

INFORMATION REPORT

June 6, 2005

SECY-05-0100

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0100 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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T. Kim, OEDO

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Contact:
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*See previous concurrence

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06/03/05* 06/06/05

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 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 20, 2005

Monthly Public Meeting on Implementation of the Mitigating System Performance Indicator (MSPI)

On May 18, 2005, NRR staff, together with staff members from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and regional offices, hosted the subject meeting. One of the main topics of the meeting involved discussion of a proposed alternative to the previous recommendations of the Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality Task Group regarding the minimum PRA quality requirements needed for MSPI implementation. Additionally, RES staff presented a computer-based demonstration of the MSPI PRA database, which is currently being developed to assist in the identification of PRA model "outliers" in support of staff inspection activities for MSPI implementation. The MSPI is a more risk-informed performance indicator that addresses many of the concerns with the current Safety System Unavailability performance indicator used as part of the Agency's Reactor Oversight Process.

Monthly Working Group Meeting on the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP)

On May 19, 2005, NRR staff, together with representatives from the NRC regional offices, held the subject meeting. Topics discussed include: (1) implementation issues associated with the Significance Determination Process (SDP); status of the task forces activities regarding implementation issues associated with certain performance indicators; (3) guidance changes for substantive cross-cutting issues; (4) periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the PI program; and (5) recent appeal decisions by the NRC staff regarding five frequently asked question (FAQ) concerning the performance indicator "scrams with loss of normal heat removal." The next monthly meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2005.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Workshop on Utilization of Risk Information for Nuclear Safety Regulation

On May 10-12, 2005, staff representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and NMSS participated in the subject workshop held in Tokyo, Japan, organized by the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan. The workshop participants were very interested in the integrated safety analysis (ISA) approach for risk-informing regulation of fuel cycle facilities. In particular, questions were raised regarding the safety goals for facilities other than reactors, why safety goals are not consistent among facilities, and how the ISA process would be applied to the Mixed Oxide fuel fabrication facilities, which the Japanese view as comparable to its reprocessing facility. The French, who have traditionally relied on a deterministic approach, also expressed interest in the ISA approach.

Audit of Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA)

On May 9-13, 2005, NRC staff observed an CNWRA's Internal Quality Assurance (QA) Audit conducted in San Antonio, Texas. The NRC observers evaluated this performance-based audit to determine whether the CNWRA is effectively implementing the requirements of its QA program. The NRC observers agreed with the CNWRA audit team findings that the CNWRA QA program is being effectively implemented and appears to provide adequate controls for technical product development.

Meeting with MDS Nordion and the Department of Transportation (DOT)

On May 17, 2005, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with MDS Nordion and DOT about a DOT request for SFPO staff's recommendation on revalidation of Canadian Certificate No. CDN/2079/B(U)-96 (Model No. F-458) for import/export use. To facilitate SFPO staff review, MDS Nordion presented details of several transport packages, including testing and combustible gas generation. A portion of the meeting was closed to the public, to discuss proprietary information.

Meeting with Holtec International and Utilities

On May 17, 2005, staff from SFPO met with representatives from Holtec International, Southern Nuclear Corp., and Entergy. The draft final rulemaking on the HI-STORM 100 Amendment 2 dry storage cask was withdrawn on May 12, because of a public comment on the rule. The discussion focused on the potential submittal of exemption requests by licensees from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212 and 10 CFR 72.214 to load HI-STORM 100, Amendment 2 casks, before the final rule is issued. The utilities explained that the cask loadings are necessary to support adequate spent fuel pool space. The exemption requests would be processed in parallel with the final rulemaking review.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Summary of Semiannual OECD Piping Failure Data Exchange (OPDE) Meeting

On May 11-12, 2005, RES staff attended the OPDE meeting to present the status of U.S. efforts towards completing the project goals. Eleven representatives from 11 countries were in attendance. The purpose of the OPDE project is to assemble a database of light water reactor piping failures submitted by the member countries and the joint US effort between the NRC and the Electric Power Research Institute. The meeting attendees discussed the status of member countries' efforts towards completing project goals, and planning for the next phase of the project scheduled to begin in June 2005. Beginning in June, the database will be available to participating countries in its finalized form for members to continue to add piping event information. Also, several representatives presented examples of recent interesting piping events that have been submitted to the database, including updated information on the recent Mihama pipe rupture event in Japan. The NRC participation in the OPDE project and meetings provide vital leverage for our ongoing passive component failure projects. Because of the rarity of piping failures and precursor events, it is crucial to have both an accurate count of these events and a large pool of relevant reactor experience to draw from in order to develop meaningful piping failure frequency estimates. The next OPDE meeting is scheduled for October 2005 in Ottawa, Canada.

