INFORMATION REPORT

January 5, 2006 SECY-06-0003

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 2005

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Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/ Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste	S

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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U. Shoop, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
UShoop:paa	WMDean
1/05/06	1/05/06

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 2005

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: U. Shoop, OEDO by E-mail: uss@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Teleconference on the License Renewal Process

On December 20, 2005, the staff conducted a public teleconference/meeting on the license reneal process with the Nuclear Energy Institute, representatives of the industry, and the media. The meeting discussed lessons learned from the audit review process, license renewal process improvements, and development of a potential Interim Staff Guidance position on BWR Mark I containments. These monthly teleconferences help ensure continued effective communication with the industry and the public on the latest license renewal experience and potential future improvements in the license renewal process.

Seabrook Measurement Uncertainty Recapture (MUR) Power Uprate Meeting

On December 16, 2005, the staff met with FPL Energy, LLC, to discuss its MUR power uprate license amendment request. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss various areas of concern with ultrasonic flow measurement (UFM) technology that were provided to the licensee in a letter dated November 30, 2005. The licensee was supported by representatives from Caldon Incorporated, the vendor for the UFM technology proposed for use at Seabrook. Currently, the staff is planning to attend the calibration and testing of Seabrook's UFM at Alden labs the week of January 16, 2006. The staff plans to issue requests for additional information to the licensee in January 2006. No members of the public attended the meeting.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Louisiana Energy Services (LES) Management Meeting

On December 20, 2005, staff from Region II, the Office of the General Counsel, and NMSS met with management from LES to discuss issues related to the proposed uranium enrichment facility to be located in Eunice, NM. Issues discussed included the status of the licensing review, hearings, and key milestones for regulatory submittals.

Staff Observes Department of Energy (DOE) Audit of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC (BSC) Corrective Action Program (CAP)

On December 12-20, 2005, NRC and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) staff observed the DOE Office of Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Office of Quality Assurance audit of BSC conducted at the BSC facilities in Las Vegas, NV. The purpose of this audit was to evaluate the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of CAP-related requirements and activities. The NRC and CNWRA observers assessed the effectiveness of the DOE audit team and the audit process in achieving the audit objectives.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Decommissioning Consultation

On December 5, 2005, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection met with EPA staff to discuss the EPA response to NRC's letter dated October 18, 2005, regarding the Kerr McGee-Cushing site in Cushing, OK. NRC's letter notified EPA that the residual concentration levels in groundwater for total uranium exceed EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level, and requested a consultation between the two agencies, in accordance with the 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), "Consultation and Finality on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites." In a letter to NRC dated December 13, 2005, EPA stated that it reviewed the information provided in the NRC letter and is satisfied with how NRC addressed the issues raised for this consultation. This is the first formal consultation between the two agencies under the MOU. It was considered a Level 2 consultation because it concerned radioactive contamination remaining after completion of the Final Status Survey.

Participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Transport Safety Appraisal Service (TranSAS) Mission to Japan

On December 2-16, 2005, a staff member from the Spent Fuel Project Office participated in the subject mission. The objective of a TranSAS mission is to assist a country in achieving a high level of safety in the transport of radioactive material. This is achieved by reviewing the implementation of the IAEA Transport Regulations (TS-R-1) and making recommendations for improvement. The TranSAS mission to Japan was the seventh mission IAEA has conducted since the program was initiated in 1998. The thirteen-member IAEA team was composed of independent experts from member countries and IAEA staff members and consultants. In Tokyo, the team interviewed officials from the government agencies that regulate transportation of radioactive material in Japan. In addition, the team conducted visits to the Narita airport air

cargo areas, a nuclear power plant, a nuclear fuel fabrication facility, and emergency response facilities in the Tokai area. IAEA will prepare a final report on the TransSAS mission to Japan.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Multi-Agency Radiation Survey for Materials and Equipment (MARSAME) Manual Working Group Meeting for the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Assessment Manual (MARSSIM) Workgroup

From December 12 to 16, 2005, staff participated in the subject meeting to resolve comments on the draft MARSAME manual, which describes technical processes and methods for the radiological measurements of materials and equipment.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-05-030, ABB Prospects, Inc. - RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHIPMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENT (POSSIBLE MEDIA INTEREST).

2. PNO-II-05-013A, Southern Nuclear Operation Company, Inc. - UPDATE-VOGTLE UNIT 2 SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR RESIDUAL HEAT REMOVAL PIPE LEAK.

3. PNO-IV-05-017B, ProTechnics Division of Core Laboratories - FOLLOWUP ON LOST OR MISSING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL - UPDATE.

