

INFORMATION REPORT

May 24, 2006

SECY-06-0113

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MAY 12, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Taylor, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds Meeting

On May 5, 2006, the staff met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and members of the Materials Reliability Program (MRP) to discuss NRC staff comments on industry's guidance for the volumetric and visual inspections of dissimilar metal butt welds in pressurized water reactor (PWR) primary systems, "Material Reliability Program: Primary System Piping Butt Weld Inspection and Evaluation Guideline" (MRP-139). The MRP Executive Committee unanimously approved MRP-139 and issued it to the PWR fleet as a "mandatory" action under the NEI 03-08 Guideline for the Management of Materials Initiative. In a letter to NEI dated October 12, 2005, the NRC staff previously documented its comments and recommendations on the use of MRP-139. During the meeting, the MRP staff discussed proposed responses to address the NRC staff's concerns. Specifically, the discussion topics included interactions with the NRC, reporting of inspection findings with the NRC, and implications of Spring 2006 inspection results. The MRP staff indicated that a formal written response to the NRC staff's concerns would be forthcoming.

Issuance of Renewed Operating Licenses for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

On May 4, 2006, the NRC Chairman, Executive Director for Operations, the NRR Office Director, and staff attended a signing ceremony for the renewal of operating licenses for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3, each for an additional 20 years. With the renewal, the license for Unit 1 is extended until 2033, the license for Unit 2 is extended until 2034, and the license for Unit 3 is extended until 2036. The staff completed the 28-month review on time as documented in the safety evaluation report (SER), NUREG-1843, Supplement 1, dated April 2006, and the Generic Environmental Impact Statement, NUREG-1437 Supplement 21, dated June 2005.

10 CFR Part 52 Rulemaking

On May 4, 2006, the staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the Part 52 proposed rule, which was published in the Federal Register (71 FR 12781) on March 13, 2006. The Committee and the staff discussed changes in the proposed rule that were related to technical issues, such as emergency planning, quality assurance, reporting of defects and noncompliances under Part 21, and the applicants' submittal of probabilistic risk assessments under Part 52. This briefing fulfills the Commission's direction to the staff in its January 30, 2006, Staff Requirements Memorandum on the Part 52 proposed rule (SECY-05-0203), where it stated that "the staff should seek Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards feedback on technical issues, if any, during the public comment period." The public comment period on the proposed rule ends on May 30, 2006.

Cooper Tornado Design Issues Meeting

On May 5, 2006, a public meeting was held between the NRC and representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District, the licensee for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the design of components and systems inside the CNS Diesel Generator (DG) building and its ability to withstand tornado pressurization loads. The concerns were identified and documented as an unresolved item in a Safety System Design and Performance Capability inspection conducted in May 2005. The licensee presented its venting analysis of the DG building and discussed its calculations that demonstrated the structural adequacy of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning System during depressurization and repressurization phases of a tornado event.

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit 3 - Issuance of Emergency License Amendment

On May 5, 2006, the staff approved, on an emergency basis, a one-time license amendment for SONGS, Unit 3. The plant was in Mode 4, when the licensee found a small leak in a vent line on the common shutdown cooling/low pressure safety injection header piping. This temporary amendment is effective for 7 days from the date of issuance or until the repair of the vent line leakage is completed, whichever occurs first, and allows the facility additional time to repair the vent line without putting the plant through unnecessary transient. This amendment does not involve any changes to the plant's technical specifications. The plant completed the necessary repairs on May 7, 2006, and returned to power operations on May 9, 2006.

North Anna Early Site Permit Application

By letter dated April 13, 2006, Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Dominion) submitted Revision 6 to its application for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the North Anna site. Among the changes in Revision 6 are an increase in the power level for proposed Units 3 and 4 from 4300 MWt to 4500 MWt and inclusion of the economic and simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) as a surrogate design. On May 5, 2006, the staff issued a letter to Dominion acknowledging receipt of Revision 6 of the North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP) application and providing the review schedule for the revised application. The staff expects to issue the Supplemental Final Safety Evaluation Report on August 15, 2006, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement on December 29, 2006.

