

INFORMATION REPORT

March 2, 2006

SECY-06-0051

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 24, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Monthly Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Public Meeting

On February 22, 2006, the NRC staff hosted the monthly MSPI public meeting in Headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed the status of the staff review of the MSPI outliers, independent staff review of the industry's peer review effort, and remaining MSPI milestones needing completion.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Public Meeting

On February 23, 2006, the staff hosted the subject meeting in Headquarters. Meeting participants discussed ROP significance determination process issues, performance indicator (PI) general improvements, and open/new frequently asked questions on the PIs.

Oyster Creek Generating Station (OCGS) License Renewal Audit

During the period of February 13-17, 2006, the staff conducted its third audit of the aging management programs (AMPs) and aging management reviews (AMRs) of the license renewal application at the OCGS site. The audit team reviewed the applicant's responses to the team's questions identified during the two previous audits conducted on October 3-7, 2005, and January 23-27, 2006, and reviewed AMP line items and Generic Aging Lessons Learned-related changes to AMPs. The staff noted that the applicant produced comprehensive AMP program and AMR technical basis documents to support the license renewal application safety review. Several questions remained open at the end of the audit. The majority of the open questions related to OCGS containment AMPs. The audit question and answer data base is planned to be docketed the week of February 27, 2006. A public exit meeting for the audit is scheduled for April 20, 2006.

Exelon Early Site Permit (ESP) Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) Issued

On February 17, 2006, the staff issued its final SER for the Clinton early site permit ESP application. Exelon Generation Company, LLC, submitted its application on September 25, 2003. The document is being withheld from public release for 14 days to provide the applicant an opportunity to review it for proprietary information. The staff issued a press release concurrent with transmittal of the document to the applicant.

Public Meeting with Progress Energy to Discuss Combined License (COL) Pre-Application Activities

On February 21, 2006, the staff met with Progress Energy to discuss its preparations for submitting a COL application for the Harris site, referencing the Westinghouse AP1000 reactor design. Progress Energy is scheduled to submit its first COL application in late September or early October 2007 for the Harris site, and a second application for a Florida site in late 2007 or first quarter 2008.

Public Meeting with NEI on Design-Centered Approach

On February 21, 2006, the staff met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss the design-centered approach and standardization of a COL application. The staff and industry representatives discussed various aspects of a reference COL application, including when one would be identified and submitted, and what portions of a reference COL application would be considered standard.

Salem Nuclear Generating Station - NRC Approves Alternate Source Term (AST)

On February 17, 2006, the staff approved the full-scope implementation of the AST described in Regulatory Guide 1.183 for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, in a license amendment. The request was pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 50.67, "Accident Source Term," which provides a mechanism to replace the traditional source term used in the plants' radiological consequence analyses. As part of the AST, the staff approved the following: (1) an increase in the emergency core cooling system leakage outside containment, and (2) relocation of the technical specification requirements related to the auxiliary building ventilation system filters to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report.

Public Workshop on Proposed Rule to Risk-Inform the Emergency Core Cooling Systems Rule

On February 16, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 3 public meeting on the proposed rule to add a risk-informed alternative to 10 CFR 50.46a (loss of coolant accident redefinition). Approximately 40 people attended, including the staff and those from the industry. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure stakeholders had a clear understanding of the NRC's intent and interpretation of the proposed rule so that subsequent written comments would not result in misunderstandings. The staff provided an overview of the rule, described the important features and encouraged stakeholders to formally submit constructive comments, such as alternative approaches that would achieve the underlying purposes of the rule. Most of the questions concerned the scope and extent of the risk-informed integrated safety performance assessment process, operational constraints and the mitigation capability for breaks larger than the transition break size. The comment period for the proposed 10 CFR 50.46a closes on March 8, 2006.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
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Meeting with USEC Inc. (USEC) on Nuclear Criticality Safety (NCS)

On February 15, 2006, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with USEC to discuss USEC's incorporation of NCS accident sequences in its Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) Summary for the American Centrifuge Plant proposed to be built and operated in Piketon, OH. As a result of the discussions, USEC agreed to: (1) revise its method for determining the credibility of NCS accident sequences; (2) incorporate the credible NCS accident sequences in the ISA Summary; and (3) identify the associated items relied on for safety to demonstrate compliance with the performance requirements of 10 CFR Part 70.