4. PNO-IV-05-018A, Iris NDT - UPDATE - RADIOGRAPHER'S DOSE EXCEEDS REGULATORY LIMITS.

5. PNO-RIII-05-017, Byron 1 and 2 - POTENTIAL GUNSHOT INJURY TO A SITE EMPLOYEE.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Proposed Rule on the Use of Electronic Submissions in Agency Hearings (AH74 - Parts 1, 2, 13, and 110)

On December 16, 2005, the NRC published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 74950) that would require the use of electronic submissions in all agency hearings except for those conducted on a high-level waste repository application. The proposed rule builds on prior NRC rules and developments in the Federal courts regarding the use of electronic submissions. The comment period for this action closes March 1, 2006.

Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-79) from Mr. Lawrence T. Christian, et al.

On December 19, 2005, the NRC published a notice in the Federal Register (70 FR 75085) that denied the subject petition for rulemaking. The petition requested that the NRC amend its regulations regarding offsite state and local government emergency plans for nuclear power plants to ensure that all daycare centers and nursery schools in the vicinity of nuclear power facilities are properly protected in the event of a radiological emergency. The NRC denied the petition because current NRC and Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations and guidance already require the inclusion of daycare centers and nursery schools in state and local government offsite emergency plans.

Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-31-5) from the Organization of Agreement States

On December 20, 2005, the NRC published a notice in the Federal Register (70 FR 75423) announcing the receipt of the subject petition for rulemaking. The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations to require specific licenses for devices that are currently regulated by a combination of general licensing and registration. The petitioner also requests that the compatibility category for 10 CFR 31.6 be revised from “B” to “C.” The petitioner believes that these actions are needed to establish a higher national standard of regulation for higher risk generally licensed devices. This document also requests public comment on a State of Florida request that the NRC change the compatibility category of 10 CFR 31.5 (c)(13)(i) from “B” to “C.” The comment period for this action closes March 6, 2006.

Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-35-18) from Peter G. Crane

On December 21, 2005, the NRC published a notice in the Federal Register (70 FR 75752) announcing the receipt of the subject petition for rulemaking. The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations governing the release of individuals who have been treated with radiopharmaceuticals for medical purposes. The petitioner requests that the patient release rule be partially revoked so that patients would not be released from radioactive isolation with more than the equivalent of 30 millicuries of radioactive iodine I-131 in their bodies. The comment period for this action closes March 6, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of December 16 through December 22, 2005:

OI Case re: allegations R1-1997-A-0033 & RI-1997-A-0126, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0058
Greenberg Radiology Imaging or Sam & Sonia Radiation Cancer Center, Lighting Products, Inc., Highland Park, IL, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0059
SES & SLS merit awards for 2005, 2004 & 2003	FOIA/PA-2006-0060
Commissioners' travel & telephone logs; calendars from 2002 to present; summary of meetings with industry reps or other stakeholders	FOIA/PA-2006-0061
Decommissioning cost studies for power reactors	FOIA/PA-2006-0062
Mailing list for contractors & agencies requesting janitorial & security guard services (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0063
Mailing list for contractors & agencies (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0064
Mailing list (Referral by GSA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0065
Correspondence between the Office of Workers' Compensation Program and NRC on named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0066
All communications between NRC & George F. Allen, Haley R. Barbour, Samuel D. Brownback, William H. Frist, Newton L. Gingrich, Rudolph Giuliani III, Charles T. Hagel, Michael Huckabee, John S. McCain III, George E. Pataki, or Willard M. Romney; FOIAs filed mentioning above names	FOIA/PA-2006-0067
OI Report 2-2003-037, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0068
Allegation files RI-2003-A-0053 & RI-2003-A-0068	FOIA/PA-2006-0069
Allegation NRR-97-A-0081 & correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2006-0070

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Arrival		
KOLLATH-ROMANO, PAUL E.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NSIR
WASHINGTON, BRITTNEY	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
Departures		
SEE, CONCHITA S.	TEAM LEADER	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

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

NRC staff's recommendation that a request for a hearing on Oyster Creek's license renewal application be denied.

The proposed merger of Florida Power & Light and Constellation Energy.

NRC's termination of consultation under the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation relating to the proposed license for Private Fuel Storage.

NRC's fine of Humboldt Bay for unaccounted spent fuel pieces.