In reviewing the dose consequences for the ESBWR design basis accidents, the staff identified errors in the applicant's dose calculations. One of the errors results in dose consequences exceeding acceptance criteria for the fuel handling accident. The staff has requested more information to complete its review of this topic. Dominion's response is expected by May 24, 2006.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Quarterly Management Meeting with USEC Inc. (USEC)

On May 9, 2006, staff from NMSS and the Office of the General Counsel met with USEC representatives to discuss the status and schedule of NRC's ongoing safety, safeguards, and environmental reviews of USEC's license application dated August 23, 2004, for the proposed American Centrifuge Plant, to be constructed and operated in Piketon, OH. This was the sixth quarterly NRC/USEC senior management meeting. NRC staff stated that its Final Environmental Impact Statement was published mid-April 2006, and would be available to the public on May 10, 2006. The official Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability is to be issued on May 19, 2006. The projected date for issuing the safety evaluation report (SER) has been delayed to July 2006. The SER schedule delay is caused by the need to resolve a few remaining complex issues related to criticality safety, liability insurance, and decommissioning funding, as well as the need to address recent Licensing Board requirements directed to the staff. NRC staff stated that issuance of the SER by the end of July is contingent on resolving the open issues, complying with recent Licensing Board requirements, and USEC continuing to provide NRC with the needed information in a timely manner. USEC stated that it would work with NRC to resolve the outstanding issues.

Spring Meeting of Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

On May 9, 2006, NMSS staff attended the spring meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board in Tysons Corner, VA. The Department of Energy's (DOE's) presentations to the Board included its plans for developing canisters for transportation, aging, and disposal (TAD) of commercial spent nuclear fuel, for use at a potential geologic repository, and its total system model to support the TAD concept. The Board also heard from the Nuclear Energy Institute and U.S. Transport Council about industry perspectives on the use of TAD canisters.

Staff Observes Yucca Mountain Volcanism Field Trip

On May 2-4, 2006, staff from NMSS observed a field trip sponsored by DOE to selected volcanic features in the area of Yucca Mountain, NV. The trip was part of DOE's expert elicitation to update its Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Analysis for a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

2006 International High-Level Waste Management Conference

From May 1-3, 2006, NRC staff made presentations at the 2006 International High-Level Waste Management Conference in Las Vegas, NV. This conference is a forum for the discussion of the scientific, technical, social, and regulatory aspects of the "back end" of the nuclear fuel cycle, which includes waste generation, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal.

Decommissioning Counterparts Meeting

On May 2-3, 2006, staff from NMSS, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and Regions I, III, and IV met in the Region IV office for the decommissioning counterparts meeting. The agenda included discussions on the status of decommissioning sites; cross-cutting issues; rulemaking and guidance efforts; budgeted resources; international activities; and program initiatives. The counterparts meeting is held annually to resolve programmatic issues and to help ensure consistency across the NRC's decommissioning program.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

NRC/National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Meeting on SAPHIRE and Precursor Analysis Cooperative Work

On May 4, 2006, the staff participated in the subject meeting to discuss pursuing additional cooperative work on SAPHIRE, a computer code used for performing probabilistic risk analyses, as well as precursor analysis. NRC and NASA have previously performed cooperative research in developing some features in SAPHIRE. It is anticipated that a Memorandum of Understanding will be generated to accomplish work to be identified.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-06-013, Palisades Nuclear Plant, SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE CONTROL ROD WITHDRAWAL PROBLEM.
2. PNO-IV-06-006, Bozeman Deaconess Foundation, MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING IODINE-125 SEED IMPLANT.

May 12, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
May 5 through May 11, 2006:

Policies, directives, guidelines, training materials related to providing records in an Electronic Reading Room or agency website	FOIA/PA-2006-0198
RNP of New Jersey, 30 Murray Hill Parkway, Suite 450, East Rutherford, NJ, any information, violations, permits issued	FOIA/PA-2006-0199
HRP Associates Inc., 167 New Britain Ave., Plainville, CT 06062, storage of hazardous waste	FOIA/PA-2006-0200
Nuclear Automation, 381 Colonial Manor Road, North Huntingdon, PA 15642, licensed to utilize or store radioactive materials	FOIA/PA-2006-0201

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ENCLOSURE G

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Mid-Year Reprogramming Request

On May 10, 2006, the CFO submitted a Congressional reprogramming request based on the Commission's approval of the utilization of \$26.8 million (\$25.8 million in Fee Based Funds and \$1 million in Nuclear Waste Funds) to fund initiatives identified in the FY 2006 Mid-year Resource Review.

