

INFORMATION REPORT

February 16, 2006

SECY-06-0039

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 3, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 3, 2006

Steam Generator Tube Integrity Technical Specifications Generic Letter

On January 20, 2006, the staff issued Generic Letter 2006-01, "Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Associated Technical Specifications." This generic letter requests that addressees either submit a description of their program for ensuring steam generator tube integrity for the interval between inspections or adopt alternative technical specification requirements for ensuring steam generator tube integrity. Alternative technical specification requirements that address the staff's concerns with the existing technical specifications were developed by the industry and found acceptable by the staff. A response to this generic letter is not needed for the following reactor units since they have revised their technical specifications to be conceptually similar to the technical specifications discussed in this generic letter: Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 1, Callaway, Catawba Units 1 and 2, Farley Units 1 and 2, Salem Unit 1, and South Texas Project Units 1 and 2.

Grid Reliability Generic Letter

On February 1, the staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 2006-02, "Grid Reliability and the Impact on Plant Risk and the Operability of Offsite Power." The purpose of this generic letter is to determine if compliance is being maintained with NRC regulatory requirements governing electric power sources and associated personnel training for the operating nuclear plants. GL 2006-02 is also requesting information from licensees in four areas: (1) use of protocols between the nuclear power plant and the transmission system operator (TSO), independent system operator, or reliability coordinator/authority and the use of transmission load flow analysis tools (analysis tools) by TSOs to assist power plants in monitoring grid conditions to determine the operability of offsite power systems under plant technical specifications; (2) use of power plant/TSO protocols and analysis tools by TSOs to assist power plants in monitoring grid conditions for consideration in maintenance risk assessments; (3) offsite power restoration procedures in accordance with Section 2 of NRC Regulatory Guide 1.155, "Station Blackout;" and (4) losses of offsite power caused by grid failures at a frequency equal to or greater than once in 20 site-years in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.155, "Station Blackout."

Duane Arnold Energy Center - Issuance of Conforming Amendment for Transfer of License for

On January 27, 2006, the NRC issued the conforming amendment for Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). The conforming amendment was issued subsequent to the NRC Order dated December 23, 2005, which approved the transfer of the operating license from Nuclear Management Company, LLC, to FPL Energy Duane Arnold, and approved the transfer of Interstate Power and Light Company's 70-percent ownership interest in DAEC to FPL Energy Duane Arnold.

Limerick - Alternative Source Term Public Meeting

On January 30, 2006, the staff met with representatives from Exelon Nuclear and Washington Group International to discuss Exelon's application to apply an alternative source term (AST) at

Limerick Generating Station. Specifically, Exelon presented the revised analysis performed as a result of the staff's August 2005 request for additional information and discussed the application's conformance to Regulatory Guide 1.183 on alternative source term. Technical issues discussed included the steam line deposition model used in the loss-of-coolant accident analysis, control room doses from nearby piping, and various release pathways. Review of the Limerick AST application is still underway, and the meeting brought focus to the areas needing further review and clarification. Both Exelon and NRC staff identified action items at the end of the meeting, and a teleconference is planned to discuss these items in the coming weeks.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
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Meeting with Savannah River Site (SRS) Citizens' Advisory Board

On January 24, 2006, NMSS staff gave a presentation to the SRS Citizens' Advisory Board on the findings and conclusions of NRC's recently completed Technical Evaluation Report evaluating the treatment and on-site disposal of salt waste from the SRS high-level waste tanks. This was the first review completed as part of NRC's new responsibilities under the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005. The Board requested the briefing as part of its role to advise the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on its environmental management activities at SRS.

Meeting with DOE Regarding Incidental Waste Review

On January 25, 2006, NMSS staff met with DOE staff to discuss technical issues related to the draft waste determination for closure of Tanks 18 and 19 at SRS, which NRC is currently reviewing. Topics covered included modeling parameters, sensitivity analyses, and intruder assumptions. This was an open meeting held near SRS, and observers included the State of South Carolina, the Sierra Club, and the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

Staff Meets with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) on Amorphous Metal Coatings

On January 27, 2006, NMSS staff visited DARPA in Arlington, VA, to discuss the joint DARPA/DOE program on High-Performance Corrosion-Resistant Materials (HPCRM). The HPCRM program is cosponsored by the DARPA Defense Science Office and DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The program has developed new corrosion-resistant, iron-based amorphous metals that may be applied as coatings to the engineered barriers for corrosion mitigation.

