

INFORMATION REPORT

December 31, 2007

SECY-07-0223

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 21, 2007

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*No input this week.

/RA/

Vonna L. Ordaz
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

License Renewal Application for Oyster Creek Generating Plant

On December 18, 2007, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued an initial decision rejecting a challenge by a group of organizations collectively known as "Citizens" to AmerGen's application to renew its operating license for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. In the decision, the ASLB ruled that AmerGen has demonstrated that the frequency of its planned ultrasonic measurements, in combination with the other elements of its aging management program, provides reasonable assurance that the sand bed region of the drywell shell will maintain the necessary safety margin during the period of extended operation. A public hearing was conducted in Toms River, NJ on September 24 and 25, 2007 to hear testimony on this matter.

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Material Briefing

On December 18, 2007, the staff participated in a briefing to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Material (ACNW&M) on changes to the Significance Determination Process (SDP) for the Public Dose Cornerstone of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). ACNW&M requested this briefing to become familiar with the ROP and changes being made to the Public Dose Cornerstone SDP as a result of SECY-07-0112, "Staff Evaluation and Proposed Revision to the Public Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process to Address Radioactive Liquid Spills and Leaks."

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

NRC Receives Revision 1 to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3 Partial Combined License Application

By letter dated December 14, 2007, UniStar Nuclear provided Revision 1 to the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3 partial combined license application. This letter was submitted in response to the eight issues that the NRC staff identified during the acceptance review. The staff will review the information which included revisions to the final safety analysis report chapter 2 and the environmental report to determine if the application has sufficient information to warrant accepting for processing and further review. If the application is found acceptable for docketing, the staff will assign a docket number to the partial application. The second and final part of the combined license application is due to be submitted by the end of March 2008.

Selection of Reference Design for the Berwick Site

On December 18, 2007, Pacific Power and Light (PPL) informed the staff that it has officially chosen the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor as their reference design for the Berwick site. PPL signed a contract on December 18, 2007, with UniStar to develop the combined license application for submission later in 2008.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

American Geophysical Union Fall Annual Meeting

From December 10-14, 2007, NRC and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) staff members attended the American Geophysical Union Fall Annual Meeting. NRC and Center staff presented posters and papers related to the Yucca Mountain Project. NRC staff also conducted recruiting activities at the meeting.

International Atomic Energy Agency, Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste Meeting

From December 10-14, 2007, NRC staff participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Consultants Meeting, to assist IAEA review and respond to comments from the Member States, on a "Safety Guide for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste." The safety guide provides information useful to regulators and developers of geological disposal sites for radioactive waste.

Louisiana Energy Services Management Meeting

On December 17, 2007, staff members from NMSS and Region II held a semi-annual management meeting with Louisiana Energy Services (LES) staff, in Eunice, New Mexico, to discuss management issues related to the LES uranium enrichment project, in Lea County, New Mexico. Discussions included the status of current licensing and legal actions, security issues, construction plans, design changes, and schedules.

NRC / U.S. Department of Energy Quarterly Management Meeting on Yucca Mountain Project

On December 19, 2007, NRC and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) staff held a Quarterly Management Meeting, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting focused on: (1) the level of design details that DOE intends to include in a license application for a repository; and (2) quality assurance activities. The public observed the meeting and provided input before the meeting was adjourned.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Staff Issues NRC's Agency Report to the Council on Environmental Quality

On December 13, 2007, NRC issued to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) a report on NRC's Fiscal Year 2007 Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments. This report is submitted annually to the CEQ. All Federal agencies report to the CEQ to ensure consistency in environmental documents and analyses. The NRC routinely and extensively consults with other Federal, State, Tribal and local entities, which pursues the goals of formal Cooperating Agency agreements.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Public Meeting On Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) NEI 06-11, "Managing Fatigue at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites"

On December 13, staff from RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation held a public meeting to discuss NEI 06-11. This document provides guidance for meeting the requirements of the draft fitness for duty rule, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 26, Subpart I. During the meeting, the staff identified some outstanding issues regarding the risk analysis of structures, systems and components of high safety significance; transition of personnel between outage and operating units; application of outage hours; and performance-based review guidance. Another public meeting is anticipated in early 2008.

