

INFORMATION REPORT

October 7, 2005

SECY-05-0182

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Rulemaking Activities to Revise the Pressurized Thermal Shock (PTS) Rule 10 CFR 50.61

On September 27, 2005, the NRR staff described a new technical basis for 10 CFR 50.61, "Fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock events," to the Rulemaking Approval Board (RAB). The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has developed a technical basis that indicates the risk of PTS events causing through-wall cracks in a reactor vessel is much lower than had been previously understood. The RAB approved proposed rulemaking in order to provide significant burden reduction while maintaining adequate safety margins.

Westinghouse Electric / Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) Joint Audit - Equipos Nucleares, S.A. (ENSA) Facilities

At the request of Westinghouse Electric and the NUPIC, NRR staff observed a Westinghouse/ NUPIC Joint Utility Audit at the ENSA facilities in Santander, Spain, from September 19 to 23, 2005. Both Westinghouse management and the NUPIC Chairman requested NRC participation to help foster a more comprehensive audit and to allow ENSA to experience first hand input from the NRC. ENSA is currently manufacturing replacement steam generators and one reactor vessel head for three U.S. plants.

Revision to Operability Guidance Formerly Contained in NRC Generic Letter 91-18

On September 26, 2005, NRR staff issued Regulatory Issue Summary 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." This guidance informs licensees of the availability of revised guidance on evaluating the operability of plant structures, systems, and components, which was previously provided to industry as part of Generic Letter 91-18.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) - Requests to Recapture Low-Power Testing Time in Facility Operating Licenses to Diablo Canyon, Units 1 and 2

On August 23, 2005, PG&E requested license amendments to Diablo Canyon, Units 1 and 2, to recapture low-power testing time in the expiration date of the facility operating license for each unit, and to reflect a 40-year term measured from the date of issuance of the full-power operating license, as permitted by 10 CFR 50.51 "Continuation of license." The facility operating license expiration dates are proposed to be revised from September 22, 2021, to November 2, 2024, for Unit 1, and from April 26, 2025, to August 26, 2025, for Unit 2. Thus, the additional operating period would be just over 3 years for Unit 1 and 4 months for Unit 2.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Staff Participates in Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Forum Meeting

On September 22-23, 2005, representatives from NMSS participated in a meeting of the LLRW Forum in Las Vegas, NV. NRC staff gave presentations on the National Source Tracking System rulemaking; the release of solid material rulemaking and use of 10 CFR 20.2002 disposal authorizations for low-activity materials; and ongoing NRC Yucca Mountain activities. The latter was part of a panel with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Nevada, and the Nuclear Energy Institute. EPA summarized its proposed rule to address the DC Circuit Court's decision of July 2004 concerning the time frame for compliance with the dose standard. There were also a number of presentations at the meeting concerning low-level waste (LLW) management and disposal activities by States, compacts, regulators, and generators. Utah summarized its pending decision that will double the Envirocare licensed land area. The State could approve that proposal in early 2006. In addition, the LLRW Forum has drafted a position statement, concerning management of LLW disposal in the U.S.

Inspection of REVISS Services (UK) Limited

From September 19-23, 2005, the Spent Fuel Project Office conducted an inspection of REVISS Services (UK) Limited (REVISS), at its facilities in Chesham and Didcot, England. Earlier this year, REVISS was granted an NRC 10 CFR Part 71 Quality Assurance (QA) Program Approval certificate before its submittal of a 10 CFR Part 71, Type B radioactive material packaging design for which it is seeking an NRC Certificate of Compliance. The inspection focused on how REVISS implemented its NRC-approved QA program with respect to packaging design, fabrication, and maintenance activities. An inspector from the United Kingdom Department of Transportation accompanied the NRC inspectors. Overall, the team concluded that REVISS is satisfactorily implementing its NRC-approved 10 CFR Part 71 QA program.

Meeting on NRC Involvement at DOE Hanford

On September 20, 2005, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection staff met with representatives of DOE in Richland, WA. The purpose of this open meeting was to discuss technical issues associated with the basis for exception to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and consent order waste retrieval criteria for Single-Shell Tank 241-C-106, along with the methodology for the Hanford Single-Shell Tank System Performance Assessment. Topics discussed included: tank waste characterization; waste retrieval technologies and successes; tank waste treatment approaches; and Hanford Integrated Disposal Facility. Attendees included representatives from the Hanford Advisory Board, State of Washington Department of Health, Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board, and State of Washington Department of Ecology.

NRC High-Level Waste Contractors Present at Materials Research Society (MRS) Symposium
MRS in Ghent, Belgium

From September 12-16, 2005, staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) attended the 2005 MRS Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management XXIX in Ghent, Belgium. The staff presented posters entitled "Modeling Corrosion Processes for Alloy 22 Waste Packages," and "Experimental Determination and Thermodynamic Calculation of the Deliquescence Relative Humidity of Multicomponent Salt Mixtures," which are based on independent analyses the CNWRA conducts for the NRC. On the last day of the symposium, the staff visited some facilities of the radioactive waste conditioning and storage company Belgoprocess and the SCK.CEN underground research laboratory, HADES, in Mol, Belgium.

NRC Staff Observation of the DOE Audit of BSC Project Engineering

From September 12-22, 2005, staff from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety and the CNWRA observed a DOE audit of Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC (BSC). BSC is DOE's Management and Operating contractor for the Yucca Mountain Project and is tasked with preparing the project engineering and design products. The DOE audit team examined BSC engineering products for the Yucca Mountain Project facilities to determine the effectiveness of design control measures.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

International Meeting on Program for the Inspection of Nickel Alloy Components

From September 21-23, 2005, RES staff chaired the fifth meeting of the international cooperative Program for the Inspection of Nickel Alloy Components that focused on reliability of non-destructive examinations (NDE) for primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC). The meeting was hosted by the Swedish nuclear regulatory agency, SKI, in Stockholm Sweden. Participants discussed priorities for acquiring or constructing mockups containing flaws that simulate PWSCC in nickel base alloy piping and dissimilar metal welds that will be used in round-robin tests to assess the performance of existing and emerging NDE techniques to detect and size PWSCC cracks.

Academic Center of Excellence (ACE) Workshop - Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP)

On September 19-20, 2005, staff attended an ACE Workshop at Oregon State University on the Thermal Hydraulics (T/H) Methods Development and Validation Plan for the NGNP. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information on T/H code verification and validation research programs at the Idaho National Laboratory to support the staff's review of the design and construction of an NGNP.

Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) Public Meeting

On September 21-22, 2005, staff met with Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Pty Ltd. at NRC Headquarters to discuss plans for a pre-application review. Representatives of DOE and industry attended.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-05-027, Virginia Commonwealth University - UNPLANNED CONTAMINATION OF AN AIR HANDLER UNIT.
2. PNO-IV-05-013, ENTERGY Operations Inc., River Bend Station, and South Texas Project Nuclear - NRC ENTERS MONITORING MODE DUE TO HURRICANE RITA.
3. PNO-II-05-006, Brunswick Steam Electric Plant - REGION II RESPONSE TO HURRICANE OPHELIA.
4. PNO-II-05-007, Framatome Advanced Nuclear Power (F-ANP), Inc. - OVERTURNED TRAILER TRANSPORTING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.
5. PNO-III-05-013, Braidwood Station - FORCED OUTAGE DUE TO REACTOR COOLANT PUMP LEAK-OFF IN EXCESS OF VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Incorporation by Reference of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel (BPV) Code Cases

On September 29, 2005, the NRC published a final rule (AH35 10 CFR Part 50) in the *Federal Register* (70 FR 56809) that incorporates by reference the latest revision of Regulatory Guides 1.84, 1.147, and 1.193, which address NRC's review and approval of ASME Codes Cases. The NRC has found the Code Cases listed in these Regulatory Guides acceptable for use as alternatives to requirements in the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code pertaining to the construction and in-service inspection of nuclear power plant components. The final rule becomes effective October 31, 2005.

Contract Awards

On September 21, 2005, a firm, fixed-price purchase order no. DR-04-05-086 was awarded to Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). The contractor shall provide technical assistance to correct shortcomings of the Varskin 3 computer code/manual and is a "work for others" award to SwRI. The total fixed price of this effort is \$47,665. The period of performance is September 21, 2005, through September 30, 2006.

On September 23, 2005, a competitive purchase order was awarded to Mr. Carl Costantino for technical support services entitled "Updating Criteria for Standard Review Plan Sections 3.7.1, 3.7.2 and 3.7.3 Pertaining to the Review of Seismic Analysis and Design of Nuclear Power Plants." The estimated cost of this purchase order is \$89,460.00. The period of performance is from October 1, 2005, to September 30, 2007.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
September 23 through September 29, 2005:

Images taken at NRC emergency planning meetings of 08-31-05, 09-01-05 & security meeting on 09-01-05	FOIA/PA-2005-0362
OI Case no. 1-2004-009	FOIA/PA-2005-0363
Kermac Corp. (aka Kerr-McGee) uranium mining operations in Cave Hills/Riley Pass and Slim Buttes regions of NW South Dakota, contracts, etc, between 1954-1964	FOIA/PA-2005-0364
Materials License no. 01-30971-01	FOIA/PA-2005-0365
Organizational development report, & final recommendations	FOIA/PA-2005-0366
License no. 24-00128-03, copy of facsimile dated 09-23-03	FOIA/PA-2005-0367
Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC), all correspondence, reports, applications, May 2004 to present	FOIA/PA-2005-0368

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 30, 2005

Arrival		
AYEGBUSI, ODUNAYO	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-I
EASUM, THOMAS P.	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST	R-II
GEIGER, ERVIN	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	RES
GROSS, ALLEN	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
HAGGERTY, SHARON B.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
KILLIAN, LAUREN	RELIABILITY AND RISK ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RES
NOTICH, MARK D.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
PETRONE, CHARLES D.	CONSULTANT	EDO
SCHMIDT, REBECCA L.	DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS	OCA
VAN DECKER, WILLIAM A.	CONSULTANT	NMSS
Retirements		
BIRD, JOHN E.	SR LEAD FOR DOI CONVERSION	OCFO
BROWNELL, BRIAN D.	COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	OIS
CORLEY, DEBRA J.	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	OIS
EVANS, BETTY A.	CLERK	HR
HICKEY, JOHN W.	SR TECH ADV FOR MATERIALS REGULATION	NMSS
JACKSON, GLORIA H.	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
MADDEN, THOMAS J.	SEN. CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON SPECIALIST	OCA
NEDDENRIEP, SHIRLEY L.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-IV
SANBORN, GARY F.	ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	R-IV
SHANBAKY, MOHAMED M.	BRANCH CHIEF	R-I
SOLAN, JILL A.	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR

WOOD, ROLAND T.	DOCUMENT REVIEWER	OIS
Departures		
CORTES DOMINGUEZ, RAMON E.	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	R-II
FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO	ATTORNEY	OGC
FLACK, DIANE S.	CONSULTANT	NMSS
FOX, MICHAEL J.	CONSULTANT	HR
GRIEM, MELVIN L.	CONSULTANT	NMSS
GRIFFITH, PETER	CONSULTANT	RES
HOLDEN, KEITH A.	RECORDS MANAGEMENT ANALYST	OIS
LEFAVE, WILLIAM T.	CONSULTANT	NRR
SMITH, ROBERT J.	CONSULTANT	HR
SPRADLEY, LEAH L.	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	ACRS
WELLER, RICHARD A.	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
WICHMAN, KEITH R.	CONSULTANT	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Radioactive gauges reported stolen or lost in West Virginia and Tennessee.

Potential license applications for new nuclear power plants.

The leak in the spent fuel pools at Indian Point and the dropped control rod in Unit 3.

NRC's proposed fine of \$19,200 against an Indiana hospital for unintended radiation doses to five patients.

Other OPA Items:

OPA participated in an emergency drill at Calvert Cliffs.

