INFORMATION REPORT

March 30, 2006 SECY-06-0072

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
L. Rakovan, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
LRakovan:paa	WMDean
03/30/06	03/31/06

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2006

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: L. Rakovan, OEDO by E-mail: ljr2@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Workshop on Draft Regulatory Guide for Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants

On March 15, 2006, the staff participated in a public workshop with approximately 70 members of industry representing future Combined License (COL) applicants, as well as representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), General Electric, and Westinghouse. The purpose of this first of three proposed workshops was to discuss the NRC's overall development of a Draft Regulatory Guide (DG)-1145 for COL applicants and to have technical branches discuss their respective sections of DG-1145. In addition to providing workshop attendees with copies of the draft Chapter 12 of DG-1145 (Radiation Protection), the staff gave a presentation of those areas that it would like to see contained in a COL application referencing a certified design.

Monthly Mitigating Systems Performance Index Public Meeting

On March 22, 2006, the staff hosted the monthly Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) public meeting at NRC headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed the status of the staff review of the MSPI basis documents, status of industry peer review of the MSPI basis document for the support cooling water system, and remaining MSPI milestones.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process Public Meeting

On March 23, 2006, the staff hosted the Monthly Reactor Oversight Process public meeting at NRC headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed the definition of a performance deficiency, safety culture transition issues, performance indicators program improvement initiatives, and open and new performance indicator frequently asked questions.

License Renewal Application for Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim Nuclear Power Stations

On March 21, 2006, the staff completed the acceptance reviews for the license renewal applications for the Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim Nuclear Power Stations, and determined that the applications contain sufficient information for docketing. On January 27, 2006, the staff received, from Entergy Nuclear Operation, Inc., an application for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station and an application for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station requesting the extension of the operating licenses for an additional 20 years. Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim Nuclear Power Stations are both boiling water reactors (BWRs) designed by General Electric with current operating licenses that expire on March 21, 2012, and June 8, 2012, respectively.

Public Meeting too discuss proposed Interim Staff Guidance for License Renewal

On March 23, 2006, the NRC staff met with NEI to discuss development of an Interim Staff Guidance document for reactor license renewal concerning aging management for BWR Mark I steel containment drywell shells. Members of the public and representatives of public interest groups, the State of Vermont, licensees, and the media participated in the meeting by phone.

Public Meetings on the Monticello Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

On March 22, 2006, the staff conducted two public meetings at the Monticello, Minnesota, Community Center to solicit comments from the public on the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). The draft SEIS, which was issued on January 23, 2006 (Supplement 26), is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). The meetings were conducted at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The staff held an open house for one hour prior to each meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally with NRC staff and view informational displays and brochures. The public comment period for the Monticello SEIS ends on May 4, 2006. At the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received and revise the SEIS, as appropriate. The staff plans to issue the final SEIS in September 2006.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee Meeting on R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

On March 15 and 16, 2006, the staff and licensee met with the ACRS Subcommittee on Power Uprates regarding the extended power uprate application at Ginna. The staff's presentation was based on its draft safety evaluation. The next Power Uprate Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2006. The ACRS full-committee plans to meet on the Ginna uprate application on May 4, 2006.

Proposed Constellation Energy - Florida Power & Light Group Merger

On March 8, 2006, the Maryland Office of the People's Counsel, an independent State agency established to represent the interests of residential consumers in utility cases, filed a Petition for Leave to Intervene in the proceedings on the three stations owned by Constellation Generation Group. The application for the indirect transfer of the licenses for Ginna, Calvert Cliffs, and Nine Mile Point was submitted on January 23, 2006. In an Order dated March 17, 2006, the Petitions were dismissed because the Commission's procedural requirements were not satisfied. For example, the Petitioner did not provide any proposed contentions. However, the Petitioner was informed that comments may still be filed with the NRC by March 24, 2006, regarding the license transfer applications, pursuant to 10 CFR. 2.1305, "Written Comments."

Public Meeting on Abnormal Tritium Discharges

On March 22, 2006, a public meeting was held at NRC headquarters to discuss the occurrence of abnormal tritium discharges from nuclear power plants with industry. In attendance at the meeting was Congressman Engle from New York as well as a large number of public participants. The meeting was widely attended by industry, members of the public, newspaper reporters and trade press. NRC staff presented a detailed overview of the regulations, policy, and guidance on the topics of radiological effluent and environmental monitoring. There was also discussion about the newly formed Lessons Learned Task Force; its composition, scope of its work, and schedule.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

NRC Quarterly Meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the Yucca Mountain Project

On March 21, 2006, NRC and DOE staff held a Quarterly Management Meeting on the Yucca Mountain Project, in Rockville, MD. DOE provided updates on the Yucca Mountain Project, including: (1) DOE's 2007 budget request; (2) a near-term schedule; (3) a US Geologic Survey Infiltration Model status; (4) a lead lab transition plan; (5) information on design activities and decisions; (6) the Licensing Support Network; (7) current quality assurance issues; (8) corrective action program improvements; and (9) actions taken regarding the requirements flowdown and design control problems discussed at the December 2005 Quarterly Management Meeting. DOE stated that it does not intend to submit a license application in FY 2007, and plans to release a schedule in the June/July timeframe, showing the projected submission date for the license application.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Publication of NUREG/CR-6900, "The Effect of Elevated Temperature On Concrete Materials and Structures: A Literature Review"

