

INFORMATION REPORT

January 5, 2007

SECY-07-0004

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 22, 2006

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Audit

During the week of December 11-15, 2006, the staff conducted an Aging Management Review and a Time Limiting Aging Analysis audit of the license renewal application at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant (FitzPatrick) site in Scriba, NY. The team previously conducted an Aging Management Program audit during the week of November 13-17, 2006. The audit team conducted numerous interviews and breakout meetings with the FitzPatrick staff. The audit team also reviewed the applicant's responses to the team's questions and the applicant's internal technical bases documents. The team is scheduled to conduct a final audit on January 8 and 9, 2007.

Staff Issues Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station License Renewal Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Public Comment

On December 13, 2006, the staff issued the draft of NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 30, Regarding Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station," for public comment. This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's preliminary analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. It also includes the staff's preliminary recommendation regarding the proposed action. The staff recommends that the Commission determine that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

A 75-day public comment period began on December 22, 2006, with the Notice of Filing of the draft SEIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The staff has scheduled public meetings on January 31, 2007, in Brattleboro, Vermont, to present its analyses and to solicit public comments on the draft SEIS.

Briefing of Advanced Reactor Steering Committee on Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to Risk-Inform Reactor Requirements

On December 13, 2006, the rulemaking workgroup for the ANPR to Risk-Inform Power Reactor Requirements briefed the Advanced Reactor Steering Committee (ARSC) on the ANPR status. The workgroup provided background information on the Commission's direction for the ANPR, the policy and technical issues covered in the ANPR, e.g., Level of Safety and Integrated Risk at Multi-Unit Sites, and draft proposed options for proceeding. The ANPR was issued in May 2006 and the comment period expires December 29, 2006. The ARSC discussed the ANPR recommendations with the workgroup and asked that the workgroup meet with the ARSC for further discussion in January 2007.

Staff Holds Public Information and Environmental Scoping Meetings on the License Renewal of Wolf Creek Generating Station

On December 19, 2006, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the environmental review of the Wolf Creek Generation Station license renewal application and to provide information about the overall license renewal process. Approximately 40 people attended the meetings, including county government officials. No public comments were provided. The public scoping period and opportunity for petition for hearing end on January 29, 2007. The draft SEIS is scheduled to be published in August 2007, and the final SEIS is scheduled to be published in March 2008.

Public Workshop on the Reactivity Insertion Accident Standard Review Plan (SRP)

On December 19, 2006, a second public workshop regarding the staff's proposed revision of the Reactivity Insertion Accident (RIA) SRP section was held. The workshop was attended by representatives of Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the three nuclear fuel supply vendors, and a number of utilities. Representatives from Union of Concerned Scientists participated in this workshop via telephone. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss possible differences between the industry and NRC on the proposed criteria for acceptable fuel performance during RIAs. The revised SRP section will next go to the ACRS for review in early 2007, and will be finalized in March 2007.

Meeting with the Industry on Potential Cracking in Pressurizer Nozzle Welds

On December 20, 2006, the staff held a public meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the EPRI, and the Materials Reliability Program (MRP). The meeting was a follow-on to the public meetings held on November 16 and November 30 to discuss the implications of results of the pressurizer nozzle weld inspections performed at Wolf Creek in mid-October 2006. The NRC staff made a presentation summarizing its safety concerns. Industry provided the results of additional deterministic and probabilistic analyses performed since the previous meetings. At the conclusion of the meeting, the staff indicated that it had all the information needed to recommend a regulatory decision to management by the end of December 2006.

Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

On December 20, 2006, the staff met with representatives of NEI, the Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR) Owners Group, containment strainer vendors, and licensees regarding Generic Safety Issue 191 on PWR Sumps. Points discussed included industry approaches to handling chemical effects, plans for developing a systematic approach to pH buffer changeout, and results of NRC audits of plant actions to address Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," dated September 13, 2004. The meeting resulted in agreement to hold a follow-on meeting in February 2007 on the same subjects, in the anticipation that additional results of audits and chemical testing, as well as a draft guideline for systematic buffer change-out, will be available by that time.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Petition to Intervene Filed for Plant Vogtle Early Site Permit (ESP)

On December 11, 2006, a Petition to Intervene involving the Plant Vogtle ESP by the Center for Sustainable Coast, Savannah River Keeper, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Atlanta Women's Action for New Direction, and Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. The petition cites five contentions (all in the environmental area): adequacy of assessment of impacts on fishery resources of the Savannah River, adequacy of assessment of impacts on minority and low-income populations in the Plant Vogtle area, safe disposition of spent fuel, environmental impacts of intentional attacks, and adequacy of assessment of energy alternatives.

Vogtle ESP Environmental Review

On December 12, 2006, Southern Nuclear Operating Company provided responses to the staff's environmental Information Needs for the Plant Vogtle ESP, five days later than the agreed upon response date. This delay will result in a delay in the staff's development and posting of environmental requests for additional information from the originally scheduled date of December 21 to approximately December 27 or 28.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Meeting with Department of Energy (DOE) and Packaging Technology Regarding
Transportation Package for Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) Fresh Fuel

On December 14, 2006, staff met with DOE and Packaging Technology to discuss a new package being designed for the truck transport of ATR fresh fuel. Discussions centered on the physical testing that will be performed to demonstrate that the package meets the performance standards in 10 CFR Part 71, including accident conditions. DOE plans to perform the testing in February 2007 and submit an application for package approval in June 2007.

Completion of Acceptance/Acknowledgment Review of the Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) Fabrication
Facility License Application

On December 20, 2006, the staff completed its acknowledgment/acceptance review of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility license application and determined that sufficient information was provided for the staff to begin a detailed technical review. The application addresses the requirements of 10 CFR Part 70 and the guidance specified in NUREG-1718, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of an Application for a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility." The staff will publish a notice of opportunity for a hearing when MOX Services provides a non-proprietary version of the license application in a couple of weeks.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Management Review Board Meeting for Maine IMPEP Review

On December 18, 2006, the Management Review Board (MRB) met to consider the proposed final Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) report for the State of Maine. The Maine IMPEP review was conducted October 10-13, 2006. The MRB agreed with the review team's recommendations that the state's regulatory program be found adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC regulations, and that the next review be conducted in approximately four years.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Staff visit to Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES)

From December 12-14, 2006, staff and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) visited SSES to collect information on actual plant configurations to be used to develop a "user's guide" for fire modeling of nuclear power plant applications and the fire model Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table. This user's guide is a follow-on project to the recently completed fire model verification and validation report NUREG-1824.

Progress Energy Fire Barrier (Hemyc) Test

On December 14, 2006, staff witnessed the latest in a series of the nuclear industry's Hemyc fire barrier tests sponsored by Progress Energy (PE) at Intertek (formerly Omega Point Laboratory). This test incorporated potential upgrades to the as-built fire barriers currently installed at PE plants.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Public Web Site Redesign

On December 15, 2006, staff completed the first phase of the Public Site Redesign requested by Chairman Klein. This phase included several notable features: (1) a new site-wide banner consistent with the EDO Branding Initiative; (2) a new and dramatically improved search function that uses the Google.com search technology; (3) a site-wide pull down menu that complies with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and (4) a new, cleaner design for the NRC Home Page. The search function enables the user to search across all public-facing NRC Web sites from a single place, and enables the user to refine the searches by targeting particular areas of content from multiple sites.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of December 15 through December 21, 2006:

Indian Point Unit 1, Jan. 1996 Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report & the NRC Order approving SAFSTOR, and correspondence between ConEd and NRC	FOIA/PA-2007-0060
OI report 1-2006-004	FOIA/PA-2007-0061
FY07 Exhibit 300 & business case	FOIA/PA-2007-0062
Nationwide Testing Services Inc., 400 W. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018, license 12-24461-01, inspections, violations, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0063
Sealed Source Device Registrations issued to named companies, January 1, 2006 to present, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0064
Haddam Neck Plant, Technical Specifications submitted on 9-10-01 and 11-08-02	FOIA/PA-2007-0065

