

# INFORMATION REPORT

December 5, 2006

SECY-06-0236

For: The Commissioners  
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
NOVEMBER 24, 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 November 24, 2006

Meeting with the Materials Reliability Program (MRP)

On November 16, 2006, the staff held a public meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the Materials Reliability Program (MRP). The purpose of the meeting was to revisit MRP-139, "Materials Reliability Program: Primary System Piping Butt Weld Inspection and Evaluation Guideline" for pressurizer nozzle-to-piping butt welds in light of the recently discovered Wolf Creek pressurizer nozzle circumferential flaw indications. The discussions included a background presentation on MRP-139, a recent pressurized water reactor fleetwide survey of pressurizer location inspection and mitigation status, NRC's and industry's perspective on the significance of the Wolf Creek inspection results, and a summary of each side's analytical evaluation results. The meeting provided a forum to exchange information, to discuss future activities, and to discuss a follow on meeting in mid-December.

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Human Performance Workshop

A member of the NRR staff participated as a keynote speaker at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations annual Human Performance Workshop on November 14-16, 2006. This year's theme was Change Management Issues in Human Performance. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission keynote address was on the role of inspection findings and cross-cutting issues in the Reactor Oversight Process.

Staff Holds Public Information and Environmental Scoping Meetings on the License Renewal of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2

On November 15, 2006, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the environmental review of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2 license renewal application and to provide information about the overall license renewal process. Approximately 28 people attended the meetings, including members of the public, representatives of Pennsylvania Power & Light (the applicant), local citizen organizations, and local news media. Public comments focused on radiation protection, emergency planning, security, power uprate, water resources, and spent fuel storage. The public scoping period and opportunity for petition for hearing will end on January 2, 2007. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) is scheduled to be published in December 2007, and the final SEIS is scheduled to be published in August 2008.

License Renewal Application for Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant

On November 16, 2006, the staff received an application from Carolina Power & Light (CP&L), doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc., requesting the extension of the operating license for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1. The application requests an additional 20 years beyond the current 40-year term, pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54. The current operating license for Shearon Harris, Unit 1, expires at midnight on October 24, 2026.

The staff plans to hold a public information session near the plant site in the near future, to describe the license renewal process.

#### James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Audit

From November 13-17, 2006, the staff conducted an aging management program audit of the license renewal application at the James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant (FitzPatrick) site in Scriba, NY. 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 technical bases documents. The audit team will conduct its second audit from December 11-15, 2006 to review time-limited aging analyses and aging management reviews identified in the license renewal application.

#### Palo Verde - Meeting on Nuclear Fuel Management Activities

On November 16, 2006, the staff met with Arizona Public Service (APS), the licensee for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Units 1, 2, and 3 (Palo Verde). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the nuclear fuel management functions, strengths, and new management personnel at Palo Verde. APS presented its new control element assembly design, fuel performance, and its lead fuel assembly program. APS discussed planned licensing actions in support of the fuel replacement to be submitted through 2008. In addition, APS provided an update of its dry cask storage activities.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

International Atomic Energy Agency Meeting on a Safety Standard for Volcanic Hazards

From November 13-17, 2006 at the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), geologic staff working on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) high-level waste program participated in a consultant meeting at the IAEA, in Vienna, Austria. At the meeting, revisions to the 1997 IAEA Provisional Safety Standard for volcanic hazards and to the siting of nuclear facilities were completed. NRC staff helped to draft significant changes, which better represent a risk-informed regulatory framework for the assessment of potential volcanic hazards.

Staff Attends Forum on Stakeholder-Confidence Workshop in Hungary

From November 13-17, 2006, the NRC staff officiated at a workshop and participated in a site visit organized by the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) in Tengelic, Hungary. The FSC is a working party for the Radioactive Waste Management Committee, of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency. The workshop was organized in cooperation with municipalities near a new disposal site for intermediate- and low-level waste, and with the Hungarian Radioactive Waste Management Agency, and was supported by the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority. The disposal site, located in granite formations near Bataapáti, was approved by local referendum after a voluntary siting process. Subsequent to the referendum, the Hungarian Parliament voted to establish the facility, in November 2005. The workshop focused on factors contributing to the failure and vigorous public opposition to an earlier siting process, in the late 1980s, and to the success of the more recent one. Special attention was given to the role of local oversight and information associations, which were key for reaching agreement between the implementer and the local communities. During the workshop, FSC members met with local, regional, and national stakeholders, received overview presentations on the institutional and legal framework in Hungary, and learned about the history of stakeholder involvement in Hungary. Immediately after the workshop, the FSC held a business meeting at which NRC's representative was elected, by unanimous vote, as the new FSC chairman.

