

INFORMATION REPORT

June 29, 2006

SECY-06-0146

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
JUNE 23, 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 June 23, 2006

Meeting on Leak-Before-Break Related Issues

On June 13, 2006, NRR staff participated in a meeting with the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) at Battelle Columbus Laboratory. The meeting was held with the RES contractors that will be conducting activities in response to an NRR user need request related to primary water stress corrosion cracking in leak-before-break piping systems. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the coordination, timing, and exchange of work that will occur between the research organizations involved. The meeting resulted in an improved understanding of NRR needs and the interfaces necessary to successfully complete the work. Arrangements were made for subsequent meetings to continue an active dialogue.

ACRS Sub-Committee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena

On June 14, 2006, NRR staff presented an update of the GSI-191 activities to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Sub-Committee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena. In particular, the staff briefed the Sub-Committee on activities since the February 2006 Sub-Committee meeting and provided the projected path forward to resolve remaining technical issues. Presentation topics included chemical effects, coatings, downstream effects (including reactor vessel and fuel), prototypical head loss testing and licensee audits. Based on these presentations, the Sub-Committee determined that a Sub-Committee brief of GSI-191 activities to the ACRS Full Committee would be sufficient for the July 2006 Full ACRS meeting.

Observation of Calvert Cliffs Active Strainer Tests

On June 15, 2006, NRR staff observed concentration testing activities associated with the Calvert Cliff's proto-typical active strainer and attended a demonstration of fuel assembly testing at Continuum Dynamics, Inc. (CDI), located in Ewing, NJ. The General Electric (GE) active strainer concentration test was performed to gather data on the head loss performance as a function of debris concentration around the active strainer. The fuel filter demonstration was performed to exhibit the ability of how debris can be filtered from entering the fuel region with the bed of debris that is formed. Test procedures were reviewed and discussed with GE, CDI and licensee staff. The scale model test facility was reviewed and compared to NRC guidelines on the use of scale models to predict performance.

Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) and Vendor Meetings

From June 13 - 15, 2006, NRR staff participated in the NUPIC general meeting and the 15th Annual NUPIC Vendor meeting in Portland, OR. The staff made presentations on 10 CFR Part 21, NRC vendor inspection activities, calibration laboratory accreditation, and the new NRR Quality Assurance (QA) website. All presentations were well received.

Public Meeting on Discussion of Radioactive Liquid Discharges from Nuclear Power Plants

On June 21, 2006, NRR staff met with NEI, licensee representatives, and several members of the public and media to discuss groundwater contamination at nuclear power plants. As an industry initiative, each site will establish an action plan by July 31, 2006, to detect, monitor, assess, and report groundwater contamination at their site. Specifics and minimum requirements for establishing these action plans will be defined by NEI, and forwarded to the NRC within the next couple of weeks. Industry representatives discussed the short term actions they expect to have in place by July 31, and the longer term items that will be described in the action plans, along with milestone dates for their implementation. These action plans will include establishing site-specific processes and criteria for timely detection and effective response for inadvertent releases in groundwater at nuclear power plants. The action plans will also address expanding the scope of the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program reporting requirements to include voluntary formal and informal reports.

NRC Staff Holds Public Workshop on DG-1145

During June 13-14, 2006, NRR staff held the fourth in a series of public workshops on the development of Draft Regulatory Guide 1145, "Combined License (COL) Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (Light Water Reactor Edition)." Topics discussed at this workshop included: site characterization; plant procedures; initial test program; inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria; conformance with NRC general design criteria; classification of structures, systems, and components; wind and tornado loadings; water level (flood) design; missile protection; protection against dynamic effects associated with postulated rupture piping; transient and accident analyses; and risk evaluation (probabilistic risk assessment). In addition, the NRC discussed the level of detail needed to be provided in a COL application. The workshops are scheduled to continue monthly through September.

Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Review Status Meeting

On June 19, 2006, NRC and GE management met to discuss the status of the ESBWR design certification review. The meeting discussions focused on the schedule of GE submittals. GE presented a schedule for completing all outstanding licensing topical reports and proposals to improve the timeliness of responses to NRC requests for additional information. The staff informed GE that it intends to meet the published schedule for completing a safety evaluation report (SER) with open items, and that late or incomplete submittals will result in additional SER open items.

New Plant Oversight Committee Meeting

On June 20, 2006, the NRC staff met with members of the New Plant Oversight Committee (NPOC) to discuss strategic planning for new reactor applications and their review. NPOC members include Senior Executives from utilities and vendors participating in new nuclear plant activities, and Senior members from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Topics discussed at the meeting included integrated scheduling and scheduling tools, Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2006-06, Limited Work Authorization proposals, Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800) and COL Regulatory Guide development, and the NRC budgeting process with respect to new

reactor licensing activities. NRC and NPOC agreed to establish working groups which would meet on a regular basis to identify and discuss new reactor licensing issues.

