

# INFORMATION REPORT

April 30, 2007

SECY-07-0075

For: The Commissioners  
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
APRIL 20, 2007

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

Vonna L. Ordaz  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

Relief Request for Byron Station Unit 2

On April 16, 2007, NRR granted a verbal relief from the ASME Code for Byron Station, Unit 2 (Byron). While performing reactor pressure vessel head inspections to satisfy NRC Order EA-03-009, the licensee detected two flaws on control rod drive mechanism penetration number 68. The licensee intends to remove a portion of the flaw prior to the repair (i.e., boat sample) and then perform a weld overlay embedding a portion of the flaw. This embedded flaw repair requires relief from Code because Code specified repair is not feasible. The boat sample is important because of possible generic implications of primary water stress-corrosion cracking (PWSCC) at low susceptibility plants such as Byron. Because the flaw was found, and assumed to be caused by PWSCC by the licensee, Byron has been considered to be a high susceptibility plant.

Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2007-08, Updated Licensing Submittal Information to Support the Design-centered Licensing Review Approach

On April 16, 2007, the staff issued the subject RIS to obtain updated information regarding the scheduling of early site permit, combined license (COL), and design certification application submissions, and the extent to which they will support the NRC's design-centered review approach. This RIS is intended to promote standardization of COL applications and to facilitate the establishment of a predictable and consistent method for reviewing applications.

Meeting with Nuclear Industry on Generic Safety Issue-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance"

On April 18, 2007, the staff participated in a public meeting concerning GSI-191. This meeting was one in a series of periodic meetings that will be held between NRC staff and the nuclear industry to work through remaining GSI-191 technical issues. The staff discussed the ongoing effort to review and disposition technical issues that have been raised by the staff as well as issues that were raised by the chemical effects peer review panel. The staff informed industry representatives that an initial list of issues and the manner in which they have been dispositioned will be made available at the next public meeting. The staff also discussed issues that have been identified during plant audits related to licensee evaluations, provided updates of the status of ongoing audits, and provided a list of future plant audits. The industry representatives discussed ongoing GSI-191 activities, including plans for reducing the conservatism in the chemical model of the WCAP-16530-NP report, "Evaluation of Post-Accident Chemical Effects in Containment Sump Fluids to Support GSI-191." The strainer vendors provided an update to their chemical effects testing status. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for early June 2007.

Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee Meeting on Issues Related to Staff Activities concerning Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems

On April 18, 2007, NRR, Office of New Reactors, and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff met with the ACRS Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems and presented an overview of the NRC staff activities by the Diversity and Defense-in-Depth and the Risk Task Working Groups. The Task Working Groups were formed to resolve digital instrumentation and control issues under the oversight of the NRC's Digital Instrumentation and Control Steering Committee. The discussions included the work being performed by the Task Working Groups and the research being done by RES which will support the Task Working Group activities. A representative from the Nuclear Energy Institute presented the industry perspective on the issues.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

Staff Participation in Digital Instrumentation and Control (I&C) Risk-Informing Issues Task Working Group (TWG) Meeting

On April 11 and 12, 2007, RES, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and Office of New Reactors (NRO) staff participated in the above-mentioned TWG meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss digital I&C issues relevant to risk-informing digital system reviews and the current project plan to resolve the issues. RES staff presentations at the meeting addressed research being conducted to evaluate and demonstrate the capabilities and limitations of both traditional and dynamic methods for modeling and quantifying digital system reliability.

Second Meeting on Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) Using the Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) Technique

On April 14-16, 2007, the staff conducted the subject meeting to rank safety-related phenomena with regard to importance and knowledge base. Five parallel sessions covered major NGNP topics including thermofluidics and accident analysis, high-temperature materials, graphite, process heat and hydrogen co-generation, and fission products and dose. Twenty-five national and international experts participated in the deliberations.

Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Digital I&C Integrated Control Room - Human Factors TWG

On April 18, 2007, RES, NRR, and NRO staff participated in the subject meeting to discuss a plan developed by the Fully-Integrated Control Room - Human Factors TWG. Public participants included NEI and Electric Power Research Institute staff and new reactor vendors. The TWG plan includes review guidelines for topics such as minimum control room inventory, credit for operator action, and computerized procedures. Meeting discussions focused on problem statements and priorities. The industry is expected to formally submit comments to the NRC on April 25, 2007.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests (PA) Received During the Period of April 13 through April 19, 2007:

Facilities licensed to use tritium in the U.S.	FOIA/PA-2007-0177
Currently registered tritium exit signs	FOIA/PA-2007-0178
Union Carbide Corp/Dow-Tech Center, 3200-3300 Kanawha Turnpike, South Charleston, Kanawha County, WV, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0179

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

Arrival		
KEITH, FELICIA	SECRETARY(OA)	NRO

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Palo Verde former employee public indictment--accused of illegally exporting control room simulation software to Iran

Indian Point siren testing and failures; on white performance indicator

Vermont Yankee NRC oversight during plant refueling and maintenance outage

NRC Ranked #1: Best Places to Work

Other Public Affairs Items:

Chairman interviewed with Federal News Radio on agency's new reactor application preparations

OPA Regional staff assisted in numerous end-of cycle meetings.

