

INFORMATION REPORT

April 17, 2006

SECY-06-0088

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
APRIL 7, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Palisades Draft Environmental Impact Statement Regarding License Renewal Public Meeting

On April 5, 2006, the staff conducted two meetings at Lake Michigan College in South Haven, Michigan, to solicit comments on the Palisades Nuclear Plant draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), which was issued on February 14, 2006 (Supplement 27). The draft SEIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). The staff held an open house prior to each meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally with NRC staff and view informational displays and brochures. The public comment period for the Palisades SEIS ends on May 18, 2006. At the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received and revise the SEIS as appropriate. The staff plans to issue the final SEIS in October 2006.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee Meeting - Nine Mile Point's License Renewal Application (LRA) Presentation

On April 5, 2006, the staff conducted the subject presentation on the results of its evaluation. Constellation Energy Group (CEG) submitted the LRA for the NMP Plant on May 26, 2004. The staff has completed its safety review and determined that there is one open item. No confirmatory items were identified. During the meeting, the license renewal project team received full support and participation from the NRC reviewers, audit team members, and Region I staff. This item is scheduled to be discussed during an ACRS full committee meeting in July 2006.

License Renewal Application for Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 - Issuance of Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER)

On March 31, 2006, the staff issued the subject SER. The staff completed its review and issued the Draft SER without any open item on December 20, 2005. The staff presented its evaluation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) subcommittee on February 8, 2006. A public meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2006, to discuss the final SER with the ACRS full committee.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

ANSI/HPS 43 Committee's Annual Meeting

On April 5, 2006, a staff member attended the subject meeting in Arlington, VA, as the designated NRC delegate. The ANSI/HPS 43 Committee is responsible for oversight of the N43 series standards (N43.1 through N43.17), which include equipment and sources ranging from particle accelerators to irradiators. The annual meeting serves to summarize the previous year's accomplishments and set an agenda for the upcoming year. In 2005, three standards were updated and in 2006, three other standards will be updated. In addition, the Committee unanimously re-affirmed three other standards for further use without update: N43.2, N43.10, and N43.15, concerning x-ray diffraction/fluorescence analysis equipment, Category II and IV irradiators, and Category III irradiators, respectively.

Underground Thermal Experiment at Yucca Mountain

On April 4, 2006, the staff and a representative from Clark County, NV, observed the opening and sample removal from a completed underground thermal experiment at Yucca Mountain by Department of Energy (DOE) project staff. This experiment was designed to evaluate the thermal-mechanical-chemical response of water and rock to heat supplied by analog high-level waste packages. The packages were placed in a tunnel that is 47 meters long and 5 meters in diameter. The test started with a 4-year heating phase, where tunnel wall-rock temperatures reached approximately 200 degrees C. This phase was followed by a 4-year cooling phase. Mapping was initiated by DOE project staff for: (1) patchy and streaky red stains on the analog waste packages and the tunnel floor; (2) precipitated minerals on tunnel walls; and (3) rock fragments that had fallen from the tunnel ceiling. DOE project staff collected dust samples and retrieved metal and metal/microbial coupons. Photographs and videos to document visual observations were taken by both DOE and NRC staff.

Issuance of Environmental Assessment Associated with a 10 CFR Part 72 Exemption Request

On March 31, 2006, the staff issued an environmental assessment, with a finding of no significant impact, associated with an exemption request submitted by PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL). PPL is requesting an exemption to allow loading Framatome ANP 9X9-2 fuel in the Transnuclear, Inc., NUHOMS 61BT dry-shielded canister (DSC). The Certificate of Compliance for this DSC allows the storage of General Electric (or equivalent) 9X9-2 fuel assemblies that contain 66 full and 8 partial fuel rods. Framatome 9X9-2 fuel assemblies contain 79 full fuel rods. PPL is requesting the exemption because space in the spent fuel pool has become limited earlier than anticipated, and is negatively impacting a dry fuel storage campaign planned for May 2006.

Tokyo, Japan, and Daejeon, Korea Visit to Discuss Spent Nuclear Fuel

From March 27-29, 2006, NRC staff visited nuclear research and development institutes in Tokyo, Japan, and Daejeon, Korea. Staff discussed and collected technical information on the performance of spent nuclear fuel and the development of multi-use canister and waste

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packages. The visits focused on information that could be relevant to the assessment of spent nuclear fuel and waste package performance in a potential Yucca Mountain High-Level Waste Repository.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Publication of NUREG/CR-6902, "Effects of Insulation Debris on Throttle-Valve Flow Performance"

RES has published the subject report, which describes flow tests that were performed to assess the amount of different types of insulation debris that may become trapped in a throttle valve and eventually restrict flow. This report also provides test data to support performance assessments of high-pressure safety injection valves and other components downstream of the containment recirculation sump strainer screens to determine if they can be affected by ingested debris following a postulated loss-of-cooling accident.

Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on Seismic Issues Related to Future Reactor Siting

On March 24, 2006, the staff participated in the subject meeting, which focused on a performance-based approach for establishing the safe-shutdown-earthquake design response spectrum aimed at achieving an acceptably low core-damage frequency due to seismic events. Also discussed were NEI preliminary reports on the performance-based approach for determining seismic ground motion. The NRC and NEI agreed to hold a follow-up meeting on this issue in May 2006.

Chemical Effects Peer Review Group Meeting

From March 27 through 29, 2006, the staff held the subject meeting to continue the review by the group's technical experts into the adequacy of RES-sponsored research related to chemical effects in post-loss-of-coolant accident sump pool environments in pressurized water reactors. A final independent assessment report from the peer reviews is scheduled to be provided to the NRC Project Manager on May 30, 2006. The RES sump research program is providing data and analyses that will be used by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in its review of licensee responses to Generic Letter 2004-02.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-06-005, Millstone Unit 2 Power Station - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS - MILLSTONE UNIT 2 TURBINE DRIVEN AUXILIARY FEEDWATER PUMP ROTATING ASSEMBLY DEGRADATION.
2. PNO-I-06-006, Certified Testing Laboratories, Inc. - LICENSED MATERIAL IN A VEHICLE ON FIRE ON A NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY.
3. PNO-III-06-004A, Byron Generation Station Unit 1 and 2 - TRITIUM LEAKAGE (Update).
4. PNO-III-06-008, Indiana University Medical Center - MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING INCORRECT BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCE POSITIONING.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
March 31 through April 6, 2006:

Allegation NRR-97-A-0097, all records including correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2006-0164
Palo Verde, 1981 Safety Evaluation Report, 3 documents referenced on page 3-36 of report	FOIA/PA-2006-0165
OI Report 4-2005-029	FOIA/PA-2006-0166
OI Report 1-2003-011, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0167
Nuclear weapons & bombs incidents, accidents, crashes involving U.S. Air Force aircraft between 1950 & 1968	FOIA/PA-2006-0168
LER for Waterford 3, 1992, re hurricane Andrew; NRC report on Andrew if Waterford 3 is included; LER for Waterford 3 on hurricane Katrina	FOIA/PA-2006-0169
Mailing list of Government personnel involved in the purchase of office supplies (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0170
Copy of application for license to import radioactive waste from a NPP in Mixico Eastern Technologies, Inc., Ashford, AL, filed with NRC on 2/3/06	FOIA/PA-2006-0171
MLTS database, active & retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2006-0172
OI Report re: closed investigation regarding Dept. Of Transportation & Public Facilities former Radiation Safety Officer, unlawful discrimination	FOIA/PA-2006-0173

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Arrival		
EAGLE EUGENE	ELECTRONICS ENGINEER (DIGITAL I&C)	NRR
WONG, YUKEN	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
Retirements		
MATE, JOSEPH J.	SR CONTRACT ANALYST	RES
Departures		
WOODS, MICHAEL A.	ATTORNEY	OGC

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Media Interest

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

GAO Security Hearing Followup Actions.

Tritium Public Meeting hosted by Exelon and Attended by Region III.

Request for Independent Review at Indian Point Nuclear Plant.

Palisades License Renewal Public Comments.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-044	NRC Announces New Head of Nuclear Regulatory Research (4/3/06)
06-045	NRC Uses Risk Insights to Revise Mitigating Systems Category in Reactor Oversight Process (4/4/06)
06-046	NRC Increases the Amount of Security-Related Information Released as Part of its Reactor Oversight Process (4/4/06)
06-047	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impacts From Proposed Grand Gulf Early Site Permit (4/5/06)
06-048	NRC Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes to Meet April 25-26, 2006 (4/6/06)
Regions:	
I-06-19	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance for Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant (4/5/06)
II-06-012	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant (4/4/06)
II-06-013	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant (4/5/06)
II-06-014	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Hatch Nuclear Power Plant (4/6/06)
II-06-015	NRC to Meet with Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel Plant Officials to Discuss Facility Safety Performance (4/6/06)

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II-06-016	NRC Begins Special Inspection at Hatch Nuclear Plant to Review Shutdown (4/7/06)
III-06-013	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant (4/5/06)
III-06-014	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance for Byron Nuclear Power Plant (4/6/06)
III-06-015	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant (4/7/06)

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 7, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0056	3/9/06	Improving Transparency in the 10 CFR 20.2002 Process
SRM on 06-0056	3/31/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0056	3/31/06	(same)
2. SECY-06-0036	2/14/06	Public Disclosure Options Within the Security Cornerstone of the Reactor Oversight Process
SRM on 06-0036	4/4/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0036	4/4/06	(same)
3. SECY-06-0069	3/27/06	Proposed Rule: Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material (RIN: 3150-AH84)
4. SECY-06-0065	3/23/06	Office of the Inspector General Recommendations on Decommissioning Funding Assurance
5. SECY-06-0066	3/22/06	Regulatory and Resource Implications of a Department of Energy Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program
Information Papers		
SECY-06-0072	3/30/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 24, 2006

Memoranda		
M060403	4/3/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0044 - USEC Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant); Geoffrey Sea Appeal of LBP-05-28; II. SECY-06-0057 - USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant) Appeal of LBP-05-28 by Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PRESS); III. SECY-06-0061 - Hydro Resources, Inc. – Petition for Review of Partial Initial Decision on Phase II Cultural Resource Challenges

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Roy Brown, Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, Inc., dated April 1, 2006, responds to request that the Commission delay the implementation of NRC's Rulemaking on the Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material.
2. Letter to Jon Corzine, Governor of New Jersey, dated April 1, 2006, responds to request that an independent safety assessment be performed as part of the license renewal process for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.
3. Letter to Senator Norm Colman, dated March 29, 2006, responds to concerns expressed at the March 28, 2006 hearing held by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.
4. Letter to Marvin Fertel, NEI, dated March 29, 2006, responds to letter concerning the use of operator manual actions to address industry fire protection program concerns.
5. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated March 29, 2006, responds to request for an independent safety assessment to be conducted of the Indian Point Energy Center.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, updated notice of meeting (4/25-26/06).
2. ASLB Notice of Hearing - In the Matter of Steven P. Moffitt.
3. ASLB Notice of Hearing - In the Matter of Dale L. Miller.
4. ASLB Notice of Hearing - In the Matter of David Geisen.
5. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Power Uprates - 04/25-26/2006, Notice of Meeting.
6. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Power Uprates - 04/27/2006, Notice of Meeting.

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7. ACNW Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
8. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste - Notice of Meeting.

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) Exit Meeting at the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant

On April 6, 2006, the Regional Administrator attended the AIT Exit Meeting at the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant.

H. B. Robinson Management Meeting

On April 4, 2006, representatives from Carolina Power and Light Company attended a management meeting in the Regional Office to discuss the operating performance of the Robinson Plant.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 3-7, 2006, the Regional Office held the NRC ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the Watts Bar and Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Tritium Remediation at Braidwood Public Meeting

On April 6, 2006, the staff participated in a community meeting, held by Exelon Generation Co., to discuss its remediation plan to pump water from an offsite pond containing tritiated water. State and local approval for the plan is pending.

LaSalle End-of-Cycle Meeting

On April 6, 2006, the staff met with representatives of Exelon Generation Co. in Seneca, Illinois, to discuss the end-of-cycle performance assessment for the LaSalle Nuclear Power Station. Meeting attendees included state and local officials and several news reporters.

Special Inspection at Indiana University Medical Center

On April 3-4, 2006, Region III conducted a special inspection into the circumstances surrounding two medical events at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The events involved brachytherapy treatments with radiation doses more than 20 percent under the intended dose as a result of incorrect positioning of the radiation source within the treatment device.

NRC Management Visit to Perry

On April 4, 2006, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs and the Region III Regional Administrator visited the Perry Nuclear Power Plant to tour the facility, meet with the NRC resident inspectors, and meet with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. management.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 7, 2006

Palo Verde End-of-Cycle Public Meeting

On April 5, 2006, the staff conducted a public meeting in Tonopah, Arizona to discuss Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station's safety performance for 2005. Participants included Arizona Public Service Company officials, Region IV staff, and local community leaders.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 7, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 13

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
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
Decker	04/05/06 SH-216	9:30	Secretary Rice, DOS	U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement	Senators Lugar/Biden Foreign Relations
Decker	04/05/06 2172 RHOB	1:30	Secretary Rice, DOS	U.S.-Indian Nuclear Agreement	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations
Combs	04/06/06 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	DOE Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Decker	04/06/06 2318 RHOB	10:00	Shane Johnson, DOE, MIT, EPRI, Watson Research Center	Global Nuclear Energy Program (GNEP)	Reps. Biggert/Honda Energy Science
Combs	April	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
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

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 13

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	05/22/06 TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Shane	06/22/06 TBA	9:30	NRC, GAO, NEI, Public Interest Groups	GAO Report on Reactor Oversight Process	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works