

INFORMATION REPORT

August 15, 2008

SECY-08-0119

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 8, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Petitions for Rulemaking (PRM) 51-10 and 51-12

On August 6, 2008, the staff phoned the Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General of the State of California (petitioners) to say that the Commission denied PRMs 51-10 and 51-12 concerning the environmental impacts of storing high-density spent nuclear fuel in spent fuel pools. The staff then emailed and mailed the cover letters and the *Federal Register* notice (FRN) to the petitioners and explained that the Commission's basis for denying the petitions was contained in the Supplementary Information section of the FRN. The notice was published in the *Federal Register* on Friday, August 8, 2008. Other stakeholders were also being notified in accordance with the Communication Plan for Denial of Petitions for Rulemaking 51-10 and 51-12.

August 8, 2008

ENCLOSURE A

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Staff Readiness Assessment (C-3) Visit to Proposed Bell Bend New Reactor Site in Northeastern Pennsylvania

On July 29 and 30, 2008, staff visited the PPL Nuclear Development (PPL) offices in Salem Township, Pennsylvania to discuss the upcoming combined license (COL) application for the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant. PPL has indicated that it will submit the COL application in October 2008. The purpose of the visit was to assess the applicant's progress in developing records and products (Environmental Report and other supporting information). Topics discussed during the visit included alternatives, need for power, cultural resources, hydrology, ecology, land use, socioeconomics, environmental justice, air quality, health physics, meteorology, fuel cycle, and accidents. This visit is part of the pre-application readiness assessment activities planned by the staff for all COL sites.

Issuance of Acceptance Letter for V.C. Summer COL Application

On July 31, 2008, the staff issued a letter to notify the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company that the acceptance review had been completed and that the COL application for 2 Westinghouse AP1000 pressurized reactors to be located at the V.C. Summer site was found acceptable for docketing. As discussed with the applicant, the staff has been evaluating alternative review approaches that might be applied to subsequent-COL applications submitted after their selected design has been certified and the related reference-COL issued. From this effort, a 4-phase review process was developed requiring additional time beyond the estimated 30-day commitment in the staff's scheduling system. Therefore, the staff intends to prepare a schedule for review of this application from approximately 60 days of the date of its acceptance letter.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Delivery of Hanford Review to Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy

The review of the DOE Regulatory Processes for the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) was delivered on August 5, 2008, to the Appropriations Committee and the Secretary of Energy. This report was requested by the Appropriations Committee as specified in a Conference Report for the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008. NRC conducted a high-level review of DOE's regulatory processes for the WTP, to compare DOE's regulatory approach to NRC's process for nuclear-safety regulation. The review found DOE's regulatory processes to be similar to NRC's processes. The review did identify issues that are provided in the report and suggested for further consideration by DOE. The report was made publicly available on August 11, 2008.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Medical Use of Byproduct Material – Amendments/Medical Event Definitions

The proposed rule, titled, “Medical Use of Byproduct Material – Amendments/Medical Event Definitions,” amending 10 CFR Part 35 were published in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. The public comment period for this proposed rule ends on October 20, 2008.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

PNO-III-08-007A – Prairie Island Unit 1

On July 31, 2008, the Prairie Island Unit 1 reactor tripped due to a spurious over-temperature delta temperature (OT Δ T) signal concurrent with reactor trip system testing. After the reactor trip, the turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump tripped on low discharge pressure. The reactor trip was due to a failed card in the reactor trip system during the system testing. The card was replaced and the system was returned to service. The turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pump failure was due to an incorrect valve lineup associated with the pump discharge pressure instrumentation. Subsequently, the auxiliary feedwater pump lineup was corrected, and both the auxiliary feedwater pump and the installed card in the reactor trip system were successfully tested. A Special Inspection Team was dispatched to review the cause of the reactor trip and the auxiliary feedwater pump failure. The team also reviewed the licensee's corrective actions prior to restart and found them appropriate

PNO-III-08-008- Palisades Nuclear Plant

On August 5, 2008, Palisades Nuclear Plant shut the reactor down using normal shutdown procedures to replace several leaking Control Rod Drive (CRD) seals.

