

INFORMATION REPORT

May 11, 2005

SECY-05-0081

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-05-0081 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 29, 2005"

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 29, 2005

Grand Gulf Early Site Permit - Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Public Comment

On April 21, 2005, NRR issued NUREG -1817, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site," for public comment. A 75-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on or about April 29, 2005, with the Notice of Availability of the draft EIS published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The staff has scheduled public meetings on June 28, 2005, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft EIS.

Quad Cities Unit 2 - Public Meeting to Discuss Start Up Test Plan and Steam Dryer Analyses

From April 25-27, 2005, NRC staff from Region III and NRR held a public meeting with the licensee representatives at Exelon's corporate office in Warrenville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the start-up test plan proposed for the new instrumented steam dryer for Quad Cities Unit 2. Contractors from Argonne National Laboratory and Penn State University provided staff support. The licensee presented the latest developments in acoustic circuit analysis for prediction of flow-induced vibration loads on the steam dryer. The staff also performed a preliminary sampling audit of the structural finite element analysis of the dryer.

Public Meeting: Proposed Rule on the Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions Proposed

On April 27, 2005, NRR staff held a Category 3 public meeting on the subject issue to provide members of the public and industry representatives opportunities to make comments and address the Commission questions posted in the *Federal Register Notice* (70 FR 10901) dated March 7, 2005. The meeting was supported by staff from NRR's Divisions of Systems Safety and Analysis, Regulatory Improvement Programs and Inspection Program Management, as well as Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff, and was attended by members from the industry, the Nuclear Energy Institute, Union of Concerned Scientists, and industry consultants. The staff received initial feedback on the three requests for comments related to time margin, fire suppression systems, and rule acceptance criteria applicability to sections III.G.1 and 2 of Appendix R. The staff also engaged the stakeholders on the Commissions' request to get a clear understanding of the likelihood that the proposed rule would achieve its underlying purpose. Throughout the meeting the staff reiterated to stakeholders that it would like to receive written comments with supporting details. Presentations from the industry focused on its perspectives of the proposed rule with respect to regulatory, safety, risk, and cost considerations. The deadline for the public to submit written comments is May 23, 2005.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 29, 2005

NRC Meeting with the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes

On April 20-21, 2005, the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) held its spring meeting at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. On April 20, the ACMUI briefed the Commission on its views concerning: (1) the training and experience final rule in 10 CFR Part 35; (2) the draft 2005 recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection; and (3) NRC's report on dose reconstruction methods. The ACMUI also briefed the Commission on its continued efforts to amend the medical event reporting criteria in 10 CFR Part 35. Other topics of interest to the medical community were presented during the meeting, including the physical presence requirement relating to gamma stereotactic radiosurgery in 10 CFR 35.615(f)(3).

Decommissioning Workshop

On April 20-21, 2005, the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection conducted a 2-day public workshop on decommissioning, attended by approximately 200 people, consisting of industry representatives, consultants, representatives from other Federal agencies, and State representatives. The first day of the workshop had opening presentations on topics including: (1) finality/Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum of Understanding; (2) incentives; (3) alignment of NRC decommissioning program with States; (4) improved communications; and (5) revised decommissioning guidance. Those presentations were followed by breakout sessions, on topics related to the License Termination Rule analysis, that included: (1) restricted release/institutional controls; (2) realistic scenarios; (3) mixing of contaminated soil; (4) financial assurance; (5) operational changes; and (6) onsite burials. The second day focused on lessons-learned and also included a presentation by Commissioner Merrifield.

Meeting with U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Related to the American Centrifuge Plant

On April 25, 2005, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and ICF Consulting met with USEC representatives. The meeting was held to discuss USEC's responses to the NRC staff's requests for additional information about the American Centrifuge Plant license application, in the areas of criticality safety, decommissioning funding, human factors, and material control and accounting.

Meeting with Packaging Technology on TRUPACT-III

On April 27, 2005, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives from Packaging Technology to discuss submittal of the redesigned TRUPACT-III transportation package, which will be used for transporting transuranic wastes in large boxes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The TRUPACT-III design was submitted to NRC in March 2004. However, the application was withdrawn in August 2004 because of some structural issues. Packaging Technology is planning to submit a revised application in July 2006.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
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Week Ending April 29, 2005

Fire Dynamics Seminar for Region IV Fire Protection Inspectors

On April 21, 2005, RES staff presented a fire dynamics training seminar for Region IV fire protection inspectors. This training was requested by the Region and was coordinated with the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The seminar focused on the tools and techniques described in NUREG-1805, "Fire Dynamics Tools Quantitative Fire Hazard Analysis Methods for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fire Protection Inspection Program." The objective of the training was to help regional fire protection inspectors better understand risk-informed, performance-based fire protection requirements.

Letter of Agreement Between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the OECD/NEA Relating to International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange (ICDE) Project

On April 25, 2005, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Letter of Agreement between NRC and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA). This Letter of Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and OECD/NEA will continue to cooperate in the exchange of international common-cause failure data on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. Participation in the project gives the NRC access to proprietary foreign data that would not otherwise be available to us. These data augment the NRC's common-cause failure database with foreign experience and enable us to compare our operating experience with that of other countries to glean insights for use in our quantitative risk studies and inspection activities. This Agreement will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect for three years (through March 31, 2008).

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 29, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-05-018, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company - EQUIPMENT FIRE INSIDE CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE AT DECOMMISSIONING REACTOR SITE
2. PNO-I-05-018A, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company - SUPPLEMENT TO EQUIPMENT FIRE INSIDE CONTAINMENT STRUCTURE AT DECOMMISSIONING REACTOR SITE
3. PNO-1-05-019, Craig Testing Laboratories, Inc. - MISSING PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
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Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Solicitation of Comments on Proposed Changes (Part 71)

On April 27, 2005, a document was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 21684) announcing that the NRC and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are jointly soliciting comments on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. The proposed changes to IAEA's regulations will likely require compatibility rulemakings by both DOT and the NRC. The comment period for this action closes July 1, 2005.

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ENCLOSURE F

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 April 22 through April 28, 2005:

Final Office of Investigation (OI) report 03-2004-001	FOIA/PA-2005-0212
OI Report 3-2002-006 & list of attachments	FOIA/PA-2005-0213
Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC licensed activities issued to (named individual) on 4-21-05 & OI report 3-2002-006 & supporting documents	FOIA/PA-2005-0214
Copies of NRC's ten oldest open & pending FOIA requests	FOIA/PA-2005-0215
Honeywell facility, Metropolis, IL, information related to the release or leak of uranium hexafluoride (UF6) or other radioactive materials, 2000 through present	FOIA/PA-2005-0216
Referral by Dept of Energy, Precision Castparts Corp., Portland, OR, thorium oxide, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0217
Thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) reports on named individual, 1- at Three Mile Island & 2-period of April, 1984 thru June 1986; NRC Health Unit records, June 1986 thru December 1992	FOIA/PA-2005-0218
OI Report 3-2002-006	FOIA/PA-2005-0219

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
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Demonstration of NRC's Strategic Workforce Planning System

On April 27, 2005, HR staff members conducted a demonstration of NRC's Strategic Workforce Planning System for representatives of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Arrivals		
Manash K. Bagchi	Cost Analyst	NRR
Vivian L. Bush	HR Specialist (Co-Op)	HR
Valerie Kerben	Sr. Personnel Security Specialist	ADM
Carla Roque-Cruz	Reactor Systems Engineer	NRR
Benjamin A. Wilson	Nuclear Engineer (Criticality)	NMSS
Retirements		
George Benoit	Director, DRMA	R-IV
Roger W. Broseus	Health Physicist	NMSS
Helen R. Byrd	Office Assistant (OA)	OCAA
John W. Craig	Deputy Director, RES	RES
Billy F. Dean	Space Management Specialist	ADM
Susan B. Hopkins	Sr. Policy Analyst	ADM
Ellis W. Merschoff	Deputy EDO for Reactor Programs	EDO
Gary L. Pirtle	Physical Security Inspector	R-III
Hester Thompson	Management Assistant	OIS
Departures		
Hollie Krex	Secretary (OA)	R-II
Ian E. Levin	Sr. Technical Advisor	RES
Mark Livingston	Reactor Security Specialist	NSIR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 29, 2005

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

A Troxler gauge missing - and later found - in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Exelon's announcement that it intends to apply for renewal of its operating license for Three Mile Island, Unit 1.

NRC's decision to put Texas' radiation protection program on "heightened oversight."

NRC's finding that the fire-retardant material "Hemyc" does not perform according to specifications.

Other Public Affairs Items:

A Region I public affairs officer wrote a "for-the-record" submission for the Brattleboro Reformer objecting to an editorial in the paper suggesting that the "R" in NRC stands for "rubber-stamp."

OPA staff assisted at several end-of-cycle public meetings for nuclear plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-072	NRC Chairman Stresses Safety while Updating Senate on New Reactor Licensing Issues and Challenges (4/26)
05-073	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 5-6 in Rockville, Maryland (4/27)
05-074	NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to Virginia Firm in Whistleblower Case (4/28)
Regions:	
I-05-025	Missing Gauge Containing Radioactive Material Found in Pennsylvania (4/29)
II-05-023	Media Advisory: Availability of NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz on Campus of Florida International University Tuesday, May 3 (4/28)
II-05-024	NRC to Meet with Progress Energy Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant (4/28)
III-05-020	NRC Staff Schedules Public Meeting for April 28 to Discuss License Renewal Process for Palisades Nuclear Plant (4/25)
IV-05-014	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (4/26)

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ENCLOSURE M

IV-05-015	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for South Texas Project Nuclear Plant (4/26)
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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0061	4/12/2005	Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 9, Subpart A, "Freedom of Information Act Regulations," and Subpart B, "Privacy Act Regulations"
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0071	4/26/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 15, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050407	4/25/05	Staff Requirements - Meeting with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)
2. M050329A	4/27/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on NSIR Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated April 18, 2005, provides the February 2005 monthly report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Request to Amend a License for the Export of Radioactive Waste.
2. Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2004, Dissemination of Information.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Early Site Permits, notice of meeting (5/16/05).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Fire Protection, notice of meeting (5/17/05).

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 29, 2005

Wolf Creek

On April 26, 2005, thirty-seven member delegation of the Kansas State House, Senate, and Utilities Commission toured the Wolf Creek plant. The licensee provided a presentation and site tour for the group, with plant security being the focus of the visit. The resident inspectors attended the licensee's presentation and provided the visitors with an overview of the NRC and the inspection program.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 17</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	TBA SD-366	TBA	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	April 13 2247 RHOB Postponed	10:00	TBA	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform

The Senate is in recess. The chamber will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2005, and resume consideration of the surface transportation bill (HR 3).