RES has published the subject NUREG. This work was performed to support NRC efforts in the review of pre-applications for advanced reactors where the operating temperature is expected to be higher than the current reactors. This work also addressed current licensing concerns in plants where operating temperatures have exceeded recommended temperature limits.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6901, "Current State of Reliability Modeling Methodologies for Digital Systems and Their Acceptance Criteria for Nuclear Power Plant Assessments"

RES has published the subject NUREG. This report describes the issues that should be addressed in reliability modeling of digital instrumentation and control (I&C) systems. It also describes how these models should be incorporated into existing plant probabilistic risk analyses in such a way that digital I&C system's contribution to plant risk can be accounted for properly. The report also outlines proposed acceptance criteria for digital I&C system models used in regulatory applications.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Fitness for Duty Programs; Notice of Meeting (AF12- Part 26)

On March 17, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 13782) announcing a meeting to obtain stakeholder feedback on issues related to the contemplated revision of the fitness-for-duty regulations. The NRC is seeking an exchange of views on the NRC staff's alternative concepts for work-hour controls and the applicability of drug, alcohol, and access authorization program requirements to combined license holders during construction. The meeting will be held March 29 and 30, 2006.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 (Amendment 6) (AH87- Part 72)

On March 21, 2006, the NRC published a direct final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 14089) that amends the VSC-24 entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (Amendment 6). This action modifies the present cask system design to revise Technical Specification requirements related to periodic monitoring during storage operation under a general license. The direct final rule becomes effective June 5, 2006.

On March 21, 2006, the NRC published the companion proposed rule to this direct final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 14120). The comment period closes April 20, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of March 17 through March 23, 2006:

MLTS database information on license no. 29-30703-11, Warren NJ	FOIA/PA-2006-0144
Eastern Technologies, Inc., Ashford, AL, copy of application for license to import radioactive waste from Mexico, filed 2-3-06	FOIA/PA-2006-0145
Freehold Corporate Center, 303 West Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728, license no.'s 29-06760-07 & 29-06760-08, use of radioactive materials	FOIA/PA-2006-0146
Eastern Technologies, Inc., Ashford, AL, copy of application for license to import radioactive waste from Mexico, filed 2-3-06	FOIA/PA-2006-0147
Declassification responsibilities - Referral by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	FOIA/PA-2006-0148
Three Mile Island fallout & contamination, Arkansas; Chernobyl fallout & contamination in the U.S.; Pine Bluff Arsenal, release of radioactive materials in the air	FOIA/PA-2006-0149
Rhodia (formerly Kraft), 257 & 259 Prospect Plains Road, Middlesex County, NJ, 08512, use of radioactive chemicals	FOIA/PA-2006-0150
Contracts NRC0704540 & NRC3304329, statement of work, RFP/RFQ, labor categories, labor hours & rates, task orders, etc.	FOIA/PA-2006-0151

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Arrival		
BARR, JONATHAN A.	NUCLEAR SAFETY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT	RES
Departures		
HIGGINS, MARISA C.	LEGAL INTERN	OGC

Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Mentoring Program Orientation

On March 15, 2006, SBCR conducted a Mentoring Program Orientation for mentoring pairs. The orientation is designed to provide participants with information regarding the program process, participant roles and responsibilities, and to assist participants in identifying career strengths and developmental areas requiring additional focus.

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Media Interest

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

Groundwater sampling results at the Indian Point nuclear plant.

Yucca Mountain Quarterly meeting with DOE.

Tritium public meeting and NRC taskforce formation.

Renewal of licenses for Oyster Creek and Pilgrim nuclear plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-038	NRC Names J. Sam Armijo to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (3/22/06)
06-039	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing on Application to Renew Operating License for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (3/22/06)
06-040	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request Hearing on Application to Renew Operating License for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (3/22/06)
06-041	NRC Meeting March 29-30 to Discuss Worker Fatigue Rules, Applying Drug-Testing Rules to Construction Personnel (3/23/06)
Regions:	
I-06-014	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant (3/21/06)
I-06-015	NRC to Discuss Indian Point Annual Assessment Results, Preliminary Findings from Special Inspection on March 28 (3/21/06)
I-06-016	NRC to Discuss 2005 Assessment for Millstone Nuclear Plant at Two Public Meetings Scheduled for March 29 (3/22/06)
I-06-017	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant (3/23/06)
II-06-004	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance for Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant (3/22/06)
II-06-005	NRC Staff Responds to Security Concerns at Harris Nuclear Power Plant Near Raleigh (3/22/06)

