

# INFORMATION REPORT

April 11, 2006

SECY-06-0083

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
MARCH 31, 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 March 31, 2006

Review of Technical Specifications Task Force-423

On March 23, 2006, the staff completed its review of Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF)-423, "Risk-Informed Modifications to Selected Required Action End States," and published a notice of availability in the Federal Register. The notice makes TSTF-423 available in accordance with the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Program (CLIIP), which facilitates plant-specific applications that reference the CLIIP. This TSTF will allow all boiling water reactor licensees to apply to modify selected required action end states in plant Technical Specifications (TS). Completion of the TSTF-423 review is part of the Risk Managed Technical Specifications (RMTS) initiatives. The RMTS initiatives are an application of the Commission's policy statement on the "Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Methods in Nuclear Regulatory Activities."

General Electric Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor Technical Specifications Meeting

On March 23, 2006, the staff met with General Electric (GE) to discuss the TS for the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR). GE provided an overview of the ESBWR design, an overview of the ESBWR electrical systems, and background information regarding the development of the ESBWR TS. The development of the ESBWR TS included a road map to NUREG-1434, "Standard Technical Specifications General Electric Plants, BWR/6 Specifications," identifying deviations from the BWR/6 standard TS. GE and the staff plan to hold another meeting on April 19, 2006, to discuss how the ESBWR TS meet the criteria for establishing TS limiting conditions for operation (LCOs) as specified in 10 CFR 50.36(c)(2)(ii).

Technical Assistance for New Reactors Sought

On March 29, 2006, the staff posted sources sought on FedBizOpps. The listing "Technical Assistance for New Reactor Licensing Application Reviews for Reactor Design Certifications, Early Site Permits (ESPs), Combined Construction Operating License (COL) Applications, and New Reactor Pre-application Activities," provides information on projected agency needs in FY 2007 and FY 2008. Interested contractors must respond to a list of questions and complete a spreadsheet to notify the staff of their capabilities to support the Agency's upcoming needs. Responses are due by April 28, 2006. The synopsis can be viewed at:

<http://www.fbo.gov/spg/NRC/OA/DCPM/Reference%2DNumber%2DRS%2DNRR%2D06%2DSSS/listing.html>

Hope Creek Power Uprate - Public Pre-application Meeting

On March 29, 2006, the staff met with PSEG Nuclear LLC to discuss its planned resubmittal of its extended power uprate (EPU) application for the Hope Creek Generating Station. PSEG first applied for the EPU on November 7, 2005. During the acceptance review, the staff determined that the application did not contain sufficient information on the effects of higher flow rates, particularly on the steam dryers. PSEG withdrew its application on February 10, 2006. The meeting focused on the analysis pertaining to steam dryer structural integrity.

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ENCLOSURE A

## 10 CFR Part 26 Rulemaking Public Workshop

On March 29 - 30, 2006, the staff held a public workshop at Headquarters to discuss the proposed rule to amend 10 CFR Part 26 on Fitness-for-Duty (FFD) and Fatigue. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on August 26, 2005. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss guidance for work hour controls and staff developed alternative proposals in two areas; how FFD program requirements would be applied to personnel at reactor construction sites and proposed work hour controls for normal operations and during outages. These alternate proposals were developed in response to comments submitted by stakeholders on the proposed rule.

The first day was devoted to proposed alternatives for how FFD program requirements would be applied to personnel at reactor construction sites and proposed work hour controls for normal operations and during outages. In the area of FFD program requirements at construction sites, the industry agreed that key personnel directly responsible for the quality of construction should be subject to FFD, but expressed different views about other details of the staff-proposed program for construction personnel. The meaning of "unescorted access," how it would be controlled, and its objectives were also discussed. In the area of proposed work hour controls for normal operations and during outages, the industry stated that the staff's alternative proposals (for average number of days off over a time period), would not provide them sufficient flexibility for work scheduling. The industry repeated its interest in focusing on the performance objectives in section 26.199(c), in lieu of further prescriptive limits on individual work hour scheduling.

The second day of the workshop focused on the development of work hour controls guidance. The meeting was attended by representatives from industry, professional organizations, public interest groups, and the media. Participants requested that the comment period for the revised draft rule language be a minimum of 30 days. The staff will consider the comments from the workshop when developing a proposal for completing the rulemaking by January 2007.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

TRAC/RELAP Advanced Computational Engine (TRACE) Workshop

From March 27-29, 2006, staff sponsored the subject workshop in Potomac, Maryland. The workshop included an overview of the TRACE thermal-hydraulics code and discussions of the Symbolic Nuclear Analysis Package (SNAP) user interface, similarities and differences between TRACE and RELAP5 modeling, and how to develop and use TRACE input models.

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Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-06-005, LaSalle Unit 1 - INDICATION FAILURE FOR 3 CONTROL RODS FOLLOWING REACTOR TRIP.
2. PNO-III-06-005B, LaSalle Unit 1 - UNIT 1 RESTARTS FROM REACTOR TRIP (UPDATE).
3. PNO-III-06-007, Braidwood 1 and 2 - TRITIUM CONTAMINATION ISSUES.
4. PNO-IV-06-002, South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company - FIRE AFFECTING NON-SAFETY-RELATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED IN A SAFETY-RELATED ROOM.
5. PNO-IV-06-003, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1 - PALO VERDE UNIT 1 EXTENDED SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR SHUTDOWN COOLING VALVE VIBRATION.
6. PNO-IV-06-004, San Onofre, Unit 3 - SHUTDOWN OF SAN ONOFRE UNIT 3 TO INVESTIGATE SAFETY INJECTION TANK GASKETS.
7. PNO-IV-06-005, Columbia Generating Station - NOTICE OF UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO RANGE FIRE IN PROXIMITY OF THE COLUMBIA NUCLEAR PLANT.

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

Minor Amendments (AH82 - Part 1, et al)

On March 27, 2006, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 15005) that made a number of minor changes to 10 CFR Chapter I. The final rule removed references to an expired provision of the regulations, reflected an address change for NRC Region III, and made several additional minor corrective and conforming changes. The final rule became effective March 27, 2006.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)  
 Items of Interest  
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of March 24 through March 30, 2006:

Engelhard Corporation, 30 Taunton Street, Plainville, MA 02762, ongoing remediation of facility since 1997, radiological contamination	FOIA/PA-2006-0152
Vacancy Announcement OGC-2005-0003, all correspondence related to named individual's application	FOIA/PA-2006-0153
Contract NRC-38-05-366, Hummer Whole Health	FOIA/PA-2006-0154
Mailing list (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0155
Mailing list (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0156
Mailing list (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0157
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Millstone Power Station, reports, such as condition reports, labeled "discrimination complaints," 2005	FOIA/PA-2006-0158
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station "force-on-force" inspection in 2005, all communications & records; Emergency Plan, 01-06 proposal by Entergy Nuclear to amend staffing requirements, all communications & records	FOIA/PA-2006-0159
Mailing list (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0160
NUREG reports re: Precursors to Potential Severe Core Damage Accidents, NUREG/CR-2497, NUREG/CR-3491, & NUREG/CR-4674, all volumes	FOIA/PA-2006-0161
Worker's Compensation claim of April 2005 on named individual, all NRC records	FOIA/PA-2006-0162
Iroquois Apartments, 2805 N. 47 <sup>th</sup> St., Philadelphia, PA 29131, use of radioactive chemicals	FOIA/PA-2006-0163

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
ABEYWICKRAMA, BERNADETTE	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
BEASLEY, BENJAMIN G.	RELIABILITY & RISK ANALYST/ ENGINEER	RES
BIRD, JOHN E.	CONSULTANT	CFO
FREDERICKS, CARL A.	SENIOR SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT	CFO
GAUDETTE, ABBY J.	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	R-I
GIBNEY, LISA A.	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	NSIR
KANTOR, FALK	CONSULTANT	NSIR
LEVIN, ROSELYN H.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-I
MANZANO, SEAN E.	STUDENT ENGINEER (COOP)	R-I
SMITH, TUWANDA M.	CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR
TORRES, ROBERTO L.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
TOUKATLY, KELLY M.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-I
<b>Retirements</b>		
BELL, SHARON A.	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ANALYST	NRR
HANNON, JOHN N.	CHIEF, PLANT SYSTEMS BRANCH	NRR
HUMISTON, JEAN L.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-IV
LEWIS, ARDENIA V.	SECRETARY (OA)	IP
MCNEILL, WILLIAM M.	SENIOR REACTOR INSPECTOR	R-IV
SMITH, PAULETTE D.	CONTRACT SPECIALIST	ADM
<b>Departures</b>		
BURNS, JOSEPH K.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
THOMPSON, BERNARD E.	CONSULTANT	OIG

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ENCLOSURE I



Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

Media Interest

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

GAO Report on Border Security and Statement by Senator Coleman.

Inspection of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-042	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Texas A&M University's Research Reactor (3/28/06)
06-043	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet April 5-8 in Rockville, Maryland (3/29/06)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-018	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Three Mile Island 1 Nuclear Power Plant (3/29/06)
II-06-008	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant (3/28/06)
II-06-009	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant (3/28/06)
II-06-010	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant (3/28/06)
II-06-011	NRC Sends Augmented Inspection Team to Review Equipment Damage at Florida Nuclear Power Plant (3/31/06)
III-06-012	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant (3/28/06)
IV-06-003	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment at Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant (3/28/06)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

<b>Document Released to Public</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
SECY-06-0053	3/3/06	Package Performance Study Status Update
<b>Information Papers</b>		
SECY-06-0067	3/27/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 17, 2006
<b>Memoranda</b>		
M060316	3/28/06	Briefing on NRR Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Vilmos Zsombori, National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control, Romania, dated March 22, 2006, responds to invitation to visit Romania.
2. Letter to Andre-Claude Lacoste, Directorate General for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, France, dated March 21, 2006, responds to letter concerning the successful visit to NRC of French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN).

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (4/28/06).
2. ACRS, revised 531<sup>st</sup> meeting notice (4/5-8/06).
3. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Notice of Hearing (Application for 20-year License Renewal), In the Matter of Amergen Energy Company, LLC (License Renewal for Oyster Creek).
4. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (4/20-21/06).

Region II (RII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

V. C. Summer Management Meeting

On March 30, 2006, representatives from South Carolina Electric & Gas Company attended a management meeting at the Regional Office to discuss the root cause evaluation for the high failure rate on the V. C. Summer operator licensing initial written examination administered on January 10, 2006.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of March 27-31, 2006, the Regional Office held the NRC ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the Vogtle and V. C. Summer Nuclear Power Plants. The meetings were held to discuss plant performance and were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 31, 2006

Palo Verde Performance Improvement Public Meeting

On March 30, 2006, the staff conducted a public meeting in Arlington, Texas, to discuss Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station's safety performance improvement plan. Specifically, the corrective actions taken or planned to address human performance and corrective action program issues were discussed. Participants included Arizona Public Service Company officials, Region IV and headquarters staff, and several members of the public.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 12**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/28/06 SD-342	9:30	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
Decker	03/29/06 S-407 Capitol <b>(Closed)</b>	9:30	Department of State	U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement	Senators Lugar/Biden Foreign Relations
Combs	03/30/06 SD-138	10:00	DOE	Yucca Mountain/EM/Office of Safeguards and Security	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Appropriations
Decker	03/30/06 2362-B RHOB	10:00	DOE	DOE-Energy Supply and Conservation	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky
Keeling	04/04/06 2247 RHOB	2:00	NRC, GAO, NEI, Exelon, Connecticut Attorney General, POGO	NRC efforts to define the DBT and set protective standards for the Nuclear Power Industry	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations Government Reform

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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 12**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	04/06/06 23620B RHOB	10:00	DOE	DOE Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	April	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Decker	TBA	TBA	TBA	U.S.-Indian Nuclear Agreement	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations
Combs	04/26/06 TBA	TBA	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
Shane	05/08/06 TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)  
Items of Interest  
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<b>As a result of its 530<sup>th</sup> meeting (March 9-11, 2006), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
March 23, 2006	Report on the Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3
March 24, 2006	Generic Safety Issue 191 - Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance
March 24, 2006	Final Review of the Exelon Generation Company, LLC, Application for Early Site Permit and the Associated NRC Staff's Final Safety Evaluation Report
March 28, 2006	Draft Final Revision 4 to Regulatory Guide 1.97, "Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants"

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