

INFORMATION REPORT

May 13, 2004

SECY-04-0080

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0080 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 7, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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05/13/04	05/17/04

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 2004

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: T. Kim, OEDO by E-mail: tjk3@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Integration of Commonwealth Edison's Power Distribution System into PJM Interconnection

Effective May 1, 2004, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland (PJM) Interconnection began managing the flow of wholesale electricity over Commonwealth Edison's (ComEd's) 5,000 plus miles of transmission lines and administering open, competitive wholesale electricity trading markets. The integration of ComEd into PJM, which increased the PJM grid by 20 percent, makes PJM the world's largest grid operator, meeting a peak demand of 87,000 megawatts. ComEd applied to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in May 2002 to join PJM. FERC granted that request in April 2003, and established May 1, 2004, as the integration date. As part of this integration process, in March 2004, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) approved PJM's reliability plans and processes for its operations in the Northern Illinois control area.

Vermont Yankee - Response to the Vermont Public Service Board Request

In a letter dated May 4, 2004, the NRC Chairman responded to a request by the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) that the NRC conduct an independent engineering assessment at Vermont Yankee as part of its review of the pending power uprate application. The response states that the NRC has decided to conduct a detailed engineering inspection that will be appropriate for addressing NRC's oversight responsibilities and is also responsive to the PSB's concerns. Subsequent to receipt of the PSB request, the NRC received numerous letters from Congressmen, local officials, and members of the public in support of an independent assessment. The NRC Chairman also responded to letters from interested Congressional stakeholders on May 4, 2004. Responses to the remaining letters are being developed.

Meeting with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on PRA Information and Application Interface

On April 30, 2004, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff along with members of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), accompanied Chairman Diaz and a member of his staff to a meeting at NASA headquarters. The meeting participants discussed current and future applications of Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) in each agency and how the two agencies may be able to support each other in this area. The meeting participants agreed to collect and share pertinent information on it's accomplishments, establish a point of contact, and be prepared to set a date for the next meeting, by the end of May 2004. As a first step, the NRC agreed to share it's handbook on "Effective Risk Communication, The NRC's Guidelines for External Risk Communication," NUREG/BR-0308, January 2004.

Completion of Operating Experience Task Force Plan

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

On April 29, 2004, the Division of Inspection Program Management staff completed development of a plan for implementing the Reactor Operating Experience Task Force Recommendations (Plan). This completes a milestone in the Operating Experience Action Plan, which is one of four action plans of the overall response to the Davis Besse Lessons Learned Task Force Report recommendations. The Plan provides for implementing the 23 recommendations of the Operating Experience Task force through substantial enhancement and definition of existing operating experience functions. The implementation efforts will be managed through an interoffice Steering Committee consisting of division level managers from NRR, RES, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

Preparations for Brunswick OSART in 2005

On May 3, 2004, Miroslav Lipar and Francisco Paraman from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited NRC headquarters to brief NRC senior management and staff, as well as Region II and Office of International Program representatives, on the Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART) process that will be used to assess the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant in May 2005. An OSART is a 3-week audit conducted by a team of 12-15 international experts to assess nuclear power plant operator performance in accordance with international standards to identify suggested areas for improvement, or best practices that can be shared with other operating organizations. The two IAEA representatives also visited the Brunswick plant on May 4-7, 2004 to make a similar presentation on the OSART process and conduct a two-day workshop for the licensee on how to perform a self assessment in preparation for the OSART.

Meeting with Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO)

On April 29, 2004, Division of Engineering staff met with representatives of the MISO at their office in Carmel, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the MISO's programs that will be in place this summer for assuring a reliable offsite electric power supply to nuclear power stations.

The MISO serves as the reliability coordinator administering a peak load of 120 gigawatts covering 1.17 million square miles. This area ranges from Montana to the Pennsylvania border and from Manitoba to Kentucky and is divided into Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO). The control room at the Carmel office is equipped with a live display system of all network (grid) connections of 230 kV lines and above, and in some regions from 161kV level and higher. The RTOs enter into contracts with the MISO for maintaining grid reliability within the RTO's systems. The RTOs defer operational decisions affecting their areas of jurisdiction to the MISO reliability coordinator when the system cannot be managed within acceptable limits. While grid reliability ensures power supply system availability, the nuclear stations can rely on this power supply only if the voltages at the offsite power lines are within acceptable limits.

NERC has conducted audits at MISO to confirm the completion of prompt actions directed to be completed by FERC to maintain power supply system availability. Although the RTOs attending the meeting were not aware of any binding contracts with

firm power (un-interruptible power) commitments for nuclear power stations, representatives of some of the RTOs indicated that they have procedures in place to provide adequate power supply to the nuclear power stations and to inform the nuclear stations when power supplies are less than adequate.

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Meeting with Western Governors' Association (WGA) - Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Transportation Technical Advisory Group

On April 29, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff attended the semi-annual meeting of the WGA-WIPP Transportation Technical Advisory Group. The group advises the WGA on transportation projects related to the shipment of transuranic waste to the WIPP. The SFPO staff gave a presentation on NRC's recent rule change and the effect of the rule change on NRC's certification of transportation packages (e.g., TRUPACT II and III).

Public Meetings on Yucca Mountain Project

On May 3-5, 2004, Division of High Level Waste Repository Safety staff held a series of public meetings with representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) in Las Vegas, Nevada, regarding the DOE's Yucca Mountain Project. Participants at these meetings included representatives from the State of Nevada, local Counties, and members of the public. NRC headquarters staff and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staff participated via video conferences from Rockville, Maryland, and San Antonio, Texas, respectively.

On May 3, 2004, the meeting focused on the Project Performance Indicators, including architecture, specific examples, and relationship to industry programs. On May 4, 2004, the meeting focused on the quality assurance (QA) program, including corrective action program, revisions to the QA requirements, and software QA. On May 5, the meeting focused on the results of an April 13, 2004, report, "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Evaluation of U.S. Department of Energy Analysis Model Reports, Process Controls, and Corrective Actions."

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Agreement on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Primärkreislauf (PKL) Project

On April 29, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations signed the international agreement between the NRC and the OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). RES forwarded this agreement to the OECD on May 3, 2004.

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and 12 additional participating countries of the OECD will establish cooperation on the PKL Project. This project will investigate pressurized water reactor (PWR) safety issues relevant for accident prevention and management. The work will be performed at the PKL-Versuchsanlage primary coolant loop test facility in Germany. Ten experiments and analyses are planned and will focus on the following: (1) boron dilution after small-break loss-of-coolant accidents (S-B LOCAs), (2) loss of residual heat removal during mid-loop operation with a closed reactor coolant system with boron dilution, and (3) loss of residual heat removal during mid-loop operation with an open reactor coolant system.

This Agreement provides the framework for program management, experimental testing to be conducted, and for the parameters to be investigated. The data and insights gained from this project will enhance NRC's understanding of boron dilution, transport phenomena, and of mitigating strategies during a loss of residual heat removal capabilities in mid-loop operation. In addition, these tests will provide results to improve NRC's TRACE and MELCOR analytical codes that are used to evaluate potential transient and accident scenarios, assess generic safety issues, and address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants and for new designs.

52nd Session of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

RES staff participated in the 52nd session of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) in Vienna, Austria, from April 26-30, 2004. The Committee considered new information relevant for assessing sources of radiation, and the health and environmental effects that result from exposure to these sources. Numerous comments were given to the Secretariat for consideration during the preparation of the next set of advanced draft annexes (detailed technical documents) that will be reviewed by the UNSCEAR during the 53rd Session in 2005. In addition, several data collection questionnaires will be sent to UN Member States soliciting source and exposure data. The NEA plans to share exposure data for nuclear power plant workers collected through the Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE) program. NRC is a sponsor of the ISOE program. Occupational exposure data will also be solicited from the U.S. Department of Energy. Publication of the next UNSCEAR report may occur as early as the end of 2006. The 53rd Session of the UNSCEAR is scheduled to convene in Vienna, Austria from May 30 to June 3, 2005.

Meeting of the International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange Project

On April 20-22, 2004, RES staff hosted the 19th International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange (ICDE) Steering Group meeting in San Francisco, California. Participants included representatives from Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States. Two other ICDE members, Korea and Sweden, did not send participants and Slovakia participated as an observer. The Steering Group discussed the task to update data for six components (pumps, motor-operated valves, check valves, emergency diesel generators, safety and relief valves, and batteries) for which data have previously been collected and a summary report has been issued. The group also finalized data collection details and schedules for circuit breakers, control rod drive assemblies, and components associated with level measurement. Published ICDE reports and data on common cause failures are available to all NRC staff through the RES web pages. The next ICDE meeting is scheduled for November 12-14, 2004, in Cologne, Germany.

Meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Committee on Nuclear Risk Management

The ASME Committee on Nuclear Risk Management (CNRM) held its meeting on April 21, 2004. In conjunction with this meeting, the Subcommittees on Risk Technology and Risk Applications met on April 20, and the Project Team (working group) on Addendum B/Revision 1 to the ASME probabilistic risk analysis (PRA) standard met on April 19. CNRM agreed to work closely with the Project Team to assist in expediting the schedule for Addendum B/Revision 1 to the standard to meet NRC's schedule for updating Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.200, which has been issued for trial use. New standards being proposed for development by the CRNM include a PRA Generic Data Base and Level 3 PRA. It was agreed that a structure for an integrated PRA standard is needed before development of additional PRA standards.

Meeting of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Risk Informed Standards Committee

The ANS Risk Informed Standards Committee (RISC) held its meeting on April 30, 2004. The meeting involved discussion on the need for and timing of the development of a low power shutdown (LPSD) probabilistic risk analysis (PRA) standard. There was an agreement by the majority of the Committee members that a LPSD standard including a qualitative approach is needed, and that the technology needed to write the standard is available. A motion was made for a vote to advise the Working Group to proceed with the LPSD standard and for the scope to include the qualitative approach with guidance for human reliability analysis, and to expand the treatment of screening plant operating states. The motion was carried. The RISC also plans to closely monitor the progress of the Working Group to ensure that the technical issues raised are adequately addressed. In addition, the RISC plans to request the Working Group on the Internal Fire PRA standard to shorten their schedule, if possible.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences for Fiscal Year 2003

On May 4, 2004, NRC published its report to Congress on abnormal occurrences during Fiscal Year 2003 in the Federal Register (69 FR 24688).

Contract Award

On May 5, 2004, a competitive fixed price contract No. NRC-10-04-402, was awarded to Schreiber Translations Inc., to provide translation services for all NRC requirements. The contract is estimated at \$209,937.85 for a five year period of performance, inclusive of four one-year option periods.

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

NRC Participation in Individual Presidential Priority Initiatives (PPIs) Re-Visited

Over the past several months, a rationalization of NRC's involvement in the PPIs has been completed, although periodic reviews will continue. At the end of Calendar Year 2003, NRC was participating in thirteen initiatives. Currently, NRC is participating in or in an evaluation phase of fifteen initiatives (15 of 25). NRC no longer participate in E-Grants, as NRC does not require a competitive grants process. The three new initiatives that NRC is currently participating in or assessing are: USA Services - provides a citizen support "help desk"; Business Gateway - provides centralized access to government Forms; and, Geospatial One-Stop - provides extensive access to geospatial information. The Federal Asset Sales initiative was also reviewed. As NRC uses other agencies for this function, NRC will be an indirect participant in the Federal Asset Sales initiative. In addition, NRC is also working with the Smart Buy program, which focuses on leveraging the software buying power of the government.

Enterprise Architecture Readiness Contract Awarded

The Enterprise Architecture Readiness Assessment task has been awarded under the GSA Management, Organizational and Business Improvement Services (MOBIS) contract to High Performance Technologies, Inc., who teamed with MegaSystems. The interviews of senior executives will begin in May. The assessment is expected to be completed by July.

Technical Library Implements New Integrated Library System (ILS)

The Technical Library's new library system "Endeavor Voyager" has been tested and accepted, and is operational. During the month of April, the bibliographic, patron, and circulation data was exported, loaded and reviewed. All loaded data have been accepted and the system is now up and running.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of April 30 through May 6, 2004:

Civil Rights & Affirmative Employment Data Tracking & Reporting System contract	FOIA/PA-2004-0228
Hingham, MA, hazardous waste records	FOIA/PA-2004-0229
OIG case 04-09L, named individual	FOIA/PA-2004-0230
OIG case 03-63A, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0231

OIG investigation report into allegations that NRC staff pressured National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) to analyze the 2001 Baltimore tunnel fire to support regulatory standards	FOIA/PA-2004-0232
Material License Tracking System (MLTS) database, all active & retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2004-0233

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Arrivals		
Leroy Hardin	IT Specialist	ASLBP
Erica P. Henderson	Student Clerk	ADM
Michael D. Mangefrida	IT Specialist (INFOSEC)	NSIR
Chester Poslusny	Consultant	NMSS
Gabriel J. Taylor	Student Engineer (Summer)	NRR
Retirements		
Wayne E. Scott	Sr. Operations Engineer	NRR
James E. Wigginton	Senior Health Physicist	NRR
Departures		
Robert E. Uhrig	Consultant	ACRS

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Media Interest

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

Entergy's request for a power uprate at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

Additional NRC studies on the reactor vessel head corrosion at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant.

NRC's announcement of Notice of Violation at Davis-Besse concerning containment coatings and the reactor sump.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA staff assisted at public meetings in Las Vegas (Yucca Mountain).

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-052	NRC to Host Open House (Yucca Mountain) May 10 in Nevada (5/3)
04-053	Note to Editors: NRC Issues Information on Studies Related to the Davis-Besse Reactor Head Corrosion (5/4)
04-054	NRC Issues Review Standard for Early Site Permit Applications (5/4)
04-055	NRC Provides Update on Review Process for Vermont Yankee Power Uprate Request (5/5)
Regions:	
I-04-026	NRC Upgrades Inspection Team Looking into Worker Exposures at Puerto Rico Irradiator Facility (5/4)
I-04-027	NRC Proposes \$7,500 Fine Against New Jersey Firm for Failing to Maintain Control of Nuclear Gauge (5/7)
II-04-037	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting with Southern Nuclear May 14 to Discuss Farley Plant License Renewal Inspection (5/7)
II-04-038	NRC Schedules Regulatory Conference to Discuss Inspection Finding at Brunswick Nuclear Plant (5/7)
III-04-030	NRC Davis-Besse Oversight Panel to Meet May 13 in Ohio (5/6)
III-04-031	Meeting to Discuss Results of Special Inspection at D.C. Cook (5/6)

III-04-032	NRC Begins Special Inspection of Shutdown at Dresden Nuclear Plant (5/6)
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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0029	5/5/04	Options for Full-Scale Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Cask Testing Under the Package Performance Study
Voting Record on SECY-04-0029	5/5/04	(same subject)
2. Commissioner McGaffigan's vote on SECY-99-279	2/15/00	Final Rule Amending the Fitness-for-Duty Rule
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0070	4/29/04	SECY-04-0070 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 23, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M040504A	5/4/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-04-0066 - Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3) (Rejection by the Secretary of Petition to Intervene in License Renewal Proceeding as Premature)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Michael Dworkin, Vermont Public Service Board, dated May 4, 2004, responds to request that NRC conduct an independent engineering assessment as part of its review of the proposed power uprate at Vermont Yankee.
2. Letter to Congress, dated April 28, 2004, provides the March 2004 report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties and the status of Davis-Besse.
3. Letter to Congress, dated April 27, 2004, provides the FY 2003 Abnormal Occurrence Report.
4. Letter to Congressman Markey, dated April 27, 2004, responds to request for the declassification and release of documents associated with the Three Mile Island accident.

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Meeting on Planning and Procedures (05/25/04).

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE O

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

Inspector Counterpart Meeting

On May 3-6, 2004, the Region II Inspector's Counterpart meeting was held in the Regional Office. On May 4, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations gave a presentation on Regional Issues, and Commissioner Merrifield gave a presentation on Agency Issues and Items of Priority. On May 5, 2004, the Deputy Director, NRR, gave a presentation on NRR/Reactor Program Issues.

National Radiological Emergency Response Conference

On May 3-5, 2004, the Region II State Liaison Officer attended the 14th Annual, National Radiological Emergency Response Conference, in Phoenix, Arizona.

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 7, 2004

End-of-Cycle Performance Assessment Meetings

During the week of May 3, 2004, members of the regional staff held end-of-cycle performance assessment meetings for the Palisades and LaSalle nuclear power plants. The meetings were held in the vicinity of each of the plants.

Special Inspection - Dresden Unit 3 Loss of Offsite Power

On May 6, 2004, Region III began a special inspection at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station to review the circumstances surrounding the May 5 loss of offsite power for Unit 3 and subsequent reactor trip.

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 7, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 57

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	05/11 2322 RHOB	2:00	DOE	DOE Nuclear Security (Open/Closed)	Reps. Greenwood/Deutsch Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Long	05/13 2175 RHOB	1:00	TBA	Federal Employees' Compensation Act	Reps. Norwood/Owens Workplace Protections Education and the Workforce
Portner and others	05/20 SD-406	9:30	NRC Commissioners and others	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

May 7, 2004

ENCLOSURE R