

INFORMATION REPORT

August 24, 2007

SECY-07-0143

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
August 17, 2007

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

Meeting with Industry on Advanced Finite Element Analyses of Pressurizer Nozzle Weld Flaws

On August 9, 2007, staff from the Division of Component Integrity and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with industry representatives responsible for conducting the advanced finite element fracture mechanics analyses. These analyses were undertaken to address NRC staff concerns regarding primary water stress corrosion cracking in pressurizer nozzle welds. The purpose of the meeting was for industry to provide a comprehensive overview, summary, and conclusion of the analysis program and for NRC staff to provide a summary of its confirmatory research conducted in parallel with industry's analysis program.

Conversion Order Issued to Purdue University

On August 9, 2007, the staff issued an Order to Purdue University authorizing the conversion of the Purdue University Research Reactor (PUR-1) from high-enriched uranium (HEU) to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel. The Order will become effective 23 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, provided there are no requests for a hearing. The PUR-1 is a 1 kilowatt thermal power, heterogeneous, pool-type reactor that uses Materials Testing Reactor-type plate fuel. The conversion needs to be complete by September 30, 2007, to meet Department of Energy commitments to Congress.

Information Notice (IN) 2007-26, "Combustibility of Epoxy Floor Coatings at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants"

On August 13, 2007, the staff issued the subject IN to inform the industry and the public regarding a fire protection issue raised by NRC inspectors at two facilities that involves the combustibility of epoxy floor coatings over the concrete floors in various plant areas. The IN suggests the use of epoxy floor coating with a low flame spread rating, applying it in accordance with the manufacturer's/vendor's recommendations, and providing plant procedural controls for applying the coating to ensure it does not exceed recommended thickness. Coatings that are applied thicker than a manufacturer's recommendations may exceed the listed flame spread rating.

Region I Annual Operator Licensing Examination Conference

On August 14-16, 2007, the Division of Inspection and Regional Support staff supported Region I during its annual operator licensing examination conference with the Mid-Atlantic Nuclear Training Group. The staff made presentations on Subpart I, "Managing Fatigue," of the Part 26 Fitness for Duty Programs rule, and the upcoming supplements to NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, NUREG-1122, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Pressurized Water Reactors," Revision 2, and NUREG-1123, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Boiling Water Reactors," Revision 2. This public meeting was held at the Millstone Energy Center in Waterford, Connecticut.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

NRO Presents Information on New Reactor Licensing Process at Utility Working Conference

From August 6-8, 2007, NRO Division Directors made presentations at the annual American Nuclear Society Utility Working Conference in Amelia Island, Florida. The Directors participated in a panel discussion on pre-application interactions on August 7. On August 8, they participated in a special roundtable discussion that included representatives of proposed Combined License applicants.

Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Information to Support Design Certification and Combined License Applications

On August 8, the staff held its third public meeting to discuss the PRA information used to support design certification (DC) and combined license (COL) applications (Regulatory Guide 1.206 and Standard Review Plan Section 19.0). Based on feedback provided by representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute and the various design-centered working groups, the staff believes that it should clarify its guidance so that DC and COL applicants are better informed about the type of information they need to provide in Chapter 19 of the Final Safety Analysis Report. The staff will issue this clarification either as Staff Interim Guidance or a Regulatory Issue Summary.

Public Outreach Meeting Held Regarding Proposed New Reactor at Calvert Cliffs

On August 14, 2007, NRO staff attended a public meeting with the Calvert County Board of Commissioners and then hosted a public outreach meeting about UniStar/Constellation's COL application. NRO staff members presented information to the five elected County Commissioners about the NRC's COL review process with an emphasis on how the public can participate. Information about the COL Part 1 application was also discussed. During the public outreach meeting, NRO staff provided information about the NRC, the combined license safety and environmental review processes, as well as the construction inspection program.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Meeting on a Safety Standard for Volcanic Hazards

On August 6-10, 2007, at the request of the IAEA, NRC staff participated in a consultant meeting, at IAEA Headquarters, in Vienna, Austria. At the meeting, NRC staff helped revise the draft IAEA Safety Guide, "Volcanic Hazards in Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations." These revisions are meant to make the guide more consistent with a risk-informed approach for regulating safety in areas of potential volcanic hazards.

Meeting with International Experts on Data Relevant to Spent Fuel Waste Package Corrosion

From August 4-10, 2007, NRC staff met in France and Germany, with international technical experts on Alloy 22 corrosion studies, and on degradation assessments of spent nuclear fuel, including high burn-up fuel. The corrosion resistance of Alloy 22 and the slow degradation of spent nuclear fuel are important performance attributes for a robust waste package at the proposed high-level waste repository. The purpose of the trip was to discuss research, conducted by these experts, and the subsequent availability of this research to NRC staff. NRC staff met with technical experts at the: (1) Ecole National Supérieure De Chimie; (2) Commissariat à l'énergie Atomique; and (3) European Commission, Institute for Transuranium Elements.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

Medical Use of Byproduct Material: 10 CFR Parts 32 and 35

On Monday, August 13, 2007, the direct final rule and companion proposed rule, titled "Medical Use of Byproduct Material – Minor Corrections and Clarifications," amending 10 CFR Parts 32 and 35 were published in the *Federal Register*. If no significant adverse comments are received by September 12, 2007, the final rule will become effective on October 29, 2007.

Meeting with the National Mining Association (NMA)

On August 16, 2007, the NRC held a Category 2 public meeting at NRC headquarters with the NMA and several mining companies. The NMA's representatives discussed its interest in providing environmental information relevant to the ongoing Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Uranium Recovery. Additional statements and perspectives on the NRC's GEIS were also provided by mining company representatives. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person or via telephone and provided comments at the end.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: TN-68 Revision 1

On August 16, 2007, a direct final rule (72 FR 45880) entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: TN-68 Revision 1," and the companion proposed rule (72 FR 45948) were published in the *Federal Register*. The direct final rule amends Part 72 by revising the Transnuclear, Inc. TN-68 dry storage cask system listing within the "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks" to include Amendment No. 1 to Certificate of Compliance (CoC) Number 1027. The cask amendment will allow holders of power reactor operating licenses to load spent fuel into an empty TN-68 cask under Amendment No. 1 of CoC 1027. The final rule will become effective on October 30, 2007, unless significant adverse comments are received by September 17, 2007.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

Fire Modeling Phenomena Identification Ranking Table (PIRT) Meeting

During the week of August 13, 2007, RES held the third of three fire modeling PIRT meetings. This is the first time the PIRT process is being formally applied to fire modeling. Sandia National Laboratories is moderating the PIRT for the NRC and will prepare a summary report. RES expects to use the completed PIRT to assist in the development of the Fire Modeling Users Guide and future experiments.

Support for Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Fire Model Training at Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant

From August 14-16, 2007, RES staff provided training on NUREG-1805, "Fire Dynamics Tools," as part of EPRI's bi-annual fire model training class. This program is being conducted as a part of the NRC/EPRI Memorandum of Understanding and supports development of fire modeling skills within the industry and the NRC. The training is conducted at a nuclear power plant so that students can walkdown actual plant configurations and real-life fire scenarios. Licensee fire protection engineers and NRC regional inspectors attended this joint training class. RES plans to participate in additional sessions related to other fire models used in the nuclear industry.

Meeting of Department of Energy (DOE) and NRC on Next Generation Nuclear Plants (NGNP) Licensing Strategy Development

On August 14, 2007, DOE and NRC members of the NGNP project working group met to discuss progress made in developing the licensing strategy for NGNP and related draft report documentation. The group also discussed DOE's current thinking on NGNP ownership, the technical issues that need to be addressed during a pre-application review of NGNP, and the resource needs to support continued NRC/DOE interaction. The next working group meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2007.

Seminar on DOE NGNP Research and Development (R&D) Activities

On August 15, 2007, the technical director of NGNP R&D at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) gave a seminar on the NGNP R&D activities at various national laboratories under the lead of INL. The seminar focused on major NGNP topical areas including fuels and fission products, high temperature materials, graphite, and codes and methods related to thermal fluids and safety analysis. Most of the emphasis of current and near-term DOE-funded research is in the fuels and materials arena, whereas the longer-term plan is to address other areas. The speaker observed that in the technical areas of current focus, the DOE-funded R&D scope is consistent with that outlined in the NRC advanced reactor R&D plan for NGNP and high temperature gas reactors.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

NRC Size Standards; Revision (AI15 - Parts 2 and 171)

On August 10, 2007, the NRC published a direct final rule in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 44951) "NRC Size Standards; Revision (AI15 - Parts 2 and 171)," and the companion proposed rule that amends the size standards it uses to qualify a licensee as a small entity under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The NRC is increasing its receipts-based size standard to conform to the size standard set by the Small Business Administration. The comment period closes September 10, 2007.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 17, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of August 10 through August 16, 2007:

Uranium milling facilities, all documents that led NRC to expect "numerous license applications for in-situ leach (ISL)" as stated in published notice of intent dated 7-24-07	FOIA/PA-2007-0290
Allegation RIV-1999-A-0012, including all correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2007-0291
Memorandum of Understanding with the Dept of Justice, NUREG/BR-0195, Rev 11/98/ published 12/14/88, copies of documents described in Section E, 11/23/88 - 8/12/07	FOIA/PA-2007-0292
Nuclear Energy Liability Policy No NF-44 issued 8/1/58 by Nuclear Energy Liability Insurance Association (NELIA) a.k.a. American Nuclear Insurers (ANI), all documents including communications between NELIA/ANI & NRC and/or Atomic Energy Commission	FOIA/PA-2007-0293
Differing Professional Opinion, DPO-2006-005, management policy licensing new fuel cycle facilities, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0294
Office of Investigations Report 4-2006-040	FOIA/PA-2007-0295
Contract awarded from solicitation RES06112 - Technical Support for Revision of Regulatory Guides, copy of Section A or cover page	FOIA/PA-2007-0296
Office of Inspector General report on NRC's handling of the Heritage Minerals Site & the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp site	FOIA/PA-2007-0297
Medical use licensees, Boston, MA, re: application, maintenance, revocation & expiration, allegations, event notifications, enforcements, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0298
Review & Analysis of the Davis-Besse March 2002 Reactor Vessel Head Wastage Event & December 2006 Report on Reactor Pressure Vessel Wastage at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0299
NUMEC, decommissioning records	FOIA/PA-2007-0300

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

New Commissioner status.

Vermont Yankee nuclear plant's possible strike and tentative agreements.

Indian Point nuclear plant's full volume siren tests.

NRC's confirmatory order to FirstEnergy and the review process for issuance of the order for Davis-Besse.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA participated and coordinated interviews at the Calvert Cliffs public meeting regarding the partial COL application.

OPA coordinated NRR's participation in a roundtable discussion of new reactors and the oversight of existing reactors on a local public radio affiliate, WAMU.

OPA arranged an interview of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Bill McCabe by Government Executive magazine for a special edition on CFO's at federal agencies to be issued next month.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-100	Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, September 6-8 (8/14)
07-101	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Oral Argument August 22 Regarding Proposed Mox Fabrication Facility (8/14)
07-102	NRC Issues Order to FirstEnergy Regarding Information Relevant to Regulatory Activities (8/15)
07-103	NRC to Discuss Process for Review of License Renewal Application for Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant August 21 (8/16)
07-104	NRC Meeting August 28, 30 in South Carolina to Discuss Review Process for Expected New Reactor Applications (8/16)
07-105	NRC Releases Most of Yankee Nuclear Power Station Site for Unrestricted Public Use (8/17)

Regions:	
I-07-049	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Civil Penalty for Chambersburg, PA, Firm Over Temporary Loss of Nuclear Gauge (8/17)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-07-0082	8/10/07	Rulemaking to Make Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements; 10 CFR 50.46a, "Alternative Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors"
Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-0082	8/10/07	(same)
2. SECY-07-0124	7/31/07	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Program Status Report
SRM on 07-0124	8/14/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0124	8/14/07	(same)
3. COMSECY-07-0025	7/25/07	Semiannual Updates of the Lessons-Learned Program
SRM on 07-0025	8/15/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0025	8/15/07	(same)
4. SECY-07-0126	7/31/07	Proposed Rule: Geologic Repository Operations Area Security and Material Control and Accounting Requirements (RIN 3150-A106)
5. SECY-07-0129	8/3/07	Revisions to Policy Governing Availability of Information Associated with Category I Fuel Facilities
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0132	8/9/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 3, 2007
2. SECY-07-0125	7/31/07	Opportunities to Achieve Greater and More Uniform Adoption of the Provisions of the Code of Conduct By Other Countries (SRM-S-06-0171)

Memoranda		
1. M070724C	8/13/07	SRM - Briefing on Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-88], EnergySolutions; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 17, 2007

Hatch Public Company

On August 15, 2007, representatives from Southern Nuclear Company attended a public meeting in the Region II Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the plant status of the Hatch Nuclear Plant.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
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Site Visit of the Advisory Committee of Reactor Safety (ACRS)

On August 16, members of the ACRS, Operations Subcommittee visited San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and met with plant management and the resident inspectors. Focus areas for the visit included the licensee's corrective action program and safety culture as it relates to inspection activities under the Reactor Oversight Program.

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ENCLOSURE P