Progress Review of ANL Tests on Post-LOCA Ductility of Cladding from High-Burnup Fuel

On May 10, 2005, a progress review meeting was held with NRC's partners on a high-burnup fuel testing program at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). The purpose of this program is to provide the technical basis for revising criteria in the regulation for loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) analysis, 10 CFR 50.46. This regulation specifies limits on peak cladding temperature and maximum cladding oxidation to ensure cladding ductility and thereby maintain coolable geometry following a LOCA. First-of-a-kind ductility tests on high-burnup fuel rods from commercial plants have been performed at ANL in recent months. A draft report describing a LOCA embrittlement correlation based on the emerging data was prepared by ANL in early April and the correlation was discussed at the meeting. This draft report was placed in ADAMS (ML051010265) and made available to the public on April 22. A public meeting to discuss the ANL database and correlation was proposed for late October or early November 2005.

Belgonucleaire MALIBU Program Review Meeting

On May 11-12, 2005, the 2nd MALIBU program committee meeting (PCM) was held near Avignon, France. Under this program, high burnup spent fuel samples, up to 80 Gwd/MtU [gigaWatt-days per metric ton of uranium] burnup, from MOX [mixed oxide] and UO₂ [uranium oxide] fuels are being acquired and analyzed for use in code validation. Measurements are being performed and cross checked between three independent laboratories: SCK/CEN (Belgium), PSI (Switzerland), and CEA (France). The MALIBU data will provide isotopic measurements on high burnup UO₂ and MOX fuel samples with very high confidence in the measurement accuracy and with low uncertainty. These results will be crucial for validating codes used by the NRC to confirm predicted high burnup fuel isotopic compositions used in burnup credit, decay heat, radiation source terms, and accident analyses.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Millstone License Renewal Application

On May 18, 2005, the Emergency Preparedness Directorate (EPD) staff provided support to the Office of General Counsel, at a meeting with representatives from Suffolk County, New York, and the licensee (Dominion/Millstone), as parties to a petition filed by Suffolk County to intervene in the Millstone license renewal application. This meeting was requested by the NRC's Atomic Safety Licensing Board. Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives of the State of New York and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The meeting provided an opportunity for discussion with Suffolk County representatives regarding their concerns associated with the Millstone application. Most of those concerns focused on emergency preparedness (EP). The basis for EP and the 10 and 50 mile emergency planning zones were described by the EPD staff. Dominion presented a discussion on past and continuing interactions with Suffolk County and associated municipalities in the EP process. Suffolk County continues to have specific concerns with evacuation issues and believes that these concerns need to be considered in the license renewal process.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Contract Award

On May 9, 2005, a competitive time and materials type delivery order No. DR-33-05-346 was awarded to Ruland Associates, Incorporated under the General Service Administration's Federal Supply Schedule. The contractor shall provide hardware and software support for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Technology Assessment Lab. The total estimated cost is \$691,093. The period of performance is four years, including three one-year options.

May 20, 2005

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
May 13 through May 19, 2005:

Records containing information on named individual	FOIA/PA-2005-0232
Radioactive materials authorized users licenses, Region I, current with fax numbers	FOIA/PA-2005-0233
NRC Reporter, Tomorrow's News Tonight, copy of an issue of each	FOIA/PA-2005-0234
Beaver Valley Power Station, recent investigation re: guard fatigue, reports, interviews, e-mails, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0235
Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, docket no. 72-005, license no. SFGL-03, application, permit, licensing, inspections, costs, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0236
NRC Credit card holders	FOIA/PA-2005-0237
NRC NMSS material licensees, complete list	FOIA/PA-2005-0238

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Arrivals		
Samuel Wren Fowler	Reactor Inspector (NSPDP)	R-II
Jeremy R. Groom	Reactor Inspector (NSPDP)	R-IV
Adam N. Kalkman	Student Clerk (Summer)	OI/R-III
Christopher Lange	Student Engineer (Summer)	OIG
John Lehning, III	General Engineer	NRR
Zachary Mehlhaff	Student Clerk (Summer)	R-IV
Thomas S. Woodson	Student Engineer (Summer)	R-IV
Mathew R. Young	Student Engineer (Summer)	R-IV
Departures		
Joe Foster	Sr. Intelligence Analyst	NSIR
Stephen Holmes	Reactor Inspector	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

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

The conclusion of the NRC inspection into the unplanned shutdown that led to an Alert declaration at Millstone.

Friday's announcement that Davis-Besse will return to the Reactor Oversight Process.

Other Public Affairs Items:

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

OPA has been working with several media outlets to coordinate interviews with Chairman Diaz, notably the magazines The Hill and Time.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
	No HQ Press Releases this week.
Regions:	
I-05-029	NRC Reports Preliminary Results of Millstone 3 Special Inspection (5/18)
III-05-026	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant (5/19)
III-05-027	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Fermi Nuclear Power Station (5/19)
III-05-028	NRC Terminates Special Oversight Panel, Begins Augmented Reactor Oversight Program for Davis-Besse (5/20)
IV-05-022	NRC to Discuss Performance Assessment for River Bend Nuclear Plant (5/17)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Visit by Korean Ministry of Science and Technology Officials

On May 16, 2005 an eight-member delegation from Korea's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) met with staff members from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response to discuss physical protection at nuclear power plants. The delegation also visited the Sandia National Laboratory and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) for additional discussions on physical protection.

May 20, 2005

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0073	4/28/05	Implementation of New U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Responsibilities Under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 in Reviewing Waste Determinations for the U.S. Department of Energy
2. SECY-05-0074	4/28/05	Proposed Rule to Amend the Fitness-For-Duty Requirements in 10 CFR Part 26
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0081	5/11/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 29, 2005
2. SECY-05-0083	5/12/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 6, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050511AB	5/18/05	SRM - All Employees Meeting
2. M050426	5/19/05	SRM - Briefing on Grid Stability and Offsite Power Issues

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey, dated May 9, 2005, responds to request that NRC expeditiously resolve its objections to release the publicly available version of the NAS report "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage."
2. Letter to Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., dated May 10, 2005, responds to request for NRC to take immediate action in response to the NAS report "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage."
3. Letter to Senator James M. Inhofe, dated May 13, 2005, concerns legislation which would enhance the security of nuclear facilities and materials falling within the jurisdiction of the NRC.

May 20, 2005

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (5/31/05).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (5/31/05).
3. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, USEC, Inc. (American Centrifuge Plant), Docket No. 70-7004-ML, ASLBP No. 05-838-01-ML.
4. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Andrew Siemaszko (Enforcement Action), IA-05-021, ASLBP No. 05-839-02-EA.

May 20, 2005

ENCLOSURE O

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Catawba Nuclear Plant - Regional Administrator Site Visit

On May 17, the Regional Administrator visited the Catawba nuclear plant for a site tour and met with licensee management and the NRC's resident inspectors.

May 20, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 20, 2005

Cooper Nuclear Station - Site Visit by the NRC's Executive Director for Operations

On May 16, 2005, the NRC's Executive Director of Operations visited Cooper Nuclear Station. During the visit, he was accompanied by the resident inspectors on a plant tour and also met with licensee management to discuss topics of interest involving the plant.

Fort Calhoun Station - Site Visit by the Deputy Regional Administrator

On May 16, 2005, the Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Fort Calhoun Station. During the visit, he was accompanied by the resident inspectors on a plant tour and also met with licensee management to discuss topics of interest involving the plant.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 20, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 20

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
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, Nuclear Threat Initiative, and Counsel on Foreign Relations	Reducing the Threat 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
Shane	May 26 SD-406	9:30	NRC, GAO, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Nustart Corp.	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	May 26 210 CHOB	1:00	Institute for International Security, International Science and Technology Center, and DOD	Building a Nuclear Bomb: Identifying Early Indicators of Terrorist Activities	Reps Linder/ Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack Homeland Security

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 20

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	TBA SD-562	TBA	OMB, GAO	Accountability and Results in Federal Budgeting	Senators Coburn/Carper Federal Financial Management, Government Information and International Security Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
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