Commissioner Merrifield spoke with Wall Street Journal regarding a story postulating that non-U.S. reactors are not as safe as those in the United States and a lack of transparency at international agencies and organizations, as well as at foreign regulatory bodies, hides safety data. Story will contrast NRC's openness with the lack of transparency elsewhere and will note the U.S. encourages transparency.

Aired BBC story on Nuclear Growth Abroad with quotes from Commissioner Lyons

OPA submitted Letter to the editor to Raleigh News & Observer taking issue with the characterization of spent fuel pool issues precluding town meeting

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
07-049	NRC Issues Final Rules on Limited Work Authorizations, Worker Fatigue/Drug-Testing Provisions (4/17)
07-050	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, May 3-5 (4/18)
07-051	NRC Ranked Best Place to Work in the Federal Government (4/19)
07-052	NRC's Draft Final Rule on Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material Available on Agency Web Site (4/19)

<b>Regions:</b>	
I-07-017	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessments for Salem, Hope Creek Nuclear Plants at Public Meeting Scheduled for April 23 (4/16)
I-07-018	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Indian Point Nuclear Plant at Public Meeting Scheduled for April 26 (4/17)
I-07-019	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Plant At Public Meeting Scheduled for April 24 (4/17)
I-07-020	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Susquehanna Nuclear Plant At Public Meeting Scheduled for April 24 (4/17)
I-07-021	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant at Public Meeting Scheduled for April 25 (4/18)
I-07-022	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Plant At Public Meeting Scheduled for April 25 (4/18)
II-07-022	NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance at Brunswick Nuclear Plant (4/18)
II-07-023	NRC Finalizes "White" Finding at Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant; Places Brunswick Unit 1 in the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix (4/20)
IV-07-008	NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance Assessment for River Bend Nuclear Plant (4/17)
IV-07-009	NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance Assessment for Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Plant (4/17)
IV-07-010	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Hirata & Associates, Inc. (4/20)



Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending April 20, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. Commission Voting Record on SECY-06-0244	4/17/07	Final Rulemaking–10 CFR Part 26–Fitness-For-Duty Programs
2. Commission Voting Record on SECY-07-0030	4/17/07	Final Rulemaking on Limited Work Authorizations
3. SECY-07-0062	4/3/07	Final Rule: Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material (RIN: 3150-AH84)
4. COMSECY-07-0005	2/6/07	Discussion of Plants in the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix
SRM on 07-0005	4/19/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0005	4/19/07	(same)
5. SECY-07-0066	04/04/07	Annual Report to the Commission on Licensee Performance in the Materials and Waste Programs - Fiscal Year 2006
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-07-0063	4/3/07	Fiscal Year 2006 Results of the Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors and Status of the Ongoing Development of the Program
2. SECY-07-0072	4/16/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 6, 2007
3. SECY-07-0065	4/04/07	Outreach and Compliance Coordination Program

<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M070417B	4/17/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0244 - Final Rulemaking--10 CFR Part 26 – Fitness-For-Duty Programs; II. SECY-07-0030 - Final Rulemaking on Limited Work Authorizations; III. SECY-07-0064 - Southern Nuclear Operating Co. (Early Site Permit for Vogtle ESP Site), Docket No. 52-011-ESP, Certified Question

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Ashot Martirosyan, Republic of Armenia, dated April 13, 2007, regarding the renewal of the information exchange arrangement between the Armenian Nuclear Regulatory Agency and NRC.
2. Letter to Dr. Ivan Lux, Hungary, dated April 13, 2007, regarding the renewal of the information exchange arrangement between the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority and NRC.
3. Letter to Dr. Linda Keen, Canada, dated April 13, 2007, regarding the signing of two documents: a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the NRC for Import and Export of Certain Radioactive Sources, and the renewal of an Administrative Agreement between the CNSC and NRC.
4. Letter to Wolfgang Renneberg, Germany, dated April 13, 2007, regarding the renewal of the information exchange arrangement between the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety for the Federal Republic of Germany and NRC.
5. Letter to Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, New York, dated April 9, 2007, responds to letter stating support for the performance of a comprehensive safety review of Indian Point prior to NRC approving a 20-year renewed license.

