

# INFORMATION REPORT

June 9, 2006

SECY-06-0135

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
JUNE 2, 2006

## Contents

## Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Office of Information Services	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business and Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P*
Region II	P*
Region III	P
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/ Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste	S*

\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
L. Rakovan, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Staff Audits ESBWR Piping Design, Analysis, and RAI Responses at General Electric

During the week of May 22, 2006, NRR staff and contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory conducted an audit of the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) piping design and analysis at the General Electric (GE) Nuclear Energy facility in Wilmington, North Carolina. Discussions were also held on GE's responses to requests for additional information (RAIs) in the piping area. The audit was in support of the piping design review of GE's application for design certification of the ESBWR. A public exit meeting was held on May 26, 2006, to discuss the results of the audit. The staff expects GE to provide revised responses to the RAIs.

Biennial Program Review of Operator Licensing Function in Region III

During the week of May 29, 2006, NRR staff and management performed a biennial review of the operator licensing function in Region III. The review is part of an effort to evaluate the administration of delegated operator licensing functions within the Regions and to collect Regional management and examiner feedback on the examination process.

Environmental Site Audit at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

During the week of May 22, 2006, the staff and Argonne National Laboratory conducted an environmental site audit at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, as part of the staff's license renewal application review. The team examined the data used by Entergy in preparation of the Environmental Report, which is part of the license renewal application for Vermont Yankee. The site audit team toured the plant, the site, and surrounding environs and met with Entergy's environmental subject experts, plant operating staff, State of Vermont officials, and representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The site audit team also met with State officials in Montpelier, Vermont, and local government officials in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

Dominion Early Site Permit (ESP) Application for North Anna ESP Site

On May 24, 2006, Dominion provided a response to the NRC's RAI letter dated May 10, 2006, related to Revision 6 of the North Anna ESP application. Dominion plans to incorporate the RAI responses and issue Revision 7 of the North Anna ESP application by June 21, 2006, in accordance with North Anna ESP review schedule issued by the staff on May 4, 2006.

Fort Calhoun Sump Modifications - Public Meeting with Omaha Public Power District (OPPD)

On May 24, 2006, members of NRR staff met with representatives from OPPD to discuss the licensee's response to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," for the Fort Calhoun facility. The licensee requested the meeting to discuss its plan to seek an extension in time to comply with the requirements of the GL. The GL requires all identified

modifications to be completed by the end of 2007. The licensee discussed a proposal to extend the completion schedule for modifications to coincide with its planned refueling outage in Spring 2008. This proposed schedule is based on (1) removal of the Tri-Sodium Phosphate and the use of an alternative buffer, and (2) increasing its strainer area from 56 to 1100 square-feet. The licensee plans to implement these changes during the Fall 2006 outage to justify the 3-4 month extension. The staff expects to receive a docketed extension request from OPPD in the near future.

#### Public Meeting on Fort Calhoun Crane Issues

On May 24, 2006, the NRR staff met with representatives from the OPPD to discuss its analyses of the crane and auxiliary building structures at the Fort Calhoun Station for dry cask loading conditions. The licensee discussed the details of its calculations and described the methods used to assure that the design standard and stress limits have been met. The NRC staff requested an example of the most highly stressed building member to review in greater detail. The licensee plans to submit the additional calculation for NRC staff review in the near future.

#### Peach Bottom, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, Hope Creek, and Salem, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 License Transfers

On May 30, 2006, the NRC issued an Order approving the direct transfers of the Facility Operating Licenses for the subject facilities from PSEG Nuclear, to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (EGC). The license transfers involve the transfer of PSEG Nuclear's ownership interests in Peach Bottom, Hope Creek, and Salem, and its licensed operating authorities for Hope Creek and Salem due to the pending merger of PSEG Nuclear's parent company, Public Service Enterprise Group, into Exelon Corporation, EGC's parent company.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Volcanic Activity Work at the University of Bristol and Cambridge University, Great Britain

From May 22-25, 2006, staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses visited its subcontractors with the University of Bristol and Cambridge University. The purpose of the visit was to review subcontractor progress on investigations to support the NRC staff's analysis of potential magma/repository interactions at the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository. Plans were finalized and schedules developed for completion of the investigations.

Louisiana Energy Services (LES) Management Meeting

On May 23, 2006, NRC staff from NMSS, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Administration, Region II, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response held a management meeting with staff from LES. In the meeting, NRC and LES staffs discussed the status of licensing activities, coordination of inspection activities, International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, and the NRC security clearance process. NRC and LES staffs both noted that the coordination and communications throughout the licensing process had been good.

Fort Belvoir Decommissioning Activities - License Termination

On May 24, 2006, NRC terminated License No. 19-10306-02 for the U.S. Department of the Army's Building 7304 (Vault) property located at Fort Belvoir, VA. The Army conducted decommissioning activities at the Fort Belvoir site from March 2004 to November 2005. In accordance with its approved decommissioning plan, the Army submitted a final status survey report demonstrating that the site meets the unrestricted release criteria defined in its license. In addition, the Army submitted a dose assessment which demonstrates that the site meets the unrestricted release criteria of 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. The staff's evaluation of the Army's request for license termination is documented in a Safety Evaluation Report dated May 24, 2006 (ML061090356).

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Meeting on Human Performance Research with Department of Defense's Army Research Laboratory (DOD-ARL)

On May 22, 2006, RES and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff participated in the subject meeting at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The purpose of this meeting was to inform NRC staff of human performance research performed at APG while gathering information about ARL's capabilities in alternative strategies, collaboration, and resolution of human performance issues. RES staff plans to continue collaborating with DOD-ARL to complete the operator workload project.

Ground-Water Performance Confirmation Monitoring Workshop Held on May 22-23, 2006

RES held the subject training workshop to discuss the newly-developed integrated ground-water monitoring strategy. This information, which is designed for use in reviewing site-specific ground-water monitoring programs in conjunction with site performance modeling, is assisting NRC inspectors and staff in their evaluation of ground-water contaminant pathways, release rates, and migration assessments related to subsurface radiological leaks at nuclear facilities. Workshop attendees included Agreement State regulators from Mississippi, Ohio, and Utah.

Third Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency Rig-of-Safety-Assessment (ROSA) Program Review Group

On May 22-23, 2006, RES staff attended the subject meeting in Valencia, Spain to discuss two tests conducted at the ROSA facility. The tests were a small break loss of coolant accident (SBLOCA) simulation of the thinning of the vessel upper head found at Davis Besse and a SBLOCA simulation of the flaw found on the vessel bottom head at South Texas. Preliminary results were presented on actual accident sequences, system indications, and the effectiveness of certain accident management strategies. This information will be used to enhance the NRC's thermal-hydraulic knowledge base on safety issues, and the data will be used to validate the TRACE code.

Meeting of the Committee on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering of the National Academy of Science

On May 25-26, 2006, RES staff participated in the subject meeting which was focused on identifying emerging geologic and geotechnical study areas related to national issues of hazard mitigation and risk assessment. RES staff presented an overview of technical issues associated with ongoing research to assess performance of engineered waste isolation facilities. Of special interest to the NRC were discussions of performance of surface and subsurface engineered barriers, landslide and seismic hazard assessment and mitigation, risk-based assessment of dams, and development of a proposed national underground research facility for assessing subsurface processes and rock stability.

Publication of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.205, "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants"

On May 26, 2006, RES issued RG 1.205, "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants." The RG, prepared by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, provides guidance for use in complying with the requirements that the NRC has promulgated for risk-informed, performance-based fire protection programs that meet the requirements of Title 10, Section 50.48(c), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.48(c)) and the referenced 2001 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, NFPA 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light-Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants." The RG is available in ADAMS at ML061100174 and on the NRC website at

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/active/01-205/01-205.pdf>

Publication of Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 8.38, "Control of Access to High and Very High Radiation Areas in Nuclear Power Plants"

On May 31, 2006, RES issued Revision 1 to RG 8.38, "Control of Access to High and Very High Radiation Areas in Nuclear Power Plants." The revised RG clarifies the terminology related to the physical barriers that licensees could use to prevent unauthorized personnel access to high and very high radiation areas. In addition, staff included recent references that discuss industry experiences with high and very high radiation areas. The RG is available in ADAMS (ML061350096) and will soon be available on the NRC website.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Preliminary Notification

- PNO-II-06-001A, Catawba Nuclear Station,-UPDATE--LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER AND DUAL UNIT REACTOR TRIP.

June 2, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 (AH83 - Parts 170 and 171)

On May 30, 2006, a final rule that amends the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to the Commission's applicants and licensees was published in the Federal Register (71 FR 30722). The final rule ensures NRC compliance with the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended. The Act mandates that the NRC recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in FY 2006, less amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund and for Waste Incidental to Reprocessing activities. The amount to be recovered for FY 2006 is approximately \$625 million. The final rule becomes effective July 31, 2006.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 (Amendment 6), Confirmation of Effective Date (AH87- Part 72)

On May 30, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 30576) confirming the June 5, 2006, effective date for a direct final rule that amends the VSC-24 entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (Amendment 6). This action modifies the present cask system design to revise Technical Specification requirements related to periodic monitoring during storage operation under a general license.



Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
May 26 through June 01, 2006:

Complaint re: alleged importing of tritium watches without a license	FOIA/PA-2006-0210
Wackenhut security at NRC-controlled facilities, all information	FOIA/PA-2006-0211
Active contracts re: IT, finance, accounting, administrative support, conference planning, logistical & facility support services; title of contract, start & end date, contract manager	FOIA/PA-2006-0212
IMPAC cardholders/Purchase cardholders	FOIA/PA-2006-0213
50.59 Annual Reports for Nine Mile Point, Monticello, Robinson, & Turkey Point, 1999 to present	FOIA/PA-2006-0214
OI report 4-2004-035	FOIA/PA-2006-0215
Device registration, NR-399-D-101-E, & exempt distribution license file for G.E. Ion Track, Inc.	FOIA/PA-2006-0216
Security clearance file on named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0217

June 2, 2006

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending June 2, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
GREENBERG, HOLLY	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
ONG, LONG D. Y.	CONSULTANT	NSIR
OTERO-GONZÁLEZ, LAURA L.	STUDENT HIRE	HR
SPRADLEY, LEAH L.	STUDENT ENGINEER	ACRS
TSIRIGOTIS, ALEXANDER	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
VOSS, PATRICIA J.	STUDENT ENGINEER	R-III
WYMER, RAYMOND G.	CONSULTANT	ACRS
<b>Retirements</b>		
ERESIAN, WARREN J.	REACTOR ENGINEER (EXAMINER QUALIFIED)	NRR
GILLEN, DANIEL M.	DEP DIR, DECOMM DIRECTORATE	NMSS
GRIMES, CATHERINE S.	SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST	RES
GRIMES, CHRISTOPHER I.	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIV OF ENGINEERING	NRR
HODGES, MARVIN W.	DEP DIR, TECHNICAL REVIEW DIRECTORATE	NMSS
LOACH, ROBERT E.	HUMAN RESOURCES INFO TECHNOLOGY MGR	HR
MONROE, KRISTIN L.	OPERATIONIS OFFICER	OI
SHEPARD, ALZONIA W.	SR. REGULATIONS SPECIALIST	ADM

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

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

The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Appeals Court's ruling that NRC must consider effects of potential terrorist attacks in environmental reviews of new nuclear facilities.

NRC's public meeting with AmerGen regarding drywall liner corrosion at Oyster Creek.

Neutron detectors missing from the spent fuel pool at Pilgrim.

NRC's inspection at Catawba following last week's Unusual Event.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-073	NRC Publishes Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees for Fiscal Year 2006 (5/30)
06-074	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, June 6-7 (5/31)
06-075	NRC's Revised Differing Professional Opinions Program Assessed (5/31)
06-076	NRC Staff Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses for Salem, Hope Creek and Peach Bottom (5/31)
06-077	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Standard Review Plan for DOE Waste Determinations (6/1)
06-078	NRC to Hold Public Meeting June 15 on Proposal to Establish "Technology Neutral" Requirements for Licensing New Reactors (6/1)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-035	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Civil Penalty for Elizabeth, Pa., Firm Over Temporary Loss of Nuclear Gauge (5/30)
II-06-032	NRC to Present Results of Catawba Nuclear Power Plant Inspection at Rock Hill Meeting May 31 (5/30)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending June 2, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. COMNJD-06-0004/ COMEXM-06-0006	04/07/06	Streamlining the NRR Rulemaking Process
SRM on COMNJD-06-0004/ COMEXM-06-0006	05/31/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMNJD-06-0004/ COMEXM-06-0006	05/31/06	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-06-0097	06/02/06	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)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0097	06/02/06	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-06-0123	05/26/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 19, 2006
2. SECY-06-0114	05/13/06	Description of the Construction Inspection Program for Plants Licensed Under 10 CFR Part 52
3. SECY-06-0099	05/04/06	Energy Policy Act of 2005 Implementation Status
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M060503B	06/01/06	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Reactor Regulation

2. M060602	06/02/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0116 - Louisiana Energy Services, L.P. (National Enrichment Facility) Intervenor's Petition for Review of LBP-06-08 and LBP-06-09; II. SECY-06-0120 - Andrew Siemaszko, Docket No. IA-05-021, Unpublished Licensing Board Order (December 22, 2005)
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June 2, 2006

ENCLOSURE O

Region III (RIII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Meetings with Senator Voinovich's District Representatives

On May 31- June 1, 2006, Region III and Office of Congressional Affairs staff met with District representatives of Senator Voinovich in Cleveland, Toledo, and Columbus, Ohio. The meetings were conducted as part of the Congressional District Outreach program and to provide the District representatives with an NRC point of contact and basic information on NRC's organization and mission.

June 2, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 2, 2006

Cooper Nuclear Station Performance Assessment Public Meeting

On May 30, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in Brownville, Nebraska, to discuss Cooper Nuclear Station's safety performance for 2005. Participants included Nebraska Public Power District managers and Region IV staff. Approximately 35 people attended the presentation, including a representative from the state of Nebraska.

Columbia Generating Station Performance Assessment Public Meeting

On June 1, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in Richland, Washington, to discuss the annual assessment of the Columbia Generating Station for 2005. Participants included Energy Northwest managers and Region IV staff. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting, including 3 members of the public.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending June 2, 2006

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 21**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	06/12/06 SD-366	2:30	DOE	Next Generation of Nuclear Plant Project within the Department of Energy	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Shane	TBA TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Reps. Barton/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Shane	06/22/06 TBA	9:30	NRC, GAO, NEI, UCS	GAO Report on Reactor Oversight Process and other topics	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

The Senate and House of Representatives are in recess until June 5 and 6, respectively.