NRC's Annual Program Review of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses

From November 13-17, 2006, the NRC management and staff attended the Annual Program Review of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, in San Antonio, Texas. The review focused on management aspects of the entire NRC Program at the Center, including work on: (1) high-level waste, (2) fuel cycle, (3) environmental & low-level waste, (4) decommissioning, (5) waste incidental to reprocessing, (6) NRC research, and (7) uranium mill tailing sites. NRC Headquarters staff also participated in the review via video-conference facilities.

## Receipt of Revised Mixed-Oxide Fuel-Fabrication Facility License Application

On November 15, 2006, Shaw AREVA MOX Services (MOX Services), the applicant for the Mixed-Oxide Fuel-Fabrication Facility, submitted a revised License Application for a license to possess radioactive material, including special nuclear material, necessary to manufacture mixed-plutonium / uranium-dioxide nuclear fuel assemblies. This revised Application was in response to a letter sent to MOX Services on November 7, 2006, which noted certain deficiencies in the Application. The letter also requested that MOX Services provide a revised application before completion of the NRC 60 day acceptance review of the September 27, 2006, submittal. NRC will extend its acceptance review by 45 days, to review the revised application.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

Public Meeting on Implementation Guidance for Subpart I of 10 CFR Part 26, Fitness for Duty Rulemaking

On November 9, 2006, the staff held the subject meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Union of Concerned Scientists (USC), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and other stakeholders to discuss the potential NRC endorsement of NEI-06-1, "Managing Fatigue at Power Reactor Sites." A follow-on stakeholder meeting is being planned for the week of December 11, 2006.

American Nuclear Society (ANS) Standards Meetings

On November 12-16, 2006, staff participated in several consensus standards meetings. A staff member chaired the ANS's Standards Board meeting, which discussed establishing better working relations between ANS and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to serve the needs for consensus standards relative to new reactors. Staff participated in other consensus committee meetings, including the Nuclear Facilities Standards Committee, the Risk-Informed Standards Committee, and the Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Standard Committee, where staff provided agency comments on the Fire PRA Standard. Due to public comments, the version of the Standard which was distributed for public comment is undergoing significant modification.

Industry Hemyc Fire Barrier Testing

On November 17, 2006, staff witnessed a Progress Energy full-scale, 1-hour, Hemyc Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System (ERFBS) fire endurance test, which was conducted in response to Generic Letter 2006-03. Progress Energy is currently constructing new ERFBS on the same conduits and electric cable trays used for the subject test, incorporating upgrades to improve the ERFBS performance. The improved ERFBS are scheduled to be tested December 14, 2006.

Final Meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Steam Generator Tube Integrity Program (ISG TIP)

On November 14-16, 2006, staff and contractors attended the subject meeting during which information was presented on the steam generator research being conducted at Argonne National Laboratory. The staff presented the preliminary research plans for the next 5-year program. All current participants have expressed an interest in participating in a 4<sup>th</sup> ISG TIP; however, some may not be able to maintain the same level of financial support.

10<sup>th</sup> Semiannual Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Piping Failure Data Exchange (OPDE) Meeting

On November 16-17, 2006, RES staff attended the subject international meeting to discuss the objectives, features, potential uses, and technical issues associated with the OPDE database, and to present the status of recent program efforts. The purpose of the OPDE program is to

assemble and maintain a database of the relatively rare light-water reactor (LWR) piping failures and precursor events, which are provided by the OPDE member countries. This operating experience data is used to develop pipe failure estimates which can be utilized by OPDE members to improve the safety of their LWRs.