Public Meeting on Openness Held in Morris, Illinois

On August 6, 2008, NRC staff conducted the second of four public meetings in Morris, Illinois, to solicit stakeholder comment on options to enhance the level of openness and transparency associated with security-related information concerning NRC security inspections and licensee performance assessment. The meeting was attended by the public and reactor licensee representatives. The next meeting will be held in Lynchburg, Virginia, on August 27.

Table-Top Drill at H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant

On August 6, 2008, NRC emergency preparedness (EP) staff observed a table-top drill at the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant, which included participation by State and local response organizations. The table-top drill was used to enhance coordination among organizations.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Dam Security Exercise

On August 7, 2008, NRC staff attended a DHS Dam Security Exercise. This exercise consisted of an Emergency Action Plan Workshop and a Security Table Top exercise. Other participants included; Ameren Services Company, US Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency and multiple state and local agencies.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Price-Anderson Act Financial Protection Regulations and Elimination of Antitrust Reviews: Correction (RIN 3150-AH78, 10 CFR Part 2)

On July 31, 2008, the NRC published a correcting amendment (73 FR 44619) in the *Federal Register* to remove references to the NRC's authority and responsibility to conduct antitrust reviews of future applications to construct or operate a nuclear reactor. The removal of these references was inadvertently omitted in the final rule implementing the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that terminated the NRC's responsibility and authority to conduct these reviews. The final rule was effective July 31, 2008.

Petition for Rulemaking; Denial (PRM-54-5)

On July 31, 2008, the NRC published a document (73 FR 44671) in the *Federal Register* denying a petition for rulemaking (PRM-54-5) submitted by Eric Epstein (petitioner). The petitioner requested that NRC amend its regulations governing renewal of operating licenses for nuclear power plants to stipulate that the NRC conduct a comprehensive review of licensees' emergency planning during license renewal proceedings. NRC is denying the petition because it has already considered the types of issues raised in the petition when the license renewal rule was adopted and again in its consideration of two previous petitions for rulemaking.

License and Certificate of Compliance Terms (RIN 3150-AI09, 10 CFR Part 72)

On August 4, 2008, the NRC published a document (73 FR 45173) making available preliminary draft rule language and seeking public comment on draft amendments to the NRC's regulations concerning licensing requirements for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel. Public comments are due August 31, 2008.

Contract Award for Budget Formulation System Upgrade

On August 4, 2008, As a result of a competition under General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule, a labor hour Delivery Order, NRC-DR-09-08-332, was awarded to Deloitte Consulting LLP of Reston, Virginia, to upgrade to the Hyperion System 9 and Disaster Recovery for the Budget Formulation System. The period of performance for this order is August 4, 2008, through November 3, 2009. The total estimated value of the delivery order is \$392,448.32.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of August 1, 2008 through August 7, 2008:

Relocation services contract including employee home purchase program	FOIA/PA-2008-0289
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, letter dated June 3, 2008, "Summary of Preliminary Analyses of the BWR MCPR Sensitivity to Void Traction Uncertainties Using TRACE (ML081550134)	FOIA/PA-2008-0290
Mailing list with phone numbers (not including media affiliations)	FOIA/PA-2008-0291
All records pertaining to named individual including e-mails to/from specific NRC staff and contractor	FOIA/PA-2008-0292
Licenses concerning the Army and depleted uranium in Hawaii	FOIA/PA-2008-0293
Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Hawaii, any and all documents related to any survey and/or assessment for radiation from depleted uranium since August 1, 2005	FOIA/PA-2008-0294
Plowshare report, issued in late 1960's or early 1970's	FOIA/PA-2008-0295

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Arrivals		
ALEN, ALEJANDRO	REACTOR INSPECTOR (NSPDP)	RII
BEACH, MARY ELLEN	CONSULTANT	HR
KEIGHLEY, ELIZABETH	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RI
KILLIAN, MICHELLE	HEALTH PHYSICIST	FSME
LAMB, CHRISTOPHER	STUDENT SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
RASK, TONI	STUDENT CLERK	NMSS
Departures		
ARTZ, MARK	STUDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST	OIG
BONANNO, JERRY	ATTORNEY	OGC
BOTWIN, HARRISON	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRO
BRILEY, THOMAS	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
COLLINS, TRAVIS	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
CUBERO-PONCE, CARLOS	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	RII
JORDAN, ASHLEY	STUDENT CLERK	HR
LEOUS, JUSTIN	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	NRR
MACKOWSKI, ROSS	REACTOR INSPECTOR (NSPDP)	RII
MENDEZ GONZALEZ, SANDRA	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	RII
MONTGOMERY, JONATHAN	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	RII
MUNOZ-OJEDA, CRISTINA	ALLEGATIONS COORDINATOR	RIII
OTERO-GONZALEZ, LAURA	STUDENT CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR
OXENDINE, JAMES	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
PAULSEN, ALICE	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PRUETT, TIMOTHY	IT SPECIALIST	OIS
PURDIE, MICHAEL	STUDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYST	NRO
RAMIREZ, MARIAN	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	NRO
RICHARDSON, ANTWAUN	STUDENT ENGINEER	NSIR
RILEY, MARCUS	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	RII
SCHROER, SUZANNE	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRO
VERA, MARIELIZ	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	NRO

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Trace amounts of strontium-90 found in an off-site well near Indian Point (IP) nuclear power plant (New York); press briefing and public meeting regarding new emergency notification system around the IP plant

Demise of the Mixed Oxide Lead Test Assemblies program at Catawba nuclear power plant (South Carolina)

Pending 7-percent power uprate for Millstone 3 nuclear power plant (Connecticut)

Senator McCain's visit to the Fermi nuclear power plant (Ohio); new reactor licensing and construction process

Browns Ferry nuclear power plant (Alabama) loss of cooling tower transformers

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA Region II participated in a radio talk show broadcast by National Public Radio, answering a number of questions about NRC oversight of nuclear plants and the process for reviewing new license applications.

OPA set up an interview with the Federal Times on the NRC's recruitment and hiring tactics for its Nuclear Safety Professional Development Program.

As a result of NRC follow up to a story in the Washington Post, a correction was printed to indicate no one was harmed in the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident in 1979.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-146	NRC Accepts Application for New Reactors at Summer (8/6)
08-145	NRC Meeting Aug. 21 in Oswego, New York, to Discuss Review Process for Expected New Reactor Application (8/5)
08-144	NRC Meeting Aug. 20 in Monroe, Michigan, to Discuss Review Process for Expected New Reactor Application (8/5)
08-143	NRC Meeting Aug. 19 in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, to Discuss Review Process for Expected New Reactor Application (8/5)
08-142	Government Prevails in Conflict-of-Interest Case Against Science Applications International Corporation (8/5)

Regions:	
III-08-031	NRC Begins Special Inspection at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant Due to Operational and Equipment Problems (8/8)
III-08-030	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Prairie Island Nuclear Plant Due to Reactor Trip (8/5)
IV-08-034	NRC Finalizes "White" Finding for Cooper Nuclear Plant (8/4)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 8, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-08-0036	03/07/08	Denial of Two Petitions for Rulemaking Concerning the Environmental Impacts of High-Density Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Spent Fuel Pools (PRM-51-10 and PRM-51-12)
SRM on SECY-08-0036	06/19/08	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-08-0036	06/19/08	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0107	07/28/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending July 18, 2008
2. SECY-08-0112	08/04/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending July 25, 2008
3. SECY-08-0104	07/23/08	Licensing Support Network Program Administration – Semiannual Report

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 51 [Docket No. PRM-51-10] [NRC-2006-0022], The Attorney General of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, [Docket No. PRM-51-12] [NRC-2007-0019], The Attorney General of California, Denial of Petitions for Rulemaking.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 8, 2008

Initial Examination Development Workshop

On August 5-6, 2008, Region II hosted the 2008 U.S. NRC Initial Examination Development workshop in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was to present details and share experiences on how to efficiently develop valid and discriminatory written examination questions and operating tests in accordance with NUREG 1021, Rev. 9 and Supplement 1.

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ENCLOSURE P