

INFORMATION REPORT

May 26, 2005

SECY-05-0095

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0095 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 13, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
L. Rakovan, OEDO

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Contact:
L. Rakovan, OEDO

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LJRakovan:paa
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 13, 2005

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 (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Notice of Availability - Model Application for Revising Steam Generator Technical Specifications

On May 6, 2005, the staff issued a model license amendment application related to revising the technical specifications (TS) on steam generator (SG) tube integrity for PWRs (70 FR 24126). The Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) proposed incorporation of this change into the standard TS (TSTF-449, Revision 4). The change would replace many existing prescriptive requirements for inspecting SG tubes with requirements that are largely performance-based and directly tied to ensuring SG tube integrity. The proposed change is aligned with the industry's NEI 97-06 initiative, "SG Tube Integrity Guidelines."

In the Federal Register notice dated March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10298), the staff requested public comment on the model safety evaluation (SE) and no significant hazards consideration determination relating to TSTF-449, Revision 3. In response to comments received and to reflect changes to TSTF-449 in Revision 4, the staff made only minor corrections and clarifications to its SE. The staff has posted the model application on the NRC web site to assist licensees in using the consolidated line item improvement process (CLIP) to revise the TS on SG tube integrity.

Information Notice 2005-11: Internal Flooding/Spray-Down of Safety-Related Equipment Due to Unsealed Equipment Hatch Floor Plugs and/or Blocked Floor Drains

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of the possibility of flooding safety-related equipment as a result of: (1) equipment hatch floor plugs that are not water tight; and (2) blockage of the equipment floor drain systems that are credited to mitigate the effects of flooding in the final safety analysis report and plant design basis calculations.

Public Meeting on Long-Term Open Frequently Asked Questions on the Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal Performance Indicator

On May 12, 2005, the Division of Inspection Program Management staff hosted a public meeting at NRC Headquarters to discuss the subject open reactor oversight process performance indicator (PI) frequently asked questions (FAQs). The objective of the meeting was to provide information to allow agency management to make a final decision on how to finally resolve those open issues.

Meeting with Entergy on the Vermont Yankee Extended Power Uprate (EPU) Application

On May 9, 2005, representatives from Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, met with NRC staff to discuss the licensee's application for an EPU at Vermont Yankee. Entergy had requested the meeting to present an overview of recent supplements to its application. The meeting focused on the steam dryer analyses, station blackout and other items.

Staff Issues Final Supplement 20 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal Regarding Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

On April 29, 2005, the staff issued the subject document. The supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) represents the completion of the staff's environmental review for the license renewal application submitted by the Indian Michigan Power Company.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue the Notice of Availability of the final SEIS in the May 13, 2005, Federal Register. The NRC can then proceed with renewal actions after a 30-day period expires (June 24, 2005), should no Federal agency refer matters in dispute in the final SEIS to the Council on Environmental Quality. The decision on issuing the license is scheduled for September 2005.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Meeting of Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI), Program Review Group

On May 3-4, 2005, RES management participated in the subject meeting in Paris, France. The principal objective of the meeting was to review proposed CSNI working group final products, as well as proposals for new work. The Program Review Group is recommending that CSNI approve publication of five documents related to low power and shutdown risk assessment, thermal fatigue, risk-informed in-service inspection, and human factors. The review group is also recommending that a new work proposal on risk assessment be approved.

Code Application and Maintenance Program

RES participated in the Spring 2005 Meeting of the Code Application and Maintenance Program (CAMP) on May 2-3, 2005, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. CAMP is a multi-lateral international program coordinated by the NRC to foster cooperation on thermal hydraulic research and code development. CAMP meetings are held twice a year to exchange information about the development and use of the RELAP5, TRACE, PARCS and SNAP computer codes used by the NRC and the CAMP member countries.