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

Regulatory Conference With Omaha Public Power District

On April 16, 2007, a regulatory conference was conducted in the Region IV office with representatives of the Omaha Public Power District to discuss an apparent violation at their Fort Calhoun Station facility. The apparent violation was detailed in NRC Inspection Report 05000285/2006018 as a preliminary White finding dealing with the incorrect installation of a containment spray header isolation valve. Omaha Public Power District representatives accepted the violation, but asserted that their analysis showed the risk to be very low (Green). Region IV is reviewing the basis for the licensee's assertion.

Reassignment Chief Nuclear Officer Responsibilities for Energy Northwest

On April 21, 2007, Mr. Vic Parrish, currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Nuclear Officer (CNO), Energy Northwest, licensee for the Columbia Generating Station, will transfer his CNO duties to Mr. Dale Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson's new title will be Vice President, Nuclear Generation/CNO.

Office of the Executive Director for Operations (EDO)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 20, 2007

DPO-2005-009: Issuance of Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) Appeal on Solvent Flammability Limits from the Proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On April 19, 2007, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) issued a decision on an appeal to an August 25, 2006, decision made by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). The appeal related to a September 23, 2005, DPO submitted by an NRC employee on the adequacy of chemical consequence limits proposed by a license applicant. The original DPO focused on five issues surrounding the lower flammability limit of chemical combustion concentrations, how it was applied in the MOX Construction Authorization Request (CAR), and compliance with the regulations. The EDO agrees with the DPO decision that DPO submitter did not raise any safety concerns that have technical or legal implications on the staff's approval of the CAR. Most the concerns are related to the inherited issue with the two-step licensing process. The applicant made the business decision to proceed with the two-step licensing process knowing the associated uncertainties and potential risks. The NMSS staff approved the CAR in accordance with relevant regulations for the two-step licensing process. Upon receipt of the DPO appeal, the EDO initiated an extensive review of related information. In order to fully understand the issues, the EDO also met with the members of the DPO panel and the DPO Submitter.

Based on all the available information reviewed, the EDO agrees with the DPO panel decision that no safety concerns that have technical or legal implications on the staff's approval of the CAR were raised. As such, there is no need to re-open the DPO on Solvent Flammability Limits at the Proposed Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (DPO-2005-009), and the follow up actions taken by the staff in response to the DPO are adequate. The EDO also recognized the efforts of the submitter in raising the issues concerns and the contribution of the employee in ensuring the agency's safety goals are achieved.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending April 20, 2007

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 12**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	04/18/07 1539 Longworth	1:00	House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology (Representatives Langevin / Sensenbrenner)	Can BioShield Effectively Procure Medical Countermeasures that Safeguard the Nation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Jim Panek - President and CEO, VaxGen Inc</li> <li>▶ Richard Hollis - CEO, Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals</li> <li>▶ James H. Davis - Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Human Genome Sciences</li> <li>▶ Jeffrey Runge - Acting Assistant Secretary of DHS for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Office of Health Affairs</li> <li>▶ Gerry Parker - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of HHS for Preparedness and Response</li> <li>▶ Anthony Fauci - Director, National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH</li> <li>▶ Jesse Goodman - Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA</li> </ul>

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 12**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	04/19/07 1539 Longworth	1:00	House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology (Representatives Langevin / Sensenbrenner)	Cyber Insecurity: Hackers Are Penetrating Federal Systems and Critical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Dave Jarrell - Manager, Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, Department of Commerce</li> <li>▶ Donald Reid - Senior Coordinator for Security Infrastructure, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Department of State</li> <li>▶ Jerry Dixon - Director, National Cyber Security Division, DHS</li> <li>▶ Greg Wilshusen - Director, Information Security Issues, GAO</li> <li>▶ Ken Silva - Chief Security Officer, VeriSign</li> <li>▶ Aaron Turner - Cybersecurity Strategist, National and Homeland Security, Idaho National Laboratory</li> <li>▶ Rob Thomas - President, Team Cymru</li> </ul>
Decker	04/19/07 B-318 Rayburn	2:00	House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures (Representatives McNulty / Camp)	Energy and Tax Policy	▶ TBD

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 12

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Combs/ Powell	04/25/07 406 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works, Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	Oversight and Budget	▶ Nuclear Regulatory Commission