Participation in NASA Workshop on Databases and Parameter Estimation Methods

On December 19-20, RES staff participated as invited guests in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) workshop at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. The primary workshop objective was to discuss comments on NASA's draft handbook on databases and parameter estimation methods. The design and implementation of a new generation of risk and reliability data systems was also discussed at the workshop.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Partnership in Preparedness Conference

On December 11-12, NSIR staff and management gave several presentations on various emergency preparedness issues at the Joint Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - NRC Partnership in Preparedness Conference held at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The NRC Deputy Director of Emergency Preparedness made a keynote address to open the session on December 12. Approximately 150 representatives from FEMA, Licensees, and State and local Emergency Managers from the Southeastern United States were present at this meeting. Topics presented included an update on the status of current NRC Headquarters projects including the rulemaking for emergency preparedness (EP) regulations and guidance, Protective Actions Recommendation Study; the Incident Response Outreach efforts to strengthen relationships with State officials during EP Exercises and Security Drill and Exercise program.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of December 14 through December 20, 2007:

Licensees for Portable Nuclear Density Gauges in states of DE, DC, IN, NJ, MI, PA, UT, VA and WV	FOIA/PA-2008-0069
Work products submitted by Ruth Pierce and/or Southwind Enterprise Inc., regarding the Office of Congressional Affairs	FOIA/PA-2008-0070
Nuclear Energy Institute letter to NRC dated December 8, 2006, regarding proposed rulemaking - Security Assessment Requirements for New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs, SECY-06-0204	FOIA/PA-2008-0071

December 21, 2007

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending December 21, 2007

Arrivals		
JENKINS, KEVIN	STUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS (CO-OP)	CFO
LE, SOPHIE	STUDENT SCIENTIST (CO-OP)	FSME
RAMEY-SMITH, ANN	TECHINICAL ASSISTANT	NRO
RICKETTS, PAUL	SR IT SECURITY OFFICER	OIS
ROBINSON, REBECCA	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST (CO-OP)	OIS
SMITH, BEVERLY	SECRETARY (OA)	CFO
WOLFSON, AVIDON	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIV
Departures		
COMBS, THOMAS	CONSULTANT	CA
GONZALEZ-PIZARRO, RAFAEL	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	RES
MENDEZ GONZALEZ, SANDRA	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	RES
ROLFES, JAMES	IT SPECIALIST	OIS

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

NRC's recent special inspections performed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's research reactor in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Status of new reactor design applications and Combined License (COL) applications.

Recent Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel ruling in the Oyster Creek nuclear plant's license renewal proceedings.

The NRC's release of an Augmented Inspection Team's evaluation at the Farley nuclear power plant near Dothan, Alabama.

Wackenhut security guard force's "fitness for duty" and other security issues at nuclear power plants.

Status of Commissioner appointments.

Other Public Affairs Items

Chairman Klein visited Yucca Mountain, Nev. with members of the local, state and federal governments. OPA set up a press conference for him at the Las Vegas Hearing Facility where he discussed the role of the NRC staff, the role of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and the role of the Commission with regard to the Department of Energy's expected application for a high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain in mid 2008.

OPA participated in Exelon's media day event at the Clinton Nuclear plant

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-171	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Security Requirements for a Nuclear Waste Repository (12/19)
07-170	NRC Clarifies Acceptance Process for New Reactor License Applications (12/20)
07-169	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate in Hearing on New Reactor Application for South Texas Project Site (12/20)
07-168	NRC Proposes \$19,200 Civil Penalty Against California Firm for Falsified Inspection Report (12/21)
Regions:	
I-07-066	NRC Assigns New Senior Resident Inspector to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant(12/17)
I-07-067	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Indian Point Unit 3 (12/17)