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Arrival		
BEISSEL, DENNIS R.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
BERGEON, BRYAN A.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
BYRE, EVERETT	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
DEASE, DERRICK A.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
DOFAT, RANDELL L.	BRANCH CHIEF	OIS
DRAPER, JASON D.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
FREELAND, KENDRA	SECRETARY	ADM
HOWARD, KENT	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
JERVEY, RICHARD A.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LEWIS, MONICA Y.	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RII
MOORE, ROSS P.	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	RI
O'ROURKE, BRIAN J.	BRANCH CHIEF	OIS
PATEL, JIGAR J.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
RAJNIC, CECILIA K.	LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPEC	HR
ROBINSON, JAY E.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
ROY, TARUN	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
SMITH, HEIDI K.	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
SWINIMER, HOWARD F.	LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPEC	HR
WERTS, SCOTT	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
WILLIAMS, VINCE	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
Departures		
BERG, LAWRENCE J.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
HIGGS, DONALD J.	BRANCH CHIEF	OIS

Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Annual 2006 Bring Your Children To Work Day Event

SBCR, the Federal Women's Program Advisory Committee (FEWPAC), and the Employee Welfare Recreation Association (EWRA) sponsored NRC's Annual 2006 Bring Your Children To Work Day event. Approximately 250 youth participated. Managers and employees from the Offices of the Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Information Services, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, and Region I participated. Volunteer hosts assisted in escorting youth and their parents throughout the sponsored exhibits and office tours. The children were given many opportunities to learn more about what NRC does.

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

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

Strontium findings at Indian Point nuclear plant.

The future of the nuclear power industry.

The NRC's review of Vermont Yankee's license renewal application.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff continued to assist at various end-of-cycle meetings for nuclear plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-064	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impacts from Proposed Centrifuge Enrichment Plant in Ohio (5/10)
06-065	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, May 23-26 (5/11)
Regions:	
I-06-032	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plants (5/10)
III-06-022	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Monticello Nuclear Power Plant (5/12)
IV-06-010	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at San Onofre Nuclear Plant (5/9)
IV-06-011	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at River Bend Nuclear Plant (5/11)
IV-06-012	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Waterford Nuclear Plant (5/11)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 12, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0094	04/24/06	Tracking or Providing Enhanced Controls for Category 3 Sources
2. SECY-06-0097	04/27/06	Proposed Rulemaking to Amend 10 CFR Parts 19, 20, and 50: Occupational Dose Records, Labeling Containers, and the Total Effective Dose Equivalent (RIN 3150-AH40)
Information Papers		
- SECY-06-0105	05/09/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 28, 2006
Memoranda		
- M060424	05/11/06	Staff Requirements - Meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico, dated May 5, 2006, request that a State Liaison Officer to act as the primary liaison to NRC be appointed.
2. Letter to Jerry Weller, dated May 3, 2006, responds to letter concerning the tritium contamination that has been identified at the Braidwood and Dresden facilities.
3. Letter to Senator Maria Cantwell, dated May 2, 2006, responds to letter concerning the transport of radiological materials across the Nation's borders.
4. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated May 2, 2006, responds to letter concerning the transport of radiological materials across the Nation's borders.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting (5/30/06)
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - Notice of Meeting (05/31 - 06/1/06)

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ENCLOSURE O

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Hope Creek Completes Refueling Outage and Replacement of the 'B' Reactor Recirculation Pump Shaft

In January 2005, the NRC reviewed a technical issue regarding the Hope Creek 'B' reactor recirculation (RR) pump. This pump had historically exhibited increased vibration levels and more frequent pump seal problems. As a result of this review, the NRC issued Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) 1-05-001 to confirm commitments made by Public Service Electric & Gas (PSEG) regarding the 'B' RR pump. These commitments included a continuous vibration monitoring program with appropriate acceptance criteria, actions to be taken if monitored parameters exceeded the acceptance criteria, time for the NRC to review any proposed changes to the vibration monitoring procedures prior to implementation, and replacement of the 'B' RR pump shaft and inspection of the pump rotating assembly and pressure boundary components at the earliest opportunity.