Staff Makes Presentation at the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) Meeting on Implementation of a High-Level Waste Dose Standard after 10,000 Years

On February 1, 2006, staff from NRC and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended the NWTRB meeting in Las Vegas, NV. At the request of the NWTRB, staff made a presentation on NRC's implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed Yucca Mountain Standard for the period of time after 10,000 years.

Staff Attends Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Meetings on Stakeholder Confidence and Long-Term Safety Criteria

From January 16 to 20, 2006, staff attended two successive OECD/NEA meetings in Paris, France. On January 16-17, 2006, staff attended the meeting of the OECD/NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) core group. NRC staff has represented the U.S. on the FSC core group since FSC's inception. The core group agreed on an agenda and discussed plans for the 2006 annual FSC meeting scheduled for June.

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On January 18-20, 2006, staff from both NRC and EPA represented the U.S. in a meeting of the ad hoc task group on long-term safety criteria. The Regulator's Forum of the NEA's Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) set up this task group to review and compare the long-term protection criteria for long-lived radioactive waste in various countries.

Representatives from nine countries participated: Belgium; Canada; Germany; Japan; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; the United Kingdom; and the U.S. The purpose of the meeting was to review long-term safety criteria issues to be presented to the RWMC in March. Issues discussed included: (1) fairness to future generations demands of current regulators; (2) challenges in communicating criteria for long-term safety; and (3) whether ethical and regulatory duties lessen over very long time frames.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
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Week Ending February 3, 2006

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Workshop on the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) Neutronic/Thermal-Hydraulic Transient Benchmark

On January 26-27, 2006, staff participated in the subject workshop in Paris, France. Information gained from the workshop will support ongoing high temperature gas-cooled reactor knowledge management activities, and the development of the regulatory infrastructure needed for PBMR pre-application reviews and interaction with DOE on the Next Generation Nuclear Plant.

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
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AP1000 Design Certification (AH56-Part 52)

On January 27, 2006, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 4464) that certifies the AP1000 standard plant design. The final rule allows applicants or licensees who intend to construct and operate an AP1000 design to do so by referencing the AP1000 design certification rule. The final rule becomes effective February 27, 2006.

Clarification of NRC Civil Penalty Authority Over Contractors and Subcontractors Who Discriminate Against Employees for Engaging in Protected Activities (AH59 - Part 30, et al)

On January 31, 2006, the NRC published a proposed rule (71 FR 5015) that would amend its employee protection regulations. The proposed rule would clarify the Commission's authority to impose a civil penalty on a non-licensee contractor or subcontractor of a licensee or applicant who violates NRC regulations by discriminating against an employee for engaging in a protected activity. The comment period for this action expires April 17, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 3, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
January 27, 2006 through February 2, 2006:

NRC's understanding of the term "diverse means of providing the safe shutdown capability" used in Appendix 9.5E of the Updated Safety Analysis Report for Wolf Creek	FOIA/PA-2006-0095
OI report of recorded meeting of June 2005 re: Hershey Medical Center investigation, correspondence	FOIA/PA-2006-0096

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 3, 2006

Arrival		
BARTLEMAN, JOHN P.	REACTOR ENGINEER / RESIDENT INSPECTOR	R-III
CHEN, CHUAN	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
CHUNG, DONALD	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NRR
DECKER, DAVID L.	SR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER	CA
FERNANDES, RICARDO A.	PROGRAM MANAGER	NSIR
GALLAGHER, BRONWYN	IT SPECIALIST (INFOSEC)	IS
JONES, FREDERICK K.	SYSTEMS ACCOUNTANT	CFO
Retirements		
HOLDEN, ROSE M.	SECRETARY (OA)	OGC
JONES, JOAN T.	SECRETARY (OA)	ADM
LEVIN, ROSELYN H.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-I
WALLACE, ANNE M.	PROPERTY AND SUPPLY ASSISTANT	R-I
Departures		
OUTLAW, WILLIAM N.	ACTING DIR/DIR OF COMMUNICATIONS	CA
SHEA, STEVEN R.	SENIOR AUDITOR	OIG
THOMPSON, MARK R.	IT SPECIALIST (INET)	IS
WILSON, RACHEL D.	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 3, 2006

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

License renewal applications from Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim.