OPA staff assisted at a public meeting in Piketon, Ohio, regarding the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed American Centrifuge Plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-132	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet October 6-8, 2005 in Rockville, Maryland (9/28)
05-133	NRC Updates Aging Management Document for Reviewing Reactor License Renewal Requests (9/28)
05-134	NRC Names New Director and Associate Director of Office of Congressional Affairs (9/29)
Regions:	
III-05-039	NRC Proposes \$19,200 Fine Against a South Bend, Ind., Hospital for Unintended Radiation Doses to Five Patients (9/26)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 30, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0182	10/7/04	Status of Risk-Informed Regulation in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
SRM on 04-0182	01/18/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0182	01/18/05	(same)
2. SECY-05-0051 (SECY Paper Only – Attachments not released)	03/28/05	Details and Projected Cost of a Demonstration Test of a Full-Scale Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail Transportation Cask Under the Package Performance Study
SRM on 05-0051	06/9/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0051	06/9/05	(same)
3. COMSECY-04-0068	10/28/04	Use of Insurance as a Method to Provide Financial Assurance for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors
SRM on 04-0068	09/28/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0068	09/28/05	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0171	9/26/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 16, 2005

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Congress, dated September 23, 2005, responds to letter concerning the Buy America report required by Section 645 of Division F of the FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 108-199).

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, meeting of the Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems, notice of meeting (10/20-21/05).
2. ACRS, Procedures for Meetings.
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, updated notice of meeting (10/25-26/05).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Indian Point Unit 2 Spent Fuel Pool Leakage Update

A Special Inspection that was chartered on September 20, 2005, is in progress to evaluate the cause of the slight leakage from the Indian Point Unit 2 spent fuel pool. The current leakage rate, based on improved collection methods, is approximately 1.3 liters per day. A web-site page is being made available to keep stakeholders and the public informed of the issue as the Special Inspection continues.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Regional Administrator Attends Farley's Licensed Operator's Certificate Presentation

On September 28, 2005, the Regional Administrator visited the Farley Nuclear Plant for a site tour with the Resident Inspectors and licensee management. The Regional Administrator also participated in the Licensed Operator's Certificate Presentation in Dothan, Alabama.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) issued to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. on Perry Nuclear Power Plant Performance

On September 28, 2005, Region III issued a CAL to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., documenting the company's commitments to implement its revised Perry Improvement Initiative. The CAL references the commitments made by the licensee in letters submitted to the NRC following the broad-based team inspection which reviewed Perry's performance under NRC Manual Chapter 95003.

Teleconference with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Regarding Improvements to Materials Program

The Illinois radiation control program was placed on heightened oversight in July 2005 as a result of compatibility issues identified during the April 2005 Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review. The first periodic teleconference to discuss program progress was held on September 29, 2005 with staff of the Division of Nuclear Safety/Bureau of Radiation Safety (BRH). BRH representatives reported that significant progress is being made on regulation development and that they expect to have overdue regulations adopted by April 2006. A follow-up IMPEP review will be performed in the summer of 2006.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 30, 2005

Public Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc.

On September 27, 2005, the RIV staff conducted a public meeting at the RIV office in Arlington, Texas, with representatives from Arkansas Nuclear One to discuss the actions associated with a previously degraded emergency cooling pond and their fire protection program improvement plan. Topics discussed during the meeting included the root cause evaluation, corrective actions, and planned modifications to the emergency cooling pond and steps to address manual fire protection actions.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 30, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 33

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	10/06/05 SD-406	9:30	Markup	Nomination of Edward McGaffigan	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Combs	10/06/05 SD-406	9:30	EPA, Corps of Engineers, and FHA	Federal Action in Response to Hurricane Katrina	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Kim	10/06/05 SD-366	10:00	TBA	Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Energy Infrastructure	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	10/06/05 2172 RHOB	10:30	TBA	Six-Party Nuclear Talks in Korea	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations
Shane	10/06/05 SD-342	2:30	TBA	Federal Government Leasing of Space	Senators Coburn/Carper Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Combs	TBA SD-406	TBA	NRC and others	Hurricane Katrina Disaster	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Keeling	TBA	TBA	Conference	FY 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	House/Senate Appropriations Committee conferees