DOE Low Dose Workshop

On April 25-27, 2005, NRC staff attended the 5th workshop on the Department of Energy (DOE) Low Dose Radiation Research Program. Four program areas are currently funded by DOE: molecular and genetic epidemiology, radiation biology detection and measurement of very low doses, prediction of individual sensitivity to ionizing radiation exposure based on human genome data, and integrating the basic data into useful models of radiation cancer risk. While results from much of the work is still preliminary, indications are that radiation effects at the molecular level may not necessarily translate into observable effects at the tissue/organ level.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Meeting with Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency

On May 9, 2005, NSIR management and staff met with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate and discuss their participation in the planned public meeting related to the top-to-bottom review of emergency preparedness regulations and guidance. FEMA noted its appreciation for the opportunity to be involved at this stage of the review and agreed to participate in this public meeting tentatively scheduled for the Summer of 2005.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Contract Awards

On May 6, 2005, a non-competitive, fixed price contract no. NRC-23-05-241 was awarded to Exceptional Software Strategies, under the SBA 8(a) set-aside program. The contract is for the EDO Document and Task Tracking System (EDTTS) which replaces the current Work Item Tracking System. The total award amount is \$194,670.72 and the period of performance is two years.

On May 10, 2005, a competitive, fixed-price, delivery order contract no. NRC-38-05-363 was awarded to HGM Management and Technologies, Inc, as a small-business set-aside for the Office of Human Resources. The contractor will conduct organizational development interventions. The total value is \$1,160,996. The period of performance is five years, including four one-year option periods.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NUHOMS® -24PT4 Revision, Amendment; Confirmation of Effective Date (AH50 - Part 72)

On May 12, 2005, notice was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 24936) that a direct final rule that would have revised the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 (Amendment 2) cask system listing in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was withdrawn. The direct final rule was withdrawn because a significant adverse comment was submitted in response to an identical proposed rule published concurrently with the direct final rule.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
May 6 through May 12, 2005:

Licenses, active, Decontamination Services & Decommissioning Facilities, Program Codes 03219 & 03900	FOIA/PA-2005-0226
Unusual events, alerts, etc., 1970 to present, back-up documents for data in NRC's 1998 annual report	FOIA/PA-2005-0227
License for Navy to transport & store depleted uranium munitions, tonnage limit	FOIA/PA-2005-0228
Commission's decision to release a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the safety & security of commercial spent nuclear fuel storage, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0229
OI Report 3-2004-022, entire file	FOIA/PA-2005-0230
ASW Consultants Inc., 847 N. Gilmore Street, Allentown PA 18103, license no. 37-27999-02, material being handled at site, issues with site	FOIA/PA-2005-0231

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Ceremony Held

On May 12, 2005, NRC held its Twenty-Eighth Annual Awards Ceremony. Chairman Nils Diaz; Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr.; Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield; Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko, and Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations; hosted the ceremony. At the ceremony, 2 employees were honored for having received the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award, 12 employees were honored for having received the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, 4 employees received the NRC Distinguished Service Award, and 43 employees received the NRC Meritorious Service Award. A reception was held for all NRC employees in the Two White Flint North Cafeteria following the ceremony.

Arrivals		
Julie Axelrod	Student Law Clerk (Summer)	OGC
Ronnie C. Banerjee	Student Human Resources Specialist	R-I
Gregory Cameron	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	R-II
William Lewis	Reactor Inspector	R-II
David Fleury	Reactor Technology Instructor	HR
Neil Haggerty	Project Manager	NMSS
Robert Hardies	Sr. Materials Engineer	NRR
Chad K. Huffman	Reliability and Risk Engineer (NSPDP)	RES
Aracelis Pérez-Ortiz	Secretary (OA)	NMSS
Breeda Reilly	Chemical Engineer	NMSS
Kathy Weaver	Senior Project Manager	NRR
Retirements		
Ross B. Landsman	Sr. Reactor Inspector	R-III
Departures		
Paul Shemanski	Consultant	NRR
Tamara Williams	Secretary (OA)	OCA

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

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

NRC's withdrawal of a direct final rule on a Holtec cask amendment request.

The annual assessment meeting held for Indian Point.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff continued to assist at public end-of-cycle meetings.

OPA turned down a request by a film maker to do a documentary on how the NRC operates based on OPA's conclusion that the finished product would not be an accurate portrayal of how the agency functions.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-078	Nuclear Regulatory Commission Honors Employees on May 12 in Rockville, MD (5/12)
05-079	NRC Renews Operating Licenses for Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, for an Additional 20 Years (5/12)
05-080	NRC Toughens Export-Import Requirements for Certain Radioactive Materials (5/12)
05-081	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing on Application to Renew Operating License for Monticello Nuclear Plant (5/12)
Regions:	
I-05-028	NRC to Present Preliminary Findings of Millstone 3 Special Inspection (5/11)
III-05-023	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Braidwood Nuclear Plant (5/9)
III-05-024	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for LaSalle Nuclear Power Station (5/10)
III-05-025	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Monticello Nuclear Plant (5/11)
IV-05-019	NRC to Conduct Special Inspection at Waterford Nuclear Plant (5/9)
IV-05-020	NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to R&M Engineering Consultants of Alaska (5/10)
IV-05-021	NRC Staff to Meet with Arizona Public Service Co. to Discuss Performance of Palo Verde Nuclear Plant (5/12)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Visit by Norwegian Officials