I-07-068	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Beaver Valley (12/18)
III-07-027	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Fine Against Indiana Department of Transportation for Failure to Properly Secure Nuclear Gauges(12/18)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-07-0208	11/30/07	Proposal for Updating Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards-Cognizant Regulatory Guides
2. SECY-07-0155	9/7/07	Denial of a Petition for Rulemaking to Reconcile NRC Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Nuclear Power Plant Operating License Renewal Applications with the National Academy of Sciences Health Risk from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation: Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation VII, Seventh Ed., 2005 Report (PRM-51-11)
SRM on SECY-07-0155	11/15/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-0155	11/15/07	(same)
3. SRM on SECY-07-0203	12/17/07	Rulemaking Plan: 10 CFR Part 110, "Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Material; Updates and Clarifications"
Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-0203	12/17/07	(same)
4. SECY-07-0114	7/6/07	Staff Recommendations for Revisions to the Adversary Characteristics Screening Process
SRM on SECY-07-0114	12/4/07	(same)
5. COMSECY-07-0035	11/19/07	Annual Human Resources Statistical Report
SRM on COMSECY-07-0035	12/20/07	(same)
Commission Votes on COMSECY-07-0035	12/20/07	(same)
6. SRM on SECY-07-0184	12/21/07	Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors—Baseline Risk for Initiating Events
Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-	12/21/07	(same)

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ENCLOSURE O

7. SRM-SECY-07-0182	12/21/07	Semi-Annual Update on the Status of Emergency Preparedness Activities
Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-0182	12/21/07	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0209	11/30/07	Status of Decommissioning Program—2007 Annual Report
2. SECY-07-0218	12/14/07	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending December 7, 2007
Memoranda		
1. M071127B	12/17/07	Staff Requirements – Briefing on Equal Employment Opportunity Programs

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Joe Barton and Ed Whitfield, dated December 13, 2007, responds to letter regarding EnergySolutions' application to import radioactive waste from Italy.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Independent External Review Panel to Identify Vulnerabilities in the NRC's Materials Licensing Program, notice of meeting (December 14-18, 2008).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Joint ACRS Subcommittees on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena and on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (January 18, 2008).
3. South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company, Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene on a Combined License for the South Texas Project Units 3 and 4, Docket Nos. 52-012 and 52-013.
4. Lincoln County, Nevada; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking, 10 CFR Part 2, Docket No. PRM-2-13.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Materials Testing, Inc.

On December 18, 2007, an open predecisional enforcement conference was held with Materials Testing, Incorporated at the RI office. The conference was held to discuss one apparent repeat violation of 10 CFR 30.34(i) regarding proper storage of gauges identified during an NRC routine inspection completed in September 2007. At the conference, the licensee described their corrective actions, which included hiring a quality control individual to monitor activities at all five of the licensee's locations.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 21, 2007

Luminant Generation Company LLC Senior Management Change at Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station

On December 17, Luminant Generation Company LLC announced the resignation of Mr. Mark Kanavos, Plant Manager of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES). Mr. Dave Kross, formerly the CPSES Operations Manager, has been selected as the Plant Manager, replacing Mr. Kanavos.

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Special Inspection Public Exit Meeting

On December 19, the staff conducted a public exit meeting at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Energy Information Center with representatives of Arizona Public Service Company to present the results of the 95003 team inspection. Following the exit meeting, a second public meeting was conducted during which the licensee provided details of their performance improvement plan. There were approximately 120 people in attendance, the vast majority who were Arizona Public Service Company employees. Two members of the Arizona Corporation Commission also attended. The meeting was covered by two print media reporters from local newspapers.

Public Meeting with Omaha Public Power District

On December 20, the staff met with representatives of Omaha Public Power District in the Region IV office to discuss performance at Fort Calhoun Station and the status of the station's performance improvement plan. Omaha Public Power District representatives also discussed their readiness to support an NRC supplemental inspection (Inspection Procedure 95002) and indicated they would be ready for the inspection in February 2008.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending December 21, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 42					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Keeling	12/19/07 406 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Markup of Legislation and Pending Nominations to the NRC of Kristine Svinicki and Gregory Jaczko	• N/A
Shane / Dacus	02/28/08 TBD	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	Oversight Hearing on New Reactors	• Commission will be invited

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ENCLOSURE R