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Arrivals		
LEARN, MATTHEW	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RIII
LI, ZHIAN	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
WASHINGTON, BRITTNEY	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
WILLIAMS, FLORINE	CIVIL RIGHT SPECIALIST	SBCR
Departure		
HELM, WENDY	SECRETARY (OA)	RIV
PEREZ-ORTIZ, ARACELIS	MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT	RES
RAMIREZ, ANNIE	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RES
SOTO, SOLY	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	RES
YOUNG, SHEENA	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINEE	ADM

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Prospects for new reactor applications in the coming year.

Preparations for restarting Browns Ferry Unit 1.

NRC enforcement actions against Beaver Valley and Vermont Yankee.

An NRC inspection report detailing safety conscious work environment issues at Indian Point.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted Commissioner McGaffigan with a Letter to the Editor of The New York Times in response to an op-ed piece regarding security dangers posed by polonium-210. (The letter was published December 27, 2006.)

OPA assisted at a public meeting in Alabama regarding the Browns Ferry Unit I restart preparations.

Press Releases	
Regions:	
I-06-064	NRC Cites FENOC for Violation at Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant (12/19)
I-06-065	NRC Finalizes "White" Finding for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant Over Shipment of Radioactively Contaminated Equipment (12/20)
I-06-066	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Civil Penalty for Pa. Firm for Portable Nuclear Gauge Violations (12/21)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-06-0036	7/17/06	Proposed Changes to the Sector Specific Plan of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan Regarding Threat Assessment
SRM on 06-0036	7/19/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0036	7/19/06	(same)
2. COMSECY-06-0038	8/15/06	Draft Nuclear Sector Specific Plan
SRM on 06-0038	8/18/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0038	8/18/06	(same)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Frances Fragos Townsend, White House Homeland Security Council, dated December 15, 2006, certifying that NRC is addressing the applicable elements of pandemic planning set forth in the "Key Elements of Departmental Pandemic Influenza Operational Plants" checklist.
2. Letter to Director General Tomihiko Taniguchi, IAEA, dated October 20, 2006, responds to office to have IAEA as co-secretariat for the Multinational Design Evaluation Program (MDEP).

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (1/19/07).
2. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Power Uprates, notice of meeting (1/16-17/07).
3. Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Early Site Permit for Vogtle ESP Site).
4. ACRS, Subcommittee Committee on Power Uprates, Revised notice of meeting (1/16-17/07).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution Inspections Conducted at Indian Point

On December 21, 2006, Region I issued the inspection reports for the biennial problem identification and resolution inspections conducted at Indian Point Unit 2 and Unit 3. The inspections were conducted concurrently, and were issued under a common cover letter. The inspection report cover letter described the agency's concern related to the safety conscious work environment onsite and transmitted a request for Entergy to provide the agency its plan for evaluating the potential chilling effect onsite and its plan of action to address the matter within 30 days.

Extension to the Existing Reactor Oversight Process Deviation Memorandum for Indian Point Energy Center

On December 21, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations approved an extension to the existing Reactor Oversight Process Deviation Memorandum for Indian Point Energy Center. This deviation continued increased inspection and oversight of Entergy's efforts to address issues associated with onsite groundwater contamination and the performance of the alert and notification system.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with TRC Engineers, Inc. (formerly SITE-Blauvelt Engineers, Inc.)

On December 20, 2006, Region I held a predecisional enforcement conference with representatives of TRC Engineers, Inc. One apparent violation involving the loss of control of a portable gauge was discussed. The licensee described its corrective actions during the conference.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 22, 2006

Clinton Regulatory Conference

On December 19, 2006, the Region III staff conducted a Regulatory Conference in the regional office with representatives of Exelon Generation Co. (AmerGen Energy Co.) to discuss a problem at the Clinton Nuclear Power Station that might have affected the operation of high pressure core spray pump. The problem had been identified as potentially greater than green in an inspection report issued November 29, 2006.

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