Meeting with the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) on Steam Generator Issues

On June 21, 2006, the NRC staff met with the representatives of PWROG to discuss their general approach for applying steam generator inspection methodologies in the tubesheet region at plants with hydraulically expanded tubes. The meeting also included a discussion of the responses to requests for additional information concerning the approach proposed by Seabrook and Byron & Braidwood.

American Nuclear Society (ANS) Summer Conference Presentations

From June 5-8, 2006, NRR staff, in conjunction with RES, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and Electric Power Research Institute/Science Applications International Corp., presented papers at the session on Fire Modeling at the ANS Summer Conference in Reno, Nevada. The NRR papers addressed: (1) NRR use of uncertainty in fire modeling during the regulatory decision-making process; and (2) a statistical comparison of the core damage frequency due to fire from historical evidence vs. fire probabilistic safety assessments.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

High-Level Waste Staff Tour Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

From June 13-14, 2006, NRC staff toured facilities at INL to gain a first-hand experience of operations that are expected to be similar to some pre-closure activities at a Yucca Mountain, NV, high-level waste repository. The tour focused on: (1) handling and storage of spent nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste; (2) loading, transporting, and monitoring of shielded storage casks; (3) automated welding; (4) remote equipment being developed and tested by the Department of Energy; and (5) emergency preparedness for radiological events. The tour included: (1) shielded hot-cells at Test Area North; (2) facilities being decommissioned at Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center; (3) an independent spent fuel storage installation; (4) an irradiated fuels storage facility; (5) the Weld Development Laboratory; and (6) the Emergency Operations Center in Idaho Falls, ID.

Staff Participation in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Consultants Services Meeting (CSM)

From June 6-9, 2006, the staff participated in an IAEA CSM in Vienna, Austria, to develop a rationalized approach to package-surface removable contamination. This CSM included representatives from the U.S., France, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and industry organizations. The meeting participants adopted, on a consensus basis, the U.S. position that package-surface contamination limits should be risk-informed; however, some member states remain opposed to this approach. Also, the consultants recommended further coordination in identifying approaches to harmonize contamination-related provisions and guidance among the transport, radiation safety, and waste areas using dose-based approaches.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Implementing Agreement Between the NRC and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing of Germany (BAM)

On June 19, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Agreement which relates to safety evaluation of the spent nuclear fuel transport and storage cask/containers. This Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and BAM will exchange: (1) data on full scale and scaled model cask drop tests conducted at BAM and other cask demonstration tests conducted at the NRC; and (2) the results of independent structural analyses for the drop tests conducted at BAM. The NRC will utilize the data from the BAM drop tests to benchmark the structural computer code and verify the effects of scale modeling for transportation casks analysis and testing. This Implementing Agreement shall commence upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Agreement on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Halden Reactor Project (HRP)

On June 19, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Agreement, which defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and OECD will continue to participate in the OECD HRP program for an additional three-year period, 2006-2008. Currently, participation includes members from 18 countries. The NRC uses HRP-generated products and information to develop and extend the applicability of analytical tools, and to provide technical data to support staff evaluations. The research program at HRP addresses five areas of interest to the NRC: (1) nuclear fuels; (2) nuclear reactor materials performance; (3) testing, development, and analysis of digital instrumentation and control systems; (4) human factors research; and (5) human reliability analysis. The results and benefits of the planned activities for the next three-year HRP program are described in SECY-05-0156, "USNRC Participation in the OECD Halden Reactor Project During 2006-2008," dated August 29, 2005. This Agreement will commence upon signature and will remain in effect thru December 2008.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-06-007, Team Industrial Services, Inc., RADIOGRAPHER'S RADIATION DOSE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS.
2. PNO-III-06-016, First Energy Operating Company, UNUSUAL EVENT DECLARED DUE TO EARTHQUAKE.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: FuelSolutions Revision; Confirmation of Effective Date (Amendment 4) (AH786 Part 72)

On June 19, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 35147) confirming the effective date of July 3, 2006, for a direct final rule that amends the FuelSolutions entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (Amendment 4) (AH86 - Part 72). This action modifies the cask design to permit longer surveillance intervals for casks with heat loads lower than the design basis heat load and permit visual inspection of the cask vent screens or measurement of the cask liner temperature to satisfy periodic monitoring requirements.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
June 16 through June 22, 2006:

Limited Payability Cancellation Reports for undeliverable refunds & credits, 01-01-04 to most current report, items over \$5,000	FOIA/PA-2006-0226
Licensed Nuclear Radiation Device Handlers	FOIA/PA-2006-0227
Employment and/or hiring of employees and/or former employees of Constellation Energy, any & all correspondence	FOIA/PA-2006-0228