Staff Meets with the Department of Energy (DOE) to Discuss Natural Analog to Yucca Mountain

On February 16, 2006, staff from NRC, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center), and DOE, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, met in Las Vegas, NV, to discuss DOE and NRC activities at the Peña Blanca, Chihuahua, Mexico site. Representatives from the State of Nevada observed the technical discussions. Peña Blanca is being investigated as a natural analog to portions of the potential Yucca Mountain repository. DOE summarized its key results and presented information on ongoing seepage monitoring, dating of the age of the deposit, and radionuclide concentrations in groundwater at the site. DOE discussed a total system performance assessment of the analog site that could be used to corroborate the DOE performance assessment of the potential Yucca Mountain repository. Logistics for working at the remotely located site and a DOE request for Center data to support DOE's seepage modeling were discussed.

Conference Call with the Office of Senator Larry Craig

On February 16, 2006, NMSS staff, the Office of Congressional Affairs, and the Office of the General Counsel held a conference call with staff from the Office of Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) about the status of the former Salmon River Uranium Development Mill site near North Fork, ID. The purpose of the call was to convey information to the Senator's staff about the status of decommissioning efforts related to the site. During the call, several topics were discussed, including: (1) the operational history of the site; (2) existing contamination at the site; (3) request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for financial assistance, since the owners have stated that they lack the funds to clean up the property; and (4) other alternatives to be considered if the site is ineligible to receive funding by EPA, including the possibility of executing a "land swap" with another Federal agency. At the conclusion of the call, it was agreed that the Senator's staff will get additional information about the "land swap" and its implications, and will remain available for future interactions.

Meeting with Stakeholders Regarding Saltstone Waste Determination Review

On February 21, 2006, NMSS staff met with representatives of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace, Public Citizen, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and other interested parties to discuss technical issues related to the Saltstone Technical Evaluation

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Report issued by NRC on December 28, 2005. Topics included assumptions made by NRC in its evaluation; the definition of "highly radioactive radionuclides" as required by the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2005; sensitivity analyses and modeling scenarios; NRC's future monitoring of the saltstone disposal facility; and NRC's coordination with the State.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Publication of NUREG/CR-6895 "Technical Review of On-line Monitoring Techniques for Performance Assessment: Volume I State-of-the-Art"

During the week ending February 24, 2006, RES published the subject report to provide the technical details that are necessary to conduct an accurate evaluation of these techniques. This report provides an overview of current sensor calibration monitoring technologies and their uncertainty analysis, a review of the supporting information needed to assess these techniques, and a cross-reference between the literature and the requirements listed in the NRC's safety evaluation report (SER) for the Electric Power Research Institute Topical Report on On-Line Monitoring (TR-104965), dated July 24, 2000 (ML003734509). This SER concluded that, while the generic concept of on-line monitoring was acceptable for use in tracking instrument performance, there are 14 requirements that must be addressed in plant-specific license amendments if the NRC is to consider relaxing calibration frequencies for safety-related instrumentation.

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Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-06-005, LaSalle Unit 1 - INDICATION FAILURE FOR 3 CONTROL RODS FOLLOWING REACTOR TRIP.
2. PNO-III-06-006, Byron - UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED DUE TO A FIRE WITHIN THE PLANT PROTECTED AREA.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of February 17, 2006 through February 23, 2006:

St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, South Bend Campus, 891 E. LaSalle Street, South Bend, IN 46617-1935, EA-05-128, follow up response letter	FOIA/PA-2006-0119
TMI-2 - Safety Analysis Report for Transition to Natural Circulation, by Metropolitan Edison, April 12, 1979, docket 50-320	FOIA/PA-2006-0120
SECY-05-0231	FOIA/PA-2006-0121
1500+/- acres of agricultural land, Southwest corner of Lorenzo Road & I-55, Will County, IL, (Braidwood Generating Station) tritium spills & other environmental issues	FOIA/PA-2006-0122
Case no. 2-2004-049, Allegations RI-2004-A-0010, RI-2004-A-0128 & RI-2004-A-0148	FOIA/PA-2006-0123

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Arrival		
WELLER, RICHARD A.	Consultant	NMSS
Departures		
HARRISON, LEANNE M.	ALLEGATIONS COORDINATOR	R-I

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Evaluation Luncheon Attended

On February 23, 2006, Henry Rubin, CFC Campaign Manager for NRC, attended a Campaign Evaluation Luncheon. Agenda items included a campaign update and suggestions for the 2006 campaign. Also discussed were three draft scenarios for next year's campaign film.

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

The license for Private Fuel Storage in Utah.

