

INFORMATION REPORT

July 7, 2004

SECY-04-0112

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0112 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JUNE 25, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA Patricia N. Tressler For/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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T. Kim, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 25, 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 June 25, 2004

Construction Inspection Program Information Management System Public Meeting

On June 25, 2004, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry representatives to discuss issues related to the development of the Construction Inspection Program Information Management System (CIPIMS). Topics included how to efficiently share construction scheduling information to support inspection of plants being constructed under 10 CFR Part 52.

Early Site Permits (ESPs)

On June 21 and 22, 2004, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held a prehearing conference for the three early site permit (ESP) applications currently under NRC review, which include Clinton, Grand Gulf, and North Anna sites. During the conference, the Board heard oral arguments from petitioners, the applicants, and the NRC staff regarding contentions raised by the petitioners. At the conclusion of the conference, the Board stated that it expects to issue a decision in mid July 2004 regarding admissibility of the contentions raised.

Meeting with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Grid Reliability

On June 21, 2004, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) met with FERC staff at FERC Headquarters to discuss grid reliability issues. FERC staff shared their impressions regarding the ongoing North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) audits. The NRC staff discussed the ongoing reviews of the responses to the temporary instruction on offsite power system operational readiness. Both parties agreed to a more frequent exchange of information regarding grid reliability issues.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

NRC Visit to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratories Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

On June 22-23, 2004, staff from the NRC High-Level Waste program toured the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratories spent fuel storage and handling facilities. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the staff with the types of spent nuclear fuel handling operations and associated facilities that may be used at the proposed Yucca Mountain geologic repository.

Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Material Transportation Committee

On June 15-16, 2004, Spent Fuel Project Office staff participated in a meeting of the Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Material Transportation Committee in Topeka, Kansas. The meeting was well-attended by over 40 participants, including State and Federal government representatives. The meeting focused on radioactive material shipment plans and experiences with transuranic waste shipments to the waste isolation pilot plant facility in New Mexico; highway-route controlled-quantity shipments; return of foreign research reactor fuel shipments; and Department of Energy transportation planning for spent fuel and high-level waste shipments to the planned repository at Yucca Mountain. NRC staff gave a presentation on the status of the Package Performance Study; the two National Academies of Science studies on spent fuel storage and spent fuel transportation; and the recent change to the NRC transportation regulations in 10 CFR Part 71, which becomes effective in October 2004. The meetings of the regional Councils of State Governments provide an effective forum for NRC staff coordination and liaison with transportation counterparts in the States and other Federal agencies.

Meeting with Spanish Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear

During the week of June 7, 2004, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with the Spanish nuclear regulator, the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN), at the CSN's request, to discuss the revised 10 CFR Part 70 requirements, Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA), and the Risk-Informed Regulatory Implementation Plan. The CSN has required the Juzbado fuel fabrication facility to perform an ISA as part of its periodic safety review. Global Nuclear Fuel (GNF) is advising on the conduct of an ISA. The GNF advisor gave a presentation about GNF's experience in performing an ISA of the Wilmington, North Carolina, fuel fabrication facility. The meetings were held at the CSN's offices in Madrid and at the Juzbado facility located near Salamanca. The meeting at Juzbado included a tour of the Juzbado facility, followed by a discussion with ENUSA licensing staff about the facility and its plans for performing an ISA. The CSN indicated that it may request additional NRC consultation about Part 70 and ISA at a future time.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Agreement between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization in the Area of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Research

On June 17, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations signed the cooperative agreement between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES). The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) forwarded this Agreement to JNES on June 21, 2004.

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the JNES will continue cooperation in the area of probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) research and in our international cooperative probabilistic risk assessment (COOPRA) program. The research conducted and in-kind information exchanged under this Agreement will contribute to the NRC's goal of leveraging agency resources, while enhancing the quality of our PRA methods and insights on risk assessment techniques through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent applications and feedback. This Agreement will enter into effect upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Agreement between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Babcock & Wilcox Canada Limited in the Area of Steam Generator Tube Integrity Research

On June 17, 2004, the Executive Director for Operations signed the cooperative agreement between the NRC and the Babcock & Wilcox Canada Limited. RES staff forwarded this Agreement to Babcock & Wilcox Canada Limited on June 21, 2004.

This Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and Babcock & Wilcox Canada Limited will cooperate in the area of steam generator tube integrity research. The research conducted and in-kind information exchanged under this Agreement will contribute to NRC's goal of leveraging agency resources and enhancing the quality of our models for predicting steam generator tube integrity and degradation through the expansion of the data base from which the models are developed and by comparisons of the independent models developed by the participants. The information exchanged under this Agreement is also being used to update a probabilistic code that can be used for evaluating licensees' operational assessments. These assessments are meant to predict steam generator tube behavior at the end of a fuel cycle based on inspection results at the beginning of the cycle. In addition to exchanging technical information and research data, B&W Canada will provide a cash contribution each year for the duration of this Agreement. These funds will help support our proactive research on developing predictions of cracking in steam generator tube materials including materials in replacement generators. This Agreement will enter into effect upon signature, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2006.

Quality Assurance Review of Low Power and Shutdown Risk Analysis Models

On June 15-17, 2004, staff from Region IV, RES and NRR conducted an onsite Quality Assurance review of the Agency's Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) Low Power and Shutdown(LP/SD) models for River Bend and Grand Gulf against the licensee's LP/SD

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Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) models. Differences between the SPAR model and the licensee's PRA model were discussed with the licensee PRA and operations staff in an effort to understand the reasons for the differences and to determine where revisions to the SPAR models are necessary. Model updates resulting from this QA review will lead to more accurate and plant-specific SPAR models. This onsite QA review is part of the SPAR Model Development process. A portion of the meeting was also used to benchmark NRR's Significance Determination Process LP/SD Notebook against the licensee's LP/SD model.

Meeting of Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) to Discuss Safety Issues and Research on Use of Digital Systems in Nuclear Power Plants

On June 22, 2004, the Director for International Research and Development and a RES staff member participated in a review of safety issues and the current ongoing research associated with the increasing use of digital systems in nuclear power plants, at the annual meeting of the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. This review included a discussion of current digital system safety issues that have been identified by OECD member nations and potential CSNI activities that may support current and future research initiatives to resolve these issues.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-04-004A, Global Nuclear Fuels - Americas, LLC - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT INVOLVING SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLIES
2. PNO-IV-04-014, Department of Energy - LEAK OF ANHYDROUS HYDROFLUORIC ACID GAS CYLINDER NEAR NRC LICENSED FACILITY.
3. PNO-IV-04-013, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) - FIRE IN PROTECTED AREA GENERATED MEDIA INTEREST.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Contract Awards

On June 16, 2004, a competitive delivery order was awarded under the General Services Administration's federal supply schedule to Aquas, Incorporated. This order requires the contractor to perform a requirements analysis of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's overall time and labor systems process. The period of performance is 7½ months at an estimated cost of \$185,855.71.

On June 23, 2004, a competitive Blanket Purchase Agreement was awarded under the General Service Administration's federal supply schedule to Haworth, Inc. This agreement requires the contractor to provide modular furniture including associated installation and design services. The period of performance is one year with two one-year option periods at a total estimated cost of \$2,750,465.00.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

NRC Assessing the Geospatial One Stop-Presidential Priority Initiative

Hank Garie from the Interior Department, who is also the Executive Director of the Geospatial One-Stop Presidential Priority Initiative, briefed NRC Offices (NRR, NMSS, RES, NSIR) on the Geospatial One Stop program in support of OCIO's efforts to determine the value of the program to NRC's Geospatial initiatives. A goal of the Geospatial initiative is to make it easier for government officials at all levels to share, coordinate the collection of and gain access to geospatial data to improve decision making and delivery of government services. The program notes that although a wealth of geospatial information exists, it is often difficult to locate, access, share, and integrate in a timely and efficient manner.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of June 18 through June 24, 2004:

Applications for employment including Vacancy Announcement NSIR-2004-0014 & CSU-2004-0002, all records relating to the processing, December 2003 to present	FOIA/PA-2004-0272
Davis Besse reactor lid, 1996, inspections showing boric acid buildup, 1998 & 2000, all videotapes	FOIA/PA-2004-0273
Memo for W. Dircks from H. Denton, "Control Room Habitability," June 29, 1984, as referenced in NUREG-0933	FOIA/PA-2004-0274

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Arrivals		
Sharon Bailey	Secretary (OA)	NSIR
Emily R. Banks	Secretary (OA)	NRR
James Beardsley	Security Specialist	NSIR
Cheryl Buracker	Security Specialist	ADM
James Canady	Program Manager	NSIR
Ronald Cureton	Reactor Engineer (NSPDP)	R-I
Douglas Dodge	Security Specialist	NSIR
John Giessner	Reactor Engineer	R-III
Stephen Hammann	Health Physicist	R-I
Martha Kamprath	Secretary (OA)	R-III
Jeffrey Kulp	Reactor Inspector	R-I
Frank Laughlin	EP Specialist	NSIR
Michele N. Laur	Reliability & Risk Analyst	NRR
Pamela Mack	Criminal Investigator	OIG
Christina Merritt	Office Automation Assistant	NRR
Kevin J. Morrissey	Nuclear Process Engr. (Crit)	NMSS
James Peyton	Student Administrative (Summer)	OCIO
Timothy Pruett	IT Specialist	OCIO
Nicole Sieller	Reactor Engineer (NSPDP)	R-I
Brian P. Smith	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRR
John Thorp	Reliability and Risk Analyst	RES
Departures		
Kristin Riesbeck	International Relations Specialist	OIP

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Media Interest

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

Videotapes of the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head showing boric acid deposits on top.

A proposed NRC fine for an Ohio construction firm because of a radiation overexposure to a worker.

Other OPA Items:

OPA arranged interviews for the Deputy Executive Director for Management Services on WTOG radio's "Meet the Chief Human Capital Officer" program and for Fortune Small Business magazine regarding the NRC's health care services contractor.

OPA staff assisted at public meetings regarding the Perry and Point Beach power plants, as well as a proposed uranium enrichment plant in Ohio.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-077	NRC Receives Awards for Excellence in Performance and Accountability Reporting (6/23)
04-078	NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Prehearing Conference June 30 on Proposed Millstone License Renewal (6/25)
Regions:	
I-04-034	NRC Proposes \$7,500 Fine Against Connecticut Company (6/24)
III-04-039	NRC Proposes \$19,200 Fine Against U.S. Inspection Services for a Radiation Overexposure to Worker (6/21)
IV-04-025	NRC Staff to Meet with Pacific Gas & Electric to Discuss Diablo Canyon Issues (6/22)
IV-04-026	NRC to Discuss Performance of Waterford 3 Nuclear Plant July 22 (6/23)
IV-04-027	NRC to Discuss Performance of Grand Gulf on July 22 (6/24)
IV-04-028	NRC to Discuss Performance of Comanche Peak July 15 (6/24)
IV-04-029	NRC to Discuss Performance of Columbia Generating Station July 22 (6/24)

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Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 25, 2004

Outreach Workshop

On June 23, 2004, Region IV conducted an outreach workshop with local, State and utility emergency response personnel participating in the South Texas Project emergency exercise scheduled for August 10-11, 2004. Regional staff were joined by representatives of Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Energy in the workshop. Approximately 100 people participated.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 25, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 64

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	07/13/04 SD-366	10:00	TBA	Role of Nuclear Power in National Energy Policy	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy & Natural Resources
Portner	TBA SD-192	TBA	Markup	FY2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	TBA 2154 RHOB	TBA	TBA	Federal Information Technology R&D	Reps. Burton/Watson Human Rights and Wellness Government Reform

Note: Congress is in the Fourth of July recess until Tuesday, July, 6, 2004.