NRC's renewal of Point Beach's operating licenses for another 20 years.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-167	NRC Renews Point Beach Nuclear Plant Operating Licenses for an Additional 20 Years (12/22)
Regions:	
III-05-046	NRC Proposes $60,000 Fine Against Point Beach Nuclear Plant for Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Information (12/19)
III-05-047	NRC Determined Potential Flooding at Kewaunee Nuclear Plant to be of Substantial Importance to Safety (12/22)
IV-05-040	NRC Staff Proposes $96,000 Civil Penalty Against PG&E for Spent Fuel Pool Storage Violations at Humboldt Bay (12/21)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0045	03/11/05	Denial of a Petition for Rulemaking to Revise 10 CFR Part 50 to Require Offsite Emergency Plans to Include Nursery Schools and Day Care Centers (PRM-50-79)
SRM-SECY-05-0045	10/26/05	(same)
Commission voting Record on 05-0045	10/26/05	(same)
2. SRM-SECY-05-0219	12/20/05	Issuance of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Generic Letter 2005-XX, "Grid Reliability and the Impact on Plant Risk and the Operability of Offsite Power"
Commission Voting Record on 05-0219	12/20/05	(same)
3. COMSECY-05-0015 (IN PART)	05/02/05	Initiatives for Increasing Agreement State Participation in the Control of Sources
SRM-COMSECY-05-0015	06/30/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0015	06/30/05	(same)
4. COMSECY-05-0028 (IN PART)	07/25/05	Staff Response to SRM for COMSECY-05-0015: Initiatives for Increasing Agreement State Participation in the Control of Sources
SRM-COMSECY-05-0028	08/15/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0028	08/15/05	(same)
5. SECY-05-0227	12/14/05	Final Rule - AP1000 Design Certification
6. SRM-SECY-05-0187	12/21/05	Status of Safety Culture Initiatives and Schedule for Near-Term Deliverables

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
Commission Voting Record on 05-0187	12/21/05	(same)
7. SRM-SECY-05-0212	12/23/05	Proposed Rulemaking - Clarification of NRC Civil Penalty Authority Over Contractors and Subcontractors Who Discriminate Against Employees for Engaging in Protected Activities (RIN 3150-AH59)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0212	12/23/05	(same)
8. COMSECY-05-0049R	10/24/05	Delegation of Authority for Imminent Security Threats to NRC Licensees
SRM-COMSECY-05-0049	12/23/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0049	12/23/05	(same)
Memoranda		
1. M051121B	12/19/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on the Status of New Reactor Issues
2. M051208A	12/20/05	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated December 15, 2005, provides the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

2. Letter to Congresswoman Sue Kelly, dated December 16, 2005, concerns recent meeting to discuss issues concerning Indian Point.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Reconstitution, System Energy Resources, Inc., Docket No. 52-009-ESP, ASLBP No. 04-823-03-ESP.

2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Joint Meeting of the Subcommittees on Human Factors and on Reliability and Probability Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (1/25/06).

3. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (1/19/06).

4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (1/11/06).

5. Petition for Rulemaking; notice of receipt, 10 CFR Part 34, Docket No. PRM-34-06, Organization of Agreement States; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

6. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (1/26-27/06).

7. ACNW, notice of 167th meeting (1/10-12/06).

8. Application for a License to Export High-Enriched Uranium.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Oconee - Management Meeting with Duke Energy Corporation

On December 20, 2005, Region II management met with representatives from the Duke Energy Corporation in the Regional Office to discuss the operating performance of Oconee Nuclear Units 1, 2 and 3 and the reactor building coating remediation plans.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

Palisades Vessel Head Replacement Meeting

On December 21, 2005, Region III staff members met with representatives of Nuclear Management Company at the Region III office in Lisle, Illinois to discuss the company's plan to replace the Palisades reactor vessel head during the 2007 outage.

Point Beach's Performance Improvements Meeting

On December 21, 2005, Region III staff members met with representatives of Nuclear Management Company at the Region III office in Lisle, Illinois to discuss the company's progress in addressing the items in the Confirmatory Action Letter for Point Beach.

Tritium Contamination near Braidwood Meeting

On December 20, 2005, Region III staff attended a meeting in Springfield, Illinois, between the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Exelon representatives to discuss the elevated tritium levels in groundwater on and near the Braidwood site. IEPA recently issued a letter to Exelon citing violations of the states' Environmental Protection Act. The purpose of the meeting was to update the state on the status of monitoring and sampling plans and Exelon activities to inform the public and characterize the severity and extent of the contamination.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 23, 2005

As a result of its 528th meeting (December 7-10, 2005), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.	
Date	**Subject**
December 23, 2005	Early Site Permit Application for the Grand Gulf Site and the Associated Final Safety Evaluation Report

As a result of its 166th meeting (December 13-14, 2005), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.	
Date	**Subject**
December 23, 2005	West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) - ACNW Working Group Meeting