

INFORMATION REPORT

November 23, 2007

SECY-07-0205

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
NOVEMBER 16, 2007

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

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant Extended Power Uprated (EPU) presentation

On November 14, 2007, the Division of Safety Systems staff participated in a presentation to the Power Uprate Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) regarding the Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant Extended Power Uprate safety evaluation. Based on the meeting results, it is expected that the subcommittee will recommend the review proceed to the ACRS full committee.

Staff Meeting With Representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

On November 15, 2007, Division of Engineering staff met with representatives of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). NERC provided an overview and the status of their Situational Awareness Tool, which will provide a high level view of the North American grid. This tool will provide information on grid parameters (e.g. transmission loading, voltage, frequency, load mismatch) and on grid reliability. Currently, NERC is receiving data from the Pennsylvania, Jersey, Maryland grid operator (PJM) and will add data from 5 more Reliability Councils in 2008. In addition, FERC and NERC discussed the process of writing and approving standards. Of particular interest are the Critical Infrastructure Standards, pertaining to grid security.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Staff Performed Readiness Assessment Visit at River Bend Site

On November 6 and 7, 2007, staff visited River Bend Station in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, the proposed site for the upcoming combined license (COL) application that Entergy has indicated that it will submit in mid-2008. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the staff with the proposed site and to begin establishing working relationships with the applicant and local agencies. Topics discussed during the visit included hydrology, meteorology, ecology, radiation protection, socioeconomics, and alternative sites. This visit is part of the pre-application readiness assessment activities planned by the staff for all COL sites. Future visits for this site are already being planned, with the next visit likely to take place in February 2008.

Staff Readiness Assessment Visit to Comanche Peak Alternative Sites

On November 6 to 8, 2007, staff visited the alternative sites for the Comanche Peak COL application that Luminant (TXU) has indicated that it will submit in mid-2008. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the staff with the applicant's proposed alternative sites. The team focused on familiarization with site hydrological features, aquatic and terrestrial environment, demography, transportation infrastructure, and electrical transmission infrastructure. This visit is part of the pre-application readiness assessment activities planned by the staff for all COL sites. The next visit for the Comanche Peak site is tentatively planned to take place in March 2008.

Exelon Nuclear Selects General Electric Hitachi - Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (GEH - ESBWR) Technology for Texas Site

Exelon Nuclear issued a News Release on November 12, 2007, indicating that it had selected the GEH - ESBWR technology for a new nuclear power plant that is being considered for construction and operation in either Matagorda or Victoria counties in Texas. Exelon Nuclear indicated in its letter that its selection of reactor technology does not imply that it has made a commitment to build a plant. Exelon identified fuel disposal and community acceptance of a new nuclear plant as issues to be resolved prior to any formal decision to build. Exelon Nuclear expects to submit its COL application to the NRC in November 2008.

Bellefonte Combined License Application

On November 13, 2007, the staff met with the Tennessee Valley Authority to discuss the Bellefonte COL application. The purpose of the meeting was to orient the staff on the components and contents of the Bellefonte COL application that was submitted to the NRC on October 30, 2007. On November 14, 2007, the staff completed the Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) review of the Bellefonte COL application, which was made publicly available in the Agencywide Document Management System (ADAMS) on November 16, 2007. The Bellefonte COL application is the reference COL application for the AP1000 design.

Public Meeting on Proposed Rule on Consideration of Aircraft Impacts in New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs

On November 15, 2007, staff from NRO and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation held a public meeting to discuss the requirements and underlying bases for the proposed rule on Consideration of Aircraft Impacts in New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs (70 FR 50442), dated October 3, 2007. The staff provided an overview of the proposed rule and the method for performing an aircraft impact assessment. Discussions at the meeting focused on the scope of designs to which the proposed rule would apply and the process which an applicant might use to meet the rule. The public comment period for the proposed rule closes on December 17, 2007.

Unistar Nuclear Energy Press Release

On November 16, 2007, Unistar Nuclear Energy issued a press release announcing that it plans to submit an application to the Maryland Public Service Commission for a Certificate seeking approval for a third reactor at the Calvert Cliffs site.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

National Source Tracking System Testing

During the week ending November 16, FSME staff delivered data from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Interim Database for use by the development contractor, Lockheed-Martin, in testing data conversion processes for the National Source Tracking System. This is a major step in the contractor's development of the system.

November 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Meeting with Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on Potential Collaborative Research on Digital Instrumentation and Control (DI&C) and Human Factors (HF)

On November 14 and 15, 2007, staff met with EPRI to discuss DI&C diversity and defense in depth, highly integrated control rooms, DI&C system risk assessment, human factors (including manual operator actions, computerized procedures, and a graded approach to HF reviews), human performance metrics and criteria, the assessment of graphical display techniques, instrumentation and control obsolescence management, and remote integrated work environments. After prioritization of these issues, a proposed addendum to the EPRI/NRC Memorandum of Understanding will be developed.

November 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE E

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Clarification of NRC Civil Penalty Authority Over Contractors and Subcontractors Who Discriminate Against Employees for Engaging in Protected Activities (RIN 3150-AH59)

On November 14, 2007, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (72 FR 63969) amending its employee protection regulations to clarify the Commission's authority to impose a civil penalty upon a non-licensee contractor or subcontractor of a Commission licensee, or applicant for a Commission license who violates the NRC's regulations by discriminating against employees for engaging in protected activity. The rule also amends the employee protection regulations related to the operation of Gaseous Diffusion Plants. The effective date of this final rule is December 14, 2007.

State of California; Supplement to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-51-12)

On November 14, 2007, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (72 FR 64003) acknowledging receipt of a supplement to a petition for rulemaking filed with the Commission by Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General for the State of California. In this supplement to PRM-51-12, the petitioner provides clarification to the original petition for rulemaking. This document is being noticed for information only and not for public comment.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of November 3 through November 15, 2007:

NUREG-1338, "Preapplication Safety Evaluation Report for the Modular High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor"	FOIA/PA-2008-0038
Carlyle Group, contracts associated with Carlyle-owned firms from 2004 to present, all records (listing of firms provided)	FOIA/PA-2008-0039
Office of Investigations (OI) Special Agents that actually carried firearms during investigations, 1992 to present	FOIA/PA-2008-0040
Radioactive materials license for named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0041
OI Report 4-2007-006, regarding actions of instrumentation and control technicians including transcript of named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0042
St. Lucie, Florida Power & Light, all communications regarding incidental capture of threatened and endangers species, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and to current date 2007 (Referral by NOAA, Department of Commerce)	FOIA/PA-2008-0043
NRC and Department of Labor documents regarding named individual, 2000-2003, all records (Referral by Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President)	FOIA/PA-2008-0044

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0195	11/05/07	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending October 26, 2007
2. SECY-07-0191	10/31/07	Implementation and Update of the Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Plan
Memoranda		
1. M071024B	11/13/07	Periodic Briefing on New Reactor Issues

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Dr. Ulrich Schmocker, Switzerland, dated November 8, 2007, expresses appreciation for hosting lunch.
2. Letter to Dr. Hans Issler, Switzerland, dated November 8, 2007, expresses appreciation for hosting lunch.
3. Letter to Congresswoman Lowey, dated November 8, 2007, responds to letter regarding the failure of Entergy to comply fully with the requirements of NRC's July 30, 2007, Order concerning operability of the new Alert and Notification system for the Indian Point nuclear power plant.
4. Letter to Congress, dated November 6, 2007, provides NRC's quarterly report on the status of its licensing and other regulatory activities.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Southern Nuclear Operating Company Supplementary Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene on an Early Site Permit (ESP) for the Vogtle ESP Site.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting of the Advanced Boiling-Water Reactor Subcommittee (December 5, 2007).
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting on Planning and Procedures (December 5, 2007).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - Meeting Notice (December 6 to 8, 2007).
5. Alternate Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock Events; Reopening of Comment Period for Information Collection.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 16, 2007

Chairman Dale E. Klein Visits the Region II Office

On November 16, 2007, the Chairman visited the Region II office, met with the senior managers and toured the regional office.

November 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 16, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 37					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Sahm	11/13/07 406 Dirksen	11:00	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	S 2191 – America's Climate Security Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hawkins – Director, Climate Center, Natural Resources Defense Council • David Greene – Corporate Fellow, Geography and Environmental Engineering, Oak Ridge National Laboratory • Robert Baugh – Executive Director, Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO • Andrew Sharkey – President and CEO, American Iron and Steel Institute • Donald R. Rowlett – Director, Regulatory Policy and Compliance, OGE Energy Corp.
Powell	11/14/07 366 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) related to US policy on Nuclear Fuel Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis Spurgeon – Assistant Secretary of Energy • Peter Orszag – Director, Congressional Budget Office • Terry Wallace – Los Alamos National Laboratory • Neil Todreas – Massachusetts Institute of Technology • Matthew Bunn – Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs • Seshadri Pattabi – The Boston Consulting Group
Sahm	11/14/07 2318 Rayburn	10:00	House Select Energy Independence and Global Warming (Representatives Markey / Sensenbrenner)	Low-Carbon Energy Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Eliot Spitzer (D-NY) • Governor Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)

November 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE R

Sahm	11/15/07 406 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	S 2191 – America's Climate Security Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Krupp – President, Environmental Defense • Eileen Claussen – President, Pew Center on Global Climate Change • Ron Sims – County Executive, King County, WA • Kevin Book – Senior Analyst and Vice President, Friedman Billings Ramsey and Co. • Christopher Berendt – Director, Environmental Markets and Policy, Pace Global Energy Services
Decker	11/15/07 342 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittees on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia and State, Local and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration (joint subcommittee hearing) (Senators Akaka / Voinovich) (Senators Pryor / Sununu)	“Not a Matter of ‘If,’ But of ‘When’: The Status of US Response Following an RDD Attack”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Powell	11/15/07 366 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	S 2203 – Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund Reauthorization Act of 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Rispoli – Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management • Robin Nazzaro – Director, Natural Resources and Environment Issues, GAO • Marvin Fertel – NEI • Wesley Warren – Natural Resources Defense Council • John Longenecker – Longenecker Associates
Sahm	12/05/07 406 Dirksen	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Markup of S 2191 – America's Climate Security Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A