II-06-006	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance at Summer Nuclear Power Plant (3/24/06)
II-06-007	NRC Sends Special Inspection Team to Vogtle Nuclear Plant to Review Cause of Repeat Leakage in Shutdown Cooling System (3/24/06)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM on SECY-06-0007	3/22/06	Staff Plan to make a Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Revision to 10 CFR Part 50
Voting Record on SECY-06-0007	3/22/06	(same)
2. COMJSM-06-0001	1/17/06	Regulation of Groundwater Protection at In Situ Leach Uranium Extraction Facilities
SRM-COMJSM-06-0001	3/23/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0001	3/23/06	(same)
3. COMSECY-06-0016	3/6/06	Proposed Revision of the Interim Enforcement Discretion Policy for the Fire Protection Rule - 10 CFR 50.48(c) (NFPA 805 Rule)
SRM on COMSECY-06-0016	3/24/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0016	3/24/06	(same)
Information Papers		
SECY-06-0064	3/22/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 10, 2006
Memoranda		
M060313	3/22/06	Staff Requirements - Briefing on OIS Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to General Paul Sullivan, North American Aerospace Defense Command, dated March 17, 2006, expresses appreciation for visit to NORAD-USNORTHCOM Headquarters.

2. Letter to Ambassador John Negrophonte, Director of National Intelligence, dated March 16, 2006, provides NRC staff's response to questions about NRC's inventory of procedures governing SGI and SUNSI programs.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plan License Renewal, notice of meeting (4/5/06).

2. ACRS, notice of 531st meeting (4/5-8/06).

3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, renewal notice.

4. State of Minnesota: Discontinuance of certain Commission Regulatory Authority within the State; Notice of Agreement between the NRC and the State of Minnesota.

5. Establishment of Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB), in the Matter of David Geisen (Enforcement Action).

6. Establishment of ASLB, in the Matter of Dale L. Miller (Enforcement Action).

7. Establishment of ASLB, in the Matter of Steven P. Moffitt (Enforcement Action).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Indian Point Emergency Planning Summit

On March 22, 2006, the Regional Administrator and representatives from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response participated in a meeting on emergency planning for Indian Point that was sponsored by Congresswoman Sue Kelly. The meeting was led by the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Attendees included: Congressional staff from the offices of Senators Clinton and Schumer, and Representatives Engel, Lowey, and Hinchey; representatives from the State of New York and the four emergency planning zone Counties; officials from the town of Cortlandt, New York; and representatives from Entergy. The discussion topics included the role of the Federal government in emergency planning, the concerns of local officials regarding existing emergency plans, and the grant programs administered by DHS. The NRC and DHS agreed to participate in a future meeting, after the State and Counties have met separately to consolidate and prioritize a list of emergency planning issues.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Commissioner Merrifield Visits Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

On March 20, 2006, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant for a site tour and meeting with licensee management.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Kewaunee End-Of-Cycle Public Meeting

On March 22, 2006, the Regional Administrator and members of the Region III staff met with representatives of Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc., in Kewaunee, Wis., to discuss the results of NRC's annual performance assessment of the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant.

Fermi 2 End-of-Cycle Public Meeting

On March 22, 2006, members of the Region III staff met with representatives of Detroit Edison Co. in Monroe, Mich., to discuss the results of NRC's annual performance assessment of the Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant.

Point Beach Safety-Culture and End-of-Cycle Meetings

On March 23, 2006, the Regional Administrator and members of the regional staff met with representatives of Nuclear Management Co. in Two Rivers, Wis., in separate meetings to discuss the licensee's safety culture survey of the Point Beach staff and the NRC's annual performance assessment of the Point Beach plant. The meeting was held in a township hall, and members of the public and the news media participated in the meeting through a teleconference connection.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

Commissioner Merrifield Visit to Entergy Nuclear and Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3

On March 22, 2006, Commissioner Merrifield visited the Entergy Nuclear corporate office in Jackson, Mississippi, where he met with the Entergy Nuclear Chief Executive Officer and conducted an all-hands meeting. The following day, he toured the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 facility, met with senior licensee management, and the NRC resident inspectors.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 24, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 11					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/28/06 TBA	TBA	GAO, DOE/NNSA, DHS/Customs and Border Protection	GAO findings with regard to counterfeiting an NRC license and general availability of exempt quantity radioactive sources	Senators Coleman/Levin Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Decker	03/30/06 SD-138	10:00	DOE	Yucca Mountain/EM/Office of Safeguards and Security	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Appropriations
Decker	03/30/06 2362-B RHOB	10:00	DOE	DOE-Energy Supply and Conservation	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky
Keeling	04/04/06 2247 RHOB	2:00	NRC, GAO, NEI, Exelon, Connecticut Attorney General, POGO	NRC efforts to define the DBT and set protective standards for the Nuclear Power Industry	Reps. Shays/Kucinich National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations Government Reform
Combs	April	TBA	DOE	Status of Yucca Mountain license application	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Decker	TBA	TBA	TBA	U.S.-Indian Nuclear Agreement	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 11					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	04/26/06 TBA	TBA	NRC, GAO, DOE/OCRWM, DOE/IG, Bechtel	Yucca Mountain Project: Persistent Management and Quality Assurance	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Shane	05/08/07 TBA	TBA	TBA	New Nuclear Power Plants	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources