

INFORMATION REPORT

February 7, 2007

SECY-07-0028

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
JANUARY 26, 2007

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*No input this week.

/RA/

Michael R. Johnson
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 26, 2007

Participation in the Working Group Operating Experience (WGOE)

From January 17-19, 2007, staff participated as a member of the WGOE, and as the U.S. coordinator for the National Incident Reporting System at a Nuclear Energy Agency task group meeting in Brussels, Belgium. The staff interacted with other members of the WGOE task group to establish an International Operating Experience process that will greatly benefit the exchange of operating experience and lessons learned. Outcomes of the meeting will be documented in a report highlighting a proposed path forward.

Staff Issues Oyster Creek License Renewal Final Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement

On January 17, 2007, staff issued the Final Supplement 28 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) represents the completion of the staff's environmental review of the license renewal application submitted by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC.

The SEIS includes the staff's final analysis in which the staff 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. The report contains the NRC's finding that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue the Notice of Filing of the final SEIS in the January 26, 2007, *Federal Register*. The NRC can then proceed with the renewal actions after a 30-day period expires (February 26, 2007), provided that no Federal agency refers matters in dispute in the final SEIS to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 26, 2007

Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, Spent Fuel Management Seminar XXIV

On January 17, 2007, the staff presented a paper describing the status of the current activities and future plans of the NRC associated with the prospective licensing of the proposed geologic repository. This paper discusses the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
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Meeting with Naval Sea Systems Command and Naval Surface Warfare Center on Development of a Modular Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Code

During the subject meeting held on January 24, 2007, staff described the FAVOR code that is used for calculating the frequency of throughwall cracking of reactor vessels due to pressurized thermal shock loading. The staff described plans to develop a generic, modular code that employs the best aspects of FAVOR, but extends analytical capability to materials other than steel and to degradation mechanisms other than radiation embrittlement. The modular code could be rapidly adapted to analyze a variety of component geometries and different damage mechanisms. The Navy is interested in participating in the development of the modular code and will begin a process to secure funding. Participation may be restricted to observation, but could potentially include development of specific code modules that could be incorporated into the code.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6870, "Consideration of Geochemical Issues in Groundwater Restoration at Uranium In-Situ Leach Mining Facilities"

The subject report discusses the in-situ leach mining process, common restoration methods, historical information on in-situ leach mining restoration, and analytical techniques that may be used for estimating the future costs for restoring these sites. A general approach for modeling the restoration process, as well as the information and analytical techniques discussed in this report, may be used by licensees, state regulators, and NRC staff who oversee uranium leach mining facilities and assess the costs associated with their restoration.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 26, 2007

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-07-001A - Monticello Nuclear Management Co., MONTICELLO REACTOR SHUTDOWN DUE TO TURBINE CONTROL VALVE FAILURE (UPDATE)
2. PNO-II-06-004B - AREVA NP, Inc., UPDATE CLOSEOUT ON WORKERS EXPOSED TO HYDROGEN FLUORIDE (HF) RELEASE

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
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Secure Transfer of Nuclear Materials (AH90 - Part 73)

On January 24, 2007, the NRC published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 3025) that implements requirements for the secure transfer of nuclear materials. The final rule, which implements provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, identifies certain licensees as appropriate exceptions to the provisions requiring security background checks consistent with protecting public health and safety and common defense and security. The final rule becomes effective February 23, 2007.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of January 19 through January 25, 2007:

Nuclear Materials Events Database (NMED), all years available	FOIA/PA-2007-0088
Decommissioning Funding Status Reports, 2006, for Fermi, Vallecitos WR, Humboldt Bay, Indian Point, La Crosse, & Carolinas-Virginia Tube reactor	FOIA/PA-2007-0089
Records on named individual	FOIA/PA-2007-0090
MLTS database, radioactive materials	FOIA/PA-2007-0091
Radiation Therapy provider licenses, w/addresses, fax, phone, & e-mail	FOIA/PA-2007-0092
Correspondence, from January 2002 to present, to & from Senators McCain, Clinton, Obama, Dodd, Biden, Brownback, Hagel, named former Senators, Representatives, Mayors & Governors	FOIA/PA-2007-0093
Blanket deputation to special agents/investigators in NRC's Office of Investigations (Referral by the Department of Justice)	FOIA/PA-2007-0094

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
LEOUS, JUSTIN	ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST	NRR
MAUCK, JERRY	CONSULTANT	NRR
SWAIN, PATRICIA	PROJECT MANAGER (EIS)	FSME

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

Commissioner McGaffigan's comments regarding difficulties facing the Yucca Mountain Project.

Medical patients and radiation scanners in preparation for the Feb. 4 Super Bowl.

Other Public Affairs Items:

The Chairman spoke at Ohio State University and was interviewed by local public radio.

OPA reached out to the Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City to correct errors in their reporting of the Oyster Creek license renewal process, and to the Vermont Guardian regarding an error in its reporting on Vermont Yankee.

OPA assisted at public meetings in Plymouth, Mass., regarding the Pilgram plant's license renewal.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-009	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet Feb. 1-3 in Rockville, Maryland (1/23)
07-010	NRC Grants Entergy's Request for Extended Deadline for Meeting Order Related to Siren Back-Up Power (1/23)
Regions:	
I-07-004	NRC to Discuss Preliminary Results of License Renewal Inspection for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (1/23)
IV-07-002	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Feb. 1 on Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Hawaiian Irradiator (1/25)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 26, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Memoranda		
M070122A	01/22/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0240 - Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, & Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station), LBP-06-20 (Sept. 22, 2006); Entergy Nuclear Generation Company & Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station), LBP-06-23 (Oct. 16, 2006); II. SECY-07-0003 - Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Early Site Permit for Clinton ESP)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Fred Madden, New Jersey Senate, dated January 17, 2007, responds to letter opposing Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's proposed Decommissioning Plan.
2. Letter to Senator Frank Lautenberg, dated January 17, 2007, responds to letter expressing opposition to the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's proposed Decommissioning Plan.
3. Letter to Li Gangie, People's Republic of China, January 11, 2007, acknowledges China's recent announcement regarding its plans to purchase four Westinghouse AP 1000 reactors.
4. Letter to Luis Echavarri, Director General, Nuclear Energy Agency, dated January 11, 2007, responds to invitation to participate in the upcoming Nuclear Energy Agency Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities Regulatory Forum on Assuring Nuclear Safety in June 2007.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (2/15/07).
2. ACNW, notice of 176th meeting (2/13-15/07).
3. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (License Amendment Request for Decommissioning the Newfield Facility).
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (2/26-27/07).

5. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (2/22/07).
6. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (2/28/07).

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 1					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	01/30/2007 406 Dirksen	TBA	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Global Climate Change	► TBA
Decker	02/07/2007 366 Dirksen	9:30	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	Proposed FY2008 budget for the Department of Energy	► TBA

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