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ENCLOSURE E

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-06-014, Constellation Generation Group, LLC - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO REACTOR/TURBINE TRIP FROM THE UNEXPECTED CLOSURE OF MAIN TURBINE GOVERNOR AND INTERCEPT VALVES.
2. PNO-I-06-14A, Constellation Generation Group, LLC - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS DUE TO REACTOR/TURBINE TRIP FROM THE UNEXPECTED CLOSURE OF MAIN TURBINE GOVERNOR AND INTERCEPT VALVES.
3. PNO-I-06-015, McLeod Regional Medical Center - EXPOSURE TO FETUS FROM THYROID ABLATION THERAPY

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ENCLOSURE F



Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

Sally Shaw; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-51-11)

On November 20, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 67072) that announces the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by Sally Shaw (PRM-51-11). The petitioner requests that the NRC prepare a rulemaking that requires it to reconcile its generic environmental impact statement for nuclear power plant operating license renewal with the most recent Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation VII Phase 2 report. The petitioner requests that the NRC consider the contents of the report as new and significant information, and recalculate certain conclusions in the generic environmental impact statement, including fatalities, latent fatalities, and injury projections based on this information. The comment period on this action closes February 5, 2007.

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ENCLOSURE G

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 November 17 through November 22, 2006:

Contract GS-35F-4524G, Lockheed Martin, BPA NRC-33-01-182	FOIA/PA-2007-0037
MLTS database for entire U.S.	FOIA/PA-2007-0038
Vacancy announcement R-II/DRMA-2006-0004, HR Specialist, all records including emails, telephone notes, interview notes, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0039
Columbia Generating Station, all records re: reports on or allegations of physical protection issues from 1-1-06 to present	FOIA/PA-2007-0040
MLTS database, radioactive materials licenses	FOIA/PA-2007-0041
Resumes & curricula vitae for named NRC staff	FOIA/PA-2007-0042

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending November 24, 2006

<b>Arrivals</b>		
CODELL, RICHARD	CONSULTANT	NMSS
DAVIS, CATHERINE	SECRETARY (OA)	OIS
DAWSON, JONNEL	STUDENT ENGINEER TRAINEE (CO-OP)	NRR
HARPER, KEVIN	SECRETARY	NRR
HOLLIDAY, TAMARA	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS
HUGHES, NIAV	HUMAN FACTORS ANALYST	RES
IVANCHEV, YAVOR	HUMAN FACTORS ANALYST	RES
LANE, SUSAN	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	NRR
MEYER, KAREN	SECRETARY	NRR
MONROE, SHIRLEY	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	RI
MOSS, SUSAN	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
POWELL, AMY	CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER	OCA
SALLMAN, AHSAN	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
THOMAS, GEORGE	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	RES
<b>Retirement</b>		
JABBOUR, KAHTAN	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
JOHNSTON, GARY	SENIOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RIV
MENCINSKY, GEORGE	PROGRAM MANAGER	NRR
<b>Departure</b>		
STANBACK, TASHA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
THOMAS, JAMIE	FINANCIAL ANALYST	CFO

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

The OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Tests for groundwater contamination near Indian Point.

NRC's regulatory conference regarding safety concerns at Palo Verde.

Shieldalloy's decommissioning plan for its site in New Jersey.

An "unusual event" declaration at Watts Bar that prompted a local school system to close for the day.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-144	Ten NRC Executives Honored With Presidential Awards (11/20)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-060	NRC, Pa. Company to Discuss Apparent Violations Stemming from Temporary Loss of Nuclear Gauge (11/21)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
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<b>Document Released to Public</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M061016AB	11/21/06	Briefing on Status of New Reactor Issues-COLS
2. M061025A	11/21/06	Briefing on Institutionalization and Integration of Agency Lessons Learned

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to The President and Congress, dated November 15, 2006, provides NRC's Fiscal Year 2006 Performance and Accountability Report.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Revised Notice of Opportunity to Make Oral Limited Appearance Statements, USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant).
2. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Call for Nominations.

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 24, 2006

Palo Verde Regulatory and Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On November 20, 2006, representatives from the Palo Verde Nuclear Station participated in a Regulatory and Predecisional Enforcement Conference in the Region IV office. The purpose of the conference was for the NRC representatives to hear and understand the licensee's position on root causes, corrective actions and risk significance for NRC findings from a special inspection. The special inspection examined the licensee's actions in response to inadequate chemistry controls in the spray pond cooling system and potential for degradation in various safety systems.

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ENCLOSURE P