During the last operating cycle, the NRC closely monitored PSEG's compliance with the CAL requirements by reviewing pump vibration data and changes to vibration monitoring procedures prior to implementation. In April 2006, during the most recently completed refueling outage, PSEG replaced the 'B' RR pump shaft and motor and inspected the pump's rotating assembly and pressure boundary components. The NRC determined that these actions fulfilled PSEG's commitments and closed the CAL by letter dated April 20, 2006. Hope Creek has restarted from the most recent refueling outage. The 'B' RR pump vibrations levels are normal.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Inspector Counterpart Meeting

On May 8-11, 2006, the Region II Inspectors' Counterpart meeting was held in the Regional Office. On May 10, 2006, the Director of Human Resources met with Region II staff and discussed Agency issues and priorities. The inspection staff were provided briefings and training by management and staff from the offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Enforcement, and Nuclear Regulatory Research.

May 12, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Commissioners Visits to Region III Facilities

On May 8, 2006, Commissioner Jaczko toured the Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant in Oak Harbor, OH, and met with site management and representatives of the regional and resident office staffs. Commissioner Lyons toured the Braidwood Nuclear Plant in Braceville, IL and met with site management and representatives of the regional and resident office staffs.

On May 9, 2006, Commissioners Jazko and Lyons toured the Argonne National Laboratories in Lemont, IL and met with research staff working on various NRC-sponsored research projects.

On May 11, 2006, Commissioner Lyons toured the Fermi Nuclear Plant in Monroe, MI and met with plant management and representatives of the regional and resident office staffs.

Byron Community Information Meeting

During the week of May 8, 2006, NRC staff, including the senior resident inspector participated in an open-house format community meeting in the Byron Station Training Center, sponsored by Exelon Generation Co. About 125 persons attended the meeting, which focused on tritium issues and other plant activities. In addition to the NRC staff members, representatives of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency participated in the meeting.

Preparations for Region III Participation in Exercises at Exelon Facilities

On May 10, 2006, in preparation for three emergency preparedness exercises in which Region III will participate with Exelon stations this year, the Region III Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) provided two outreach presentations to the Exelon Emergency Response Organization. Additionally, on May 12, 2006, the Region III ERC provided a training session to a small number of Exelon staff members who will act as "Mock NRC Site Team" members during the licensee's practice drills leading up to the graded biennial exercises.

Clinton End-of-Cycle Performance Meeting

On May 11, 2005, the RIII staff met with representatives of Exelon Nuclear Generation Co. in Clinton, IL, to discuss the end-of-cycle performance assessment for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Annual Assessment Public Meeting

On May 9, 2005, RIV staff conducted a public meeting with Entergy management in Port Gibson, Mississippi, to discuss Grand Gulf Nuclear Station's safety performance for 2005. In addition to several members of the public, the meeting was attended by State and local officials, as well as the media.

South Texas Project Annual Assessment Public Meeting

On May 10, 2006, RIV staff conducted a public meeting with South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company officials in Bay City, Texas, to discuss South Texas Project Electric Generating Station's safety performance for 2005. The meeting was attended by about 25 people, including several local officials. No members of the general public attended the meeting.

Wolf Creek Annual Assessment Public Meeting

On May 11, 2006, RIV staff conducted a public meeting with Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation officials in Burlington, Kansas, to discuss Wolf Creek's safety performance for 2005. Approximately 18 people attended the meeting, including the Emergency Planning Directors from Coffee and Lyon counties. No members of the public or media attended the meeting.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 12, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 18					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	Week of May 8 TENTATIVE	TBD	Markup	Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	05/11/06 SD-366	10:00	DOE, EPA, State of Nevada, NWTB	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Schmidt/Keeling	05/17/06 TENTATIVE	9:30	Dr. Dale Klein	Confirmation hearing for Dr. Dale Klein to be a Commissioner of the U.S. NRC	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Shane	05/22/06 SD-366	2:30	NRC, DOE, and others	Nuclear Plant Development	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	05/23/06 2203 RHOB Classified Briefing	2:00	NRC, GAO	Follow-up to 4/4/06 Hearing on GAO report concerning the Design Basis Threat process related to nuclear power plants	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations Government Reform
Shane	late May 2006 TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Reps. Barton/Dingell Energy and Commerce
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

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 12, 2006

As a result of its 169th meeting (April 18-20, 2006), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

Date	
May 9, 2006	Report of Research at the Department of Energy Office of Science, Technology and International Programs

May 12, 2006

ENCLOSURE S