

INFORMATION REPORT

September 11, 2006

SECY-06-0194

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 25, 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 August 25, 2006

Meeting with NEI to discuss Regulatory Issue Summary 2005-20

On August 16, 2006, NRC staff met with representatives of NEI and various utilities. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss industry concerns with Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2005-20, "Revision to Guidance Formerly Contained in NRC Generic Letter 91-18, 'Information to Licensees Regarding Two NRC Inspection Manual Sections on Resolution of Degraded and Nonconforming Conditions and on Operability.'" Specifically, the industry was concerned that the guidance could result in unnecessary plant shutdowns. These concerns were provided in the NEI White Paper, "Treatment of Operational Leakage from ASME Class 2 and 3 Components," dated May 2, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML061320347).

Based on the information provided by the industry, NRC staff proposed an approach for revising the guidance. Industry participants agreed to develop input to the proposed revised guidance prior to the next meeting.

Issuance of Oyster Creek License Renewal Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items

On August 18, 2006, the staff issued its safety evaluation report (SER) for the AmerGen Energy Company, LLC application to renew the operating license for the Oyster Creek Generating Station for an additional 20 years. The staff's SER contained five open items that must be resolved before it can make a final determination on the application. These open items are related to additional information needed to address drywell corrosion. The staff plans to present the results of its evaluation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on October 3, 2006.

Unistar Looks at Early Submittal of Environmental Report

On August 17, 2006, the staff met with UniStar Nuclear representatives to discuss policy issues associated with an early submittal of portions of a COL application. UniStar Nuclear communicated their plan to submit the Environmental Report for the U. S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (US EPR) reference plant as much as six months earlier than the remainder of the COL application. UniStar also provided their plan for concurrent submission and review of the US EPR design certification and COL applications.

Braidwood - Senior Management Change

On August 21, 2006, Exelon Nuclear announced that Mr. Tom Coutu has been named Site Vice President at Braidwood Generating Station, effective immediately. He replaces current Site Vice President Keith Polson.

Public meeting on 10 CFR 50.46a Final Rule Language Meeting

On August 17, 2006, the NRC held a public meeting to discuss the current draft final rule language for the § 50.46a risk-informed voluntary rule on alternative ECCS requirements. The draft rule language had been made publicly available on the NRC's RuleForum web site. The NRC staff presented possible alternatives to the draft rule language and received feedback from meeting attendees regarding modifications to the draft rule language. The staff is evaluating the proposed modifications and will incorporate them into a revised rule consistent with existing Commission guidance.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

NRC Staff Observation of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Quality Assurance Audit of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)

On August 7-17, 2006, staff from NMSS and the Center for Nuclear Waste Repository Analyses observed a quality-assurance audit of DOE's OCRWM. The OCRWM office manages the Yucca Mountain Project and is tasked with preparing the license application for the waste repository. The DOE audit team examined the recent OCRWM reorganization and the organization's readiness to review design products for the Yucca Mountain Project facilities. The audit was initiated to determine the adequacy of procedures for compliance with, and implementation of, DOE/RW-0333P, Quality Assurance Requirements Document, Revision 17.

Meeting of National Conference of State Legislatures' High-Level Radioactive Waste Working Group

On August 15, 2006, NMSS staff attended the subject meeting. The meeting was attended by State legislators representing 18 different States, as well as representatives of the Department of Transportation, DOE, NRC, and industry groups. The main focus of the meeting was to update State representatives on activities involving the transportation and storage of transuranic wastes and spent fuel, and status of new-facility licensing. The Working Group also solicited ideas about how State legislatures could be involved in addressing the energy crisis. Staff proposed that States could become more involved in the recruitment and the offering of educational opportunities needed to train future engineers and scientists in energy-related fields, such as nuclear engineering and radiation health physics. The idea was well-received, and will be pursued in future Working Group meetings.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-06-019, Dominion Generation Co.,-TRITIUM DETECTED IN GROUNDWATER BENEATH PLANT BUILDINGS.
2. PNO-IV-06-010, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1,-TRITIUM DETECTED IN WATER SAMPLES TAKEN ON THE SITE.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

American National Standards Institute N43.10 Committee: Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-36-01)

On August 18, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 47751), that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by the American National Standards Institute N43.10 Committee (PRM-36-01). The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its regulations governing the operation of panoramic irradiators to ease the requirements for adequate coverage. The petition was denied because the petitioner did not provide a sufficient basis for the NRC to conclude that the requirements could be eased and still maintain reasonable assurance that common defense and security and public health and safety would be adequately protected.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of August 18 through August 24, 2006:

Sylvania-Corning, Hicksville, NY, license, 24 specific documents	FOIA/PA-2006-0279
Solicitation 94122, support for International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, awarded contract, attachments & exhibits, task/delivery/purchase orders & list of proposed submitters	FOIA/PA-2006-0280
Radioactive materials license holders	FOIA/PA-2006-0281
Bionomics Inc., P.O. Box 817, Kingston, TN 37763, copy of NRC license	FOIA/PA-2006-0282
Personnel records re: body count, 1998, from Oyster Creek GPU & from Berwick Nuclear Power facility, 1996	FOIA/PA-2006-0283

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 25, 2006

Arrival		
FULLER, EDWARD L	SR. RELIABILITY AND RISK ANALYST	NRR
HULL, AMY	MATERIALS ENGINEER	RES
Departures		
BUSHMAN, ABIGAIL	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
COY, MACKENZIE B	STUDENT LAW CLERK (SUMMER)	OGC
DEUTCHMAN, JACOB S	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
GATELY, MATTHEW B.	STUDENT IT TRAINEE	R-I
HELM, JONATHAN I	STUDENT ENGINEER	R-II
MCCAULEY, DANIELLE L	STUDENT ENGINEER	R-III
PARIS, RAHUL DANIEL	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
ROIG-SILVA, CORAL M.	STUDENT SCIENTIST	NRR
VAN ABEL, ERIC N.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
WASHINGTON, BRITTNEY MARIE	STUDENT CLERK (TYPING)	ADM
WASSON, DAVID P.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

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

The Safety Evaluation Report (with open items) issued regarding Oyster Creek's license renewal application.

Hatch's report that most of the unaccounted for spent fuel had been located in the plant's spent fuel pool.

Nuclear security issues in the runup to the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

DOE's request that NRC withdraw its Standard Review Plan for waste determinations at Savannah River Site and Idaho National Laboratory.

The Project on Government Oversight's charges of security lapses at Sequoyah.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-103	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet Sept. 7-9 in Rockville, Maryland (8/21)
06-104	NRC Takes Regulatory Oversight of USEC Lead Cascade, Authorizes Processing of Radioactive Material (8/24)
Regions:	
I-06-047	NRC Issues Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items for Oyster Creek License Renewal Application (8/21)
II-06-037	Southern Nuclear Notifies NRC of Completion of its Spent Fuel Investigation at Hatch Nuclear Plant (8/21)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 25, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0173	8/24/06	History of the Emergency Notification System and Options to Provide Confirmation of Authority/Identity of a Caller
Voting Record - SECY-06-0173	8/24/06	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-06-0168	8/23/06	Staff Comments on the Draft Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection
Voting Record - SECY-06-0168	8/23/06	(same)
Information Papers		
- SECY-06-0175	8/4/06	Semiannual Update of the Lessons-Learned Program (LLP)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letters to Governors, dated August 18, 2006, requests information regarding States' plans for the regulation of certain radioactive materials
2. Letter to Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, dated August 18, 2006, responds to letter regarding the staff's recommendation to terminate the Heritage Minerals, Inc. license.
3. Letter to Konstantin Pulikovskiy, Moscow, dated August 17, 2006, expresses gratitude for congratulatory letter.
4. Letter Robert Owen, Chair, CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, dated August 16, 2006, responds to letter requesting that NRC develop appropriate version of its package security assessments to share with State organizations.
5. Letter to Maria-Teresa Estevan Bolea, President, Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, dated August 12, 2006, expresses gratitude for congratulatory letter.

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ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

- Proposed rule, 10 CFR Part 73, RIN: 3150-AH90, Secure Transfer of Nuclear Materials.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 32

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	09/13/06 TBA	TBA	Dennis Spurgeon, DOE, former NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz, Ernest Moniz, MIT, Skip Bowman, NEI, Patrick Moore, formerly of Greenpeace, State PUC representative TBD	Future of Nuclear Power and Possible Impediments	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	09/14/06 SD406	9:30	DOE, NRC's EDO, NEI, EDF	NRC Oversight focusing on NRC's capability for the long- and short-term spent fuel storage programs	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Shane	September SD-406	9:30	Markup	S. 2348, Nuclear Release Notice Act of 2006	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works

The Senate and House of Representatives are in recess until September 5, 2006.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 25, 2006

As a result of its 172nd meeting (July 17-20, 2006), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

Date	
August 16, 2006	Observations from the ACNW Low-level Waste Working Group Meeting of May 23–24, 2006

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ENCLOSURE S