The status of new reactor licensing in the context of the President's State of the Union speech.

The NRC's AP1000 design certification rule.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA participated in a National Public Radio "Marketplace" feature on the resurgence of nuclear power.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-009	NRC Proposes to Amend Regulations on Fines for Violating Employee Protection Requirements (1/30)
06-010	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet Feb. 9-11 in Rockville, Maryland (1/30)
06-011	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Applications for Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim (1/31)
06-012	NRC Publishes Certification Rule for Westinghouse's AP1000 Advanced Reactor Design (1/31)
06-013	NRC Staff Issues Generic Letter on Electric Grid Reliability Impact on Plant Risk (2/2)
06-014	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Schedules Hearing on Proposed Uranium Enrichment Plant in New Mexico (2/3)
06-015	Note to Editors: NRC 2007 Budget Briefing (2/3)
Regions:	
I-06-004	NRC Cites Nuclear Medicine Firm for Violation of Requirements (1/30)
II-06-001	NRC Schedules Meeting with Duke Energy to Discuss Inspection Finding at Oconee Nuclear Power Plant (2/2)
III-06-004	NRC Issues Draft Environmental Report for Monticello License Renewal, Announces March 22 Public Meeting (2/2)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0010	01/12/06	Withdraw Proposed Rulemaking - Fire Protection Program Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions (RIN 3150-AH54)
2. SRM-SECY-05-0203	01/30/06	Revised Proposed Rule to Update 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants"
Voting Record - SECY-05-0203	01/30/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0009	01/10/06	Submission of the Annual Freedom of Information Act Report
2. SECY-06-0017	01/30/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 20, 2006
Memoranda		
1. M060131A	01/31/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0230 - FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. (Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1&2; Davis Besse Power Station, Unit No. 1; Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1), Docket Nos. 50-334-LT, 50-346-LT, 50-412-LT, & 50-440-LT; II. SECY-06-0002 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; III. SECY-06-0005 - Motion to Reopen the Millstone License Renewal Proceedings Filed by Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone
2. M060112	02/01/06	Staff Requirements - Discussion of Security Issues
Slides	02/02/06	Briefing Slides - Discussion of Security Issues

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3. M060202A	02/02/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0231 - U.S. Department of Energy (High-level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters); NRC Staff and DOE Appeals of LBP-05-27; II. SECY-06-0011 - Nuclear Management Company, LLC (Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant)
4. M060110	02/02/06	SRM-Briefing on International Research and Bilateral Agreements

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated January 26 2006, provides an invitation to the 18th Annual Regulatory Information Conference on March 7, 8, and 9, 2006.
2. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated January 25, 200, provides supplemental information concerning the temporary suspension of public access to the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS).

Federal Register Notices Issued

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (2/14-16/06).

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 3, 2006

Columbia Public Meeting at the Region IV Office

On February 3, 2006, a public meeting was held at the Region IV office between the NRC and Energy Northwest to discuss plant performance issues at Columbia Generating Station. Issues discussed included: 1) lessons learned from the licensee's review of the handling of service water pump shaft coupling failures at the facility during the period June through December 2005; 2) planned corrective actions from the review; and 3) long-term plans to ensure service water pump reliability and other equipment reliability at the facility.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 4					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	02/09/06 SD-366	10:00	DOE	Fiscal Year 2007 Budget: DOE	Senator Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Decker	02/09/06 SD-366	2:30	Energy Information Administration	Energy Outlook and Trends	Senator Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	Week of February 13 Tentative SD-406	TBA	DOE, EPA, NRC, NEI, NWTB, NAS, State of NV	Status of Yucca Mountain license application and radiation standards	Senator Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Shane	March 9 SD-406	TBA	NRC	NRC Oversight	Senator Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Combs	March 14 Tentative	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senator Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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