
FUHRMANN, MARK	GEOCHEMIST	RES
GOMEZ, ANA	SECRETARY	NMSS
HARDIN-MURPHY, KAREN	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
HEIDA, BRUCE	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
JIMENEZ, PATRICIA	SECRETARY (OA)	CSU
LEHMAN, BRYCE	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
LISING, ALLAN	REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
MAJEED, FAJR	SECRETARY (OA)	FSME
MATLACK, HEATHER	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
MYERS, CRYSTAL	SECRETARY (OA)	RIV
O'DRISCOLL, JAMES	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
TOMPKINS, ZIA FAIZ	GENERAL ENGINEER	NSIR
VALENCIA, SANDRA	IT SPECIALIST	OIS
WILSON, ANDREA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
YU, IRENE	PROJECT MANAGER (ENVIRONMENTAL)	NRO
Retirements		
AITCHESON, MARIANNE	TEAM LEADER	RES
MEEK, TERESA	PROGRAM ANALYST	NRR
MO, TIN	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RES
SCOTT, MICHAEL	SENIOR REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV

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ENCLOSURE J

Retirements		
TRIMBLE, DAVID	SR. REACTOR OPERATIONS ENG.	NRR
WATKINS, LIONEL	SR. VISUAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST	ADM
Departures		
HUFFMAN, CHAD	RELIABILITY AND RISK ENGINEER	RES
MCCONNELL, TIMOTHY	RESIDENT INSPECTOR (PWR)	R-IV

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

The OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

TXU's buyout announcement and how the NRC reviews reactor license transfers.

The Commission's rulings in the Diablo Canyon, Oyster Creek and related cases on whether terrorism should be considered in environmental reviews of licensing actions.

An electrical fire at Peach Bottom.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Chairman Klein spoke at the Waste Management Conference in Tucson, Arizona.

OPA Region I assisted staff at a meeting with Vermont lawmakers regarding the license renewal review for Vermont Yankee.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-028	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet March 8-10 in Rockville, Maryland (2/26)
07-029	NRC Announces Appointment of New Member to the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (2/26)
Regions:	
III-07-004	NRC Returns Perry to Regular Oversight (3/2)
IV-07-004	NRC Proposes \$6,500 Fine for Universal Testing, LLC (2/26)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-07-0032	2/12/07	Recommended Staff Actions Regarding Correspondence with Allegers Involving Security-Related Concerns
2. COMSECY-07-0002	1/26/07	Potassium Iodide Replenishment
SRM on 07-0002	2/28/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0002	2/28/07	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0031	2/9/07	Status of the Silex Project Proposed by General Electric Nuclear
2. SECY-07-0033	3/1/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 9, 2007
Memoranda		
1. M070215B	2/26/07	Briefing on Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Programs, Performance, and Plans
2. M070226	2/26/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0243 - AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (License Renewal for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station) Docket No. 50-0219, Remaining Legal Challenges to LBP-06-07; II. SECY-06-0245 - Nuclear Management Co., LLC (Palisades Nuclear Plant, License Renewal Application); Response to "Notice" Relating to San Louis Obispo Mothers for Peace; III. SECY-06-0246 - System Energy Resources, Inc. (Early Site Permit for Grand Gulf ESP Site); Response to NEPA/Terrorism Issue; IV. SECY-07-0006 - Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (Diablo Canyon ISFSI), Docket No. 72-26-ISFSI

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ENCLOSURE O

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Rod Blagojevich, Governor of Illinois, dated February 21, 2007, provides request for a State Liaison Officer to act as the primary liaison to the NRC.
2. Letter to Congress, dated February 16, 2007, provides NRC's Annual Report on the administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2006,

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (3/22/2007).
2. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (3/23/2007).
3. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-81], Mr. Eric Epstein; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.
4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (3/20/2007).
5. ACNW, notice of 177th meeting (3/20-22/2007).
6. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Notice of Hearing, USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant) (3/13/2007).

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ENCLOSURE O

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Commissioners' Visit BWX Technologies and AREVA Richland Facilities

On February 28 - March 1, 2007, Commissioners Merrifield and Lyons visited the BWX Technologies, Inc. in Virginia, accompanied by the Deputy Regional Administrator for Operations (DRAO). Commissioner Lyons and the DRAO also visited AREVA Lynchburg. They met with licensee management and toured the sites.

Executive Director for Operations (EDO) Visits Virginia Electric and Power Company

On March 2, 2007, the EDO, accompanied by the Deputy Regional Administrator for Operations, visited the North Anna Nuclear Station. They met with licensee management and toured the sites.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

Chairman Klein Visit to Palo Verde

On February 23, 2007, Chairman Klein toured the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, accompanied by the Regional Administrator. They met with senior plant management and discussed plant performance. Later that day, Dr. Klein held a press conference in Phoenix where he answered questions regarding NRC oversight of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of the Executive Director for Operations (OEDO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 2, 2007

DPO-2005-005: Issuance of Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) Appeal on Chemical Consequence Limits

On March 1, 2007, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) issued a decision on an appeal to an August 25, 2006 decision made by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). The appeal related to a June 21, 2005, DPO submitted by an NRC employee on the adequacy of chemical consequence limits proposed by a license applicant. The submitter requested in the original DPO that: (1) the management/staff decision to accept the use of the chemical consequence limits for the proposed facility be revised; (2) an issue on chemical consequence limits identified during the NRC's review of the license application be reopened; (3) the applicant be requested to submit on the docket adequate justification for its use of chemical consequence values; (4) a task force with credentials and experience in chemical consequence assessment and exposure limits be formed to establish an NRC staff position; and (5) a rulemaking process be conducted that presents these proposed limits to the licensees and the public such that consistent guidance for license and applicants can be developed. The EDO agreed with the DPO decision that a sufficient basis does not exist to reverse the NRC decision on the use of the proposed chemical consequence limits and take the actions proposed by the submitter. However, the EDO acknowledged that the staff is currently developing a guidance document which addresses, in part, the appropriate standards to use in setting chemical limits which will provide additional clarity on the appropriate considerations in review of chemical consequence limits. The EDO also recognized the efforts of the submitter in raising the issues concerns and the contribution of the employee in ensuring the agency's safety goals are achieved.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 2, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 6					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Decker	03/07/07 2318 Rayburn	10:00	House Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Representatives Lampson / Inglis)	Proposed fiscal 2008 budget for Energy Department research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ray Orbach - Undersecretary of Energy for Science ▶ Andrew Karsner - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ▶ Jeffrey Jarrett - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy ▶ Dennis Spurgeon - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy ▶ Kevin Kolevar - Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 6

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Combs / Decker	03/13/2007 342 Dirksen	2:30	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia (Senators Akaka / Voinovich)	International Efforts to Secure Radiological Materials	Not yet determined Requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GAO ▶ IAEA (will submit written statement) ▶ Andrew Bieniawski, Asst Deputy Administrator, Office of Global Threat Reduction, DOE ▶ Patty McNerney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation, Dept. of State ▶ Janice Dunn Lee - OIP, NRC ▶ non-government organization
Decker	03/28/2007 2362B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	Not yet determined Requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ NRC (Chairman Klein) ▶ DOE Office of Nuclear Energy ▶ DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)