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Arrival		
CHAPMAN, KAREN	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
COFFMAN, ELLERY T.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
DEVERCELLY, RICHARD W.	REACTOR TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTOR	HR
DICKSON, ELIJAH	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
DURANT, PATRICIA T.	INFORMATION SECURITY SPECIALIST (SSO)	NSIR
EVANS, MARILYN	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
FONT, OSVALDO E.	STUDENT ENGINEER	RES
FURST, DAVID	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
GRIFFITH, PETER	CONSULTANT	RES
HALE, JERRY	EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR	NSIR
ISAKOVIC, NADJA	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
LALANGAN, EVELYN B.	STUDENT SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
LOPAS, SARAH L.	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
MCCAULEY, DANIELLE L.	STUDENT ENGINEER	R-III
MCGILL, CLINTON D.	PROGRAM ANALYST	R-II
MILTON, NICOLE R.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
NORMAN, ROBERT L.	INFORMATION SECURITY SPEC (SFGRDS)	NSIR
PARIS, RAHUL D.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PINKHAM, LAURIE H.	SECRETARY (OA)	R-I
ROBERSON, ERVIN	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	OIS
ROCHE-RIVERA, ROBERT	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RES
SENTZ, BRIAN L.	MANAGEMENT ANALYST (DATA)	SBCR
SIMMS, SOPHONIA M.	BRANCH CHIEF	OIS
WHITAKER, ERIC J.	STUDENT CLERK	ADM

ISAKOVIC, NADJA	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
WILLIS, JOSEPH	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
YOUNG, MATTHEW R.	REACTOR INSPECTOR (NSPDP)	R-IV
Retirements		
BORES, ROBERT J.	REGIONAL STATE LIAISON OFFICER	R-I

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

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

Issuance of the LES license for the Hobbs, N.M., enrichment facility.

Legal filings in several ongoing NRC licensing actions regarding the 9th Circuit's ruling on terrorism in environmental reviews.

The announcement of a planned COL application for two ABWRs at South Texas Project.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted Chairman Diaz in an interview with *Inside NRC*.

OPA assisted Commissioner Merrifield in an interview with the *National Geographic* cable channel.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-082	NRC Creates New Office of National Materials Program, Reorganizes Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (6/19)
06-083	NRC'S Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waster Re-elects Chairman and Vice Chairman (6/20)
06-084	NRC Issues License to Louisiana Energy Services For Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Plant in New Mexico (6/23)
Regions:	
I-06-038	Licensing Board to Hear Oral Arguments and Receive Public Comment in Pilgrim License Renewal Proceeding (6/23)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Paper		
SECY-06-0133	06/08/06	Multinational Design Approval Program Stage 1
Memoranda		
M060623A	06/23/06	Affirmation Session: I. Nuclear Management Company, LLC (Palisades Nuclear Plant, License Renewal Application) Appeal by Petitioners of LBP-06-10 (Ruling on Standing, Contentions, and Other Pending Matters)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, dated June 16, 2006, responds to letter regarding the transport of radiological materials across the Nation's borders.
2. Letter to Congress, dated June 15, 2006, provides the status of NRC's rulemaking efforts to implement 656 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) on "Secure Transfer of Nuclear Materials."

Federal Register Notice Issued

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 534th meeting (7/12/06 - 7/14/06).

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Brunswick Management Meeting

On June 22, 2006, representatives from Carolina Power and Light Company were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss management changes and activities at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 23, 2006

Seismic Event at Perry

On June 20, 2006, FirstEnergy Operating Company declared an Unusual Event at the Perry Nuclear Power Station due to an earthquake, magnitude 3.4 on the Richter Scale, centered in Lake Erie approximately three miles northwest of the Perry station. The temblor was felt at the facility and seismic instrumentation recorded the event. The facility continued to operate normally with no indications of any adverse effects on the facility. Walk downs by site and NRC personnel did not identify any damage.

Kewaunee Public Meeting

On June 22, 2006, representatives of Region III management met with members of Dominion Generation Co. in a public forum to discuss improvement progress and near term action plans at Kewaunee. The licensee stated that a key program focus would be on the corrective action program and on management effectiveness. The licensee acknowledged that some of their efforts in the past were not effective and that many of the current improvement initiatives had only recently been implemented.

Point Beach Local Public Official Outreach

On June 22, 2006, the resident and senior resident inspectors from Point Beach met with local officials in Green Bay, WI, at a licensee sponsored "Media Day" held at the new Emergency Operating Facility and Joint Public Information Center facility. During the meeting, the residents had an opportunity to explain to local officials the role of the NRC during plant events, the role of the resident inspectors and how the NRC conducts baseline inspection activities. Several of the local officials commented that the presentation was helpful and informative.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 23, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 24

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	06/19/06 2123 RHOB	4:00	NRC, GAO, NIRS	GAO Report on the Reactor Oversight Process	Reps. Whitfield/Stupak Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Shane	06/22/06 SD-628	9:30	NRC, Southern Company, UCS, Friedman, Billings, Ramsey	GAO Report on Reactor Oversight Process and other topics	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works