The Site Area Emergency declaration at the LaSalle nuclear plant.

Tritium in groundwater near the Braidwood plant in Illinois.

The Commission's rulemaking on the Design Basis Threat and other power plant security regulations.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-028	NRC Issues License to Private Fuel Storage for Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility in Utah (2/22)
06-029	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet March 9-11 in Rockville, Maryland (2/23)
06-030	NRC Proposes Clarifications to New Reactor Licensing Process, Plans March 14 Public Meeting (2/23)
Regions:	
I-06-009	NRC to Hold March 1 st Public Meeting in Brattleboro, VT., on License Renewal Application for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant (2/22)
III-06-005	NRC Begins Special Inspection at LaSalle Nuclear Plant Following Control Rod Problem During Automatic Reactor Shutdown (2/20)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 24, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0012	01/13/06	Section 274b Agreement with the State of Minnesota
SRM on SECY-06-0012	01/26/06	(same)
Voting Record on SECY-06-0012	01/26/06	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-05-0197	02/22/06	Review of Operational Programs in a Combined License Application and Generic Emergency Planning Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria
Voting Record on SECY-05-0197	02/22/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0006	01/05/06	Issuance of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Generic Letter 2006-XX, Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Associated Technical Specifications”
2. SECY-06-0019	01/31/06	Semiannual Update of the Status of New Reactor Licensing Activities and Future Planning for New Reactors
3. SECY-06-0039	02/16/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 3, 2006
4. SECY-06-0040	02/17/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 10, 2006
Memoranda		
1. M060208A	02/22/06	SRM-Briefing on NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans - Materials Safety

Commission Correspondence

Letter to Congress, dated February 15, 2006, informs of the public release of the results of the NRC's 2005 Safety Culture and Climate Survey.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 530th meeting (3/9-11/06).
2. Proposed rule. 10 CFR Parts 1, 2, 10, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 72, 73, 75, 95, 140, and 170, RIN 3150 - AG24, Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants.
3. Abnormal Occurrence Reports: Implementation of Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974; Revised Policy Statement.

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Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
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Commissioner Jaczko Visit to Indian Point Energy Center

On February 22-23, 2006, Commissioner Jaczko visited the Indian Point Energy Center and surrounding areas to meet with Entergy, local government officials, and local interest groups to discuss emergency preparedness and other issues. On the afternoon of February 23, Commissioner Jackzo toured the Indian Point Energy Center and met with Indian Point staff during an "all hands" meeting. The Commissioner was accompanied by the Regional Administrator.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
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South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company Management Change

On February 16, South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company announced that Ed Halpin, current Vice President of Oversight, has been selected to replace Gary Parkey as Vice President of Generation. Mr. Parkey plans to retire in June 2006. The effective date for Mr. Halpin to assume his new position is May 18. John Crenshaw, current Manager of Outage and Work Control, has been selected to replace Ed Halpin. The Vice President of Oversight position will be reclassified as General Manager of Oversight.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 7					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/02/06 SD-406	9:30	EPA, DOE, Nuclear Waste Safety Board	Status of Yucca Mountain license application and radiation standards	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Combs	03/07/06 SR-232A	2:45	Linton Brooks-National Nuclear Security Administration, Joseph Rispoli-Assistant Secretary fo Energy for Environmental Mgmt.	FY 2007 Budget - Nuclear Weapons and Environmental Cleanup	Senators Sessions/Nelson Strategic Forces Armed Services
Decker	03/08/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy-Overview	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Shane	03/09/06 SD-406	TBA	NRC	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Decker	03/09/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy- Environmental Management	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/14/06 Tentative	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 7

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/15/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	Department of Energy - Nuclear Waste Disposal	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/23/06 Las Vegas, NV	10:00	NRC, GAO, DOE/OCRWM, DOE/IG, Bechtel	Yucca Mountain Project: Persistent Management and Quality Assurance	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Combs	03/28/06 or 03/30/06 TBD	TBD	NRC, GAO, DOE/NNSA, DHS/Customs and Border Protection	GAO findings with regard to counterfeiting an NRC license and general availability of exempt quantity radioactive sources	Senators Coleman/Levin Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
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As a result of its 529th meeting (February 9-11, 2006), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

Date	Subject
February 22, 2006	Draft Nureg Report, "Evaluation of Human Reliability Analysis Methods Against Good Practices"
February 22, 2006	Standard Review Plan, Section 14.2.1, "Generic Guidelines for Extended Power Uprate Testing Programs"

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