On May 9, 2005, the OIP staff met with two Norwegian officials who are associated with the Barents Council. The visit was conducted under the auspices of the State Department. The Barents Council was established in 1993 by the governments of the Nordic countries and Russia to promote joint development of the Barents Sea region. Of concern to the Norwegians is the fleet of nuclear powered submarines anchored 50 kilometers from the Norwegian border, the long-term storage of submarine spent fuel, and the safety of the Kola nuclear power plant, located about 200 kilometers from the border. The officials were visiting the U.S. to discuss their interest in the environmental effects of radiation, nuclear safety and nonproliferation.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0068	4/22/05	Update of the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan
2. SECY-05-0069	4/22/05	FY 2004 Results of the Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors and Status of the Ongoing Development of the Program
3. SECY-05-0070	4/25/05	Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment for Calendar Year 2004
Memoranda		
1. M050405	5/09/05	Briefing on RES Programs, Performance, and Plans
2. M050420C	5/10/05	Meeting with Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI)
3. M050406	5/10/05	Briefing on Status of New Site and Reactor Licensing
4. M050512	5/12/05	Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0043 - Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 110, "Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Materials: Security Policies" (AH44); II. SECY-05-0066 - USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant) Petitioners' Standing to Intervene

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated May 4, 2005, responds to letter requesting the NRC to expeditiously resolve its objections to the release of the publicly available version of the NAS report "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage."

Federal Register Notices Issued

- Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Notice of Meeting - 06/01-03/05

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE O

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Commissioner Jaczko Visit to Millstone Nuclear Power Station

On May 13, 2005, Commissioner Gregory Jaczko visited the Millstone Nuclear Power Station accompanied by his executive assistant and the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety, Region I. The Commissioner toured the site with the NRC resident inspectors and station management. Areas toured included the Unit 2 training simulator, the emergency response facilities, and the Unit 3 control room of the station's independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The Commissioner also met with some of the station staff during a working lunch on site.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

Carolina Power and Light Company - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART) Entrance Meeting

On May 9, 2005, the Regional Administrator attended the IAEA OSART Entrance meeting at the Brunswick nuclear plant.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Progress Status Meeting

On May 9, 2005, representatives from Tennessee Valley Authority attended the subject meeting in the Regional Office. Near term plans for the ISFSI facility that is under construction at Browns Ferry were also discussed.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 13, 2005

End-of-Cycle Public Meetings

Between May 10-12, 2005, the NRC held public meetings with licensee representatives to discuss the 2004 annual assessment of Arkansas Nuclear One, Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Fort Calhoun Station, and Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station for 2004. In addition, the NRC described the reactor oversight process. The meetings received low participation from the public, as well as some media, and state and local officials participation.

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 13, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 19

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	May 17 S-407 Capitol CLOSED	9:30	NRC	Security of Nuclear Facilities	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Shane	May 17 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Markup to consider pending business	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Madden	May 18 2359 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Markup of Draft FY 2006 Energy- Water Appropriations	Reps Lewis/Obey Appropriations
Shane	May 24 SD-366	9:30	TBA	Markup of Draft FY 2006 Energy Bill	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	May 24 2322 RHOB	2:00	NRC, DOE, and Matthew Bunn, Harvard University	Reducing the Thread of Nuclear Terrorism: A Review of the DOE's Global Threat Reduction Initiatives	Reps Whitfield/Stupak Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Shane	May 25 SD-366	9:30	TBA	Markup of Draft FY 2006 Energy Bill	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

May 13, 2005

ENCLOSURE R

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 19

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	May 26 TBA	9:30	NRC	Legislative Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Shane	May 26 SD-366	9:30	TBA	Markup of Draft FY 2006 Energy Bill	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	TBA SD-366	TBA	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	April 13 2247 RHOB Postponed	10:00	TBA	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform