INFORMATION REPORT

July 25, 2006 SECY-06-0163

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 2006

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*No input this week.

/RA/
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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Taylor, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
RTaylor:paa	WMDean
07/25/06	07/25/06

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 2006

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: R. Taylor, OEDO by E-mail: rxt2@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

National Nuclear Accrediting Board Meeting

On July 12, 2006, the Director of NRR observed two meetings of the National Nuclear Accrediting Board. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recognizes the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations managed accreditation as a means of meeting a systems approach to training requirements. Observation of the National Nuclear Accrediting Board meetings allows NRC to monitor the implementation of programmatic aspects of the accreditation process, to understand what is happening with industry training programs, to assess the effectiveness of the accreditation process, and to determine the overall well-being of industry training programs.

Presentation to Visitors from Japan

On July 13 and 14, 2006, the Division of Inspection and Regional Support staff provided a briefing on the Reactor Oversight Process to managers of the Japanese Nuclear Energy Safety Organization, members of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Japanese university staff. This group is currently visiting the United States as part of their on-going study of foreign nuclear regulatory processes to improve Japanese regulations related to maintenance and inspections of nuclear power plants. The staff briefed the group on the NRC strategy on nuclear power plant inspections, historical perspectives on Reactor Oversight Process development, baseline and Problem Identification and Resolution Inspections, daily inspection activities by resident inspectors, and Agency positions on online maintenance and condition-based maintenance.

Staff Holds Public Meetings Related to the License Renewal of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

On July 12, 2006, the staff conducted two meetings in Toms River, NJ, to solicit comments from the public on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) regarding the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Renewal Review. The Draft Supplement 28, published on June 9, 2006, is a plant specific supplement to the “Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants” (NUREG-1437). Approximately 100 people attended the meetings, including members of the public and representatives of the NRC staff, Argonne National Laboratory, Amergen, local citizen organizations, and local news media. Public comments and questions were mainly focused on NRC regulatory oversight, impact on aquatic species, and alternatives to license renewal. As part of the public outreach effort the staff held an open house for one hour prior to the start of each meeting. The open house provided members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally with NRC staff and view informational displays and brochures.

The public comment period ends on September 8, 2006. At the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received and revise the DSEIS accordingly. The final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS) is scheduled to be published in January 2007.

Staff Issues Supplement 1 to NUREG-1811, “Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the North Anna ESP Site”

On July 6, 2006, the staff issued the subject supplement for public comment. The supplement evaluates the impacts of Dominion’s change to the cooling system for postulated Unit 3 and the increase in power level from 4300 to 4500 Megawatts-thermal for both postulated Units 3 and 4. It includes the staff’s preliminary recommendation that the ESP should be issued. The staff concluded that there are no environmentally preferable or obviously superior sites. The staff has preliminarily concluded that the site preparation and preliminary construction activities allowed by 10 CFR 50.10(e)(1) will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact that cannot be redressed. A 45-day public comment period is expected to begin on July 14, 2006, with the Notice of Availability of the draft EIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The staff has scheduled a public meeting at the Louisa County Middle School on August 15, 2006, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft EIS.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

NASA's Office of Safety and Mission Assurance (NASA/OSMA) Meeting

On June 29, 2006, RES staff met with NASA/OSMA staff to discuss potential collaboration in the areas of digital system reliability analysis, software reliability analysis and digital system failure data collection and analysis. NASA/OSMA and RES both have on-going research and development programs in these areas. It was agreed that RES and NASA/OSMA would start to share, as appropriate, non-proprietary information and data, and to investigate putting in place a formal agreement on more extensive data sharing and cooperative research and development in areas of mutual interest.

NRC Staff Participation in the Meeting of the French Standing Group (GPR) of Experts for Reactors on the EPR Project

On July 6, 2006, RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff participated in discussions with the French Standing Group (GPR) of experts for reactors on the EPR project. The French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) organized this meeting to review several issues from the ASN's safety assessment of the EPR "Flamanville 3" Project. In addition to French reactor experts, members of the GPR include experts from Germany and Finland. This meeting was one of a series of meetings to review the EPR safety assessment in support of a decision to approval the Flamanville 3 project. Participation in this meeting provided staff an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the French review process for the Flamanville 3 project and of those technical issues that were the subject of the meeting.

Meeting with the Committee for the National Academies Radiation Source Use and Replacement Study

On July 10, 2006, the RES Director presented to the National Academies the charge to the committee for the "Radiation Source Use and Replacement" study. The committee also heard presentations from other NRC representatives, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, source manufacturers and users, and a Congressional staff member. This study, mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, will review the current industrial, research, and commercial (including medical) uses of radiation sources to identify uses for which: (1) the radiation source can be replaced with an equivalent (or improved) process that does not require the use of radioisotopes; or (2) the radiation source can be replaced with another radiation source that poses a lower risk to public health and safety if it is involved in an accident or used in a terrorist attack. Further information on this meeting and study is available at the National Academies' website (www.nationalacademies.org).

Amendment to the Letter of Agreement Between the NRC and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA) Relating to International Common-Cause Failure Data Exchange (ICDE) Project

On July 10, 2006, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Amendment, which clarifies the terms and conditions by which the NRC and OECD/NEA will continue to

cooperate in the exchange of international common-cause failure data on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. Participation in the project gives the NRC access to proprietary foreign data that would not otherwise be available. These data augment the NRC's common-cause failure database with foreign experience and enable the staff to compare domestic operating experience with that of other countries to glean insights for use in quantitative risk studies and inspection activities.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6882, "Assessment of Wireless Technology and Their Application at Nuclear Facilities"

On July 12, 2006, RES published the subject NUREG, which identifies and assesses the safety-related issues that may be posed by the implementation of wireless systems in nuclear facilities. Currently, wireless technology is not used as an integral element of safety-related systems in nuclear facilities. This report documents the technology considerations, deployment issues, and implementation considerations that could contribute to the technical basis for comprehensive guidance on wireless systems. It is expected to help future instrumentation and controls designers select compatible wireless systems for nuclear facilities.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Preliminary Notification

- PNO-IV-06-003A, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1,-UPDATE-PALO VERDE UNIT 1 EXTENDED SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR SHUTDOWN COOLING VALVE VIBRATION.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NUHOMS® HD Addition; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule (AH93 - Part 72)

On July 13, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 39520) that withdraws a direct final rule that would have added the NUHOMS® HD cask system to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (AH93 - Part 72). The NRC is taking this action because it received significant adverse comments in response to an identical proposed rule which was published concurrently with the direct final rule.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of July 7 through July 13, 2006:

Medical records & reports on named individual re: docket 55-30126, license OP-31211	FOIA/PA-2006-0241
MLTS database, active & retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2006-0242
Allegation NRR-2005-A-0035, including all correspondence between named individual & NRC	FOIA/PA-2006-0243
Indian Point leaks of tritiated water, all correspondence between NRC & Entergy Nuclear Northeast & any NY State agency between 5-5-2006 & 7-7-2006	FOIA/PA-2006-0244
Millstone Unit 3 power upgrade, all documents pertaining to present request under consideration	FOIA/PA-2006-0245
Indian Point, all records regarding safety violations since 1-1-00	FOIA/PA-2006-0246
OI report 3-2004-015, interview transcripts of named individuals	FOIA/PA-2006-0247

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Arrival		
EL-TELEATY, SHADIA S.	SUMMER FACULTY	HR
ELLIS, TWANA Y.	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
NEWELL, KARENINA	PROGRAM ANALYST	CFO
PURCIARELLO, GERARD J.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
WILSON, JOSHUA	RX SYS ENG/ PROJECT MGR.	NRR
Departures		
BRASWELL, DEBORAH D.	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
DENNING, RICHARD S.	MEMBER	ACRS

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0127	5/31/06	Revised Self-Evaluation Criteria for the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes
SRM on 06-0127	6/12/06	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0127	6/12/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0151	7/7/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 30, 2006
2. SECY-06-0121	5/22/06	Development of a Proposed Rule to Incorporate Security Assessments in New Reactor Design Requirements
3. SECY-06-0155	7/13/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 7, 2006

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Marvin Fertel, NEI, dated June 30, 2006, concerns risk-informed and performance-based initiatives.

2. Letter to Congress, dated June 30, 2006, provides NRC's views on Bill S.2589; and Bill S.2610.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Periodic Management Meeting with New Hampshire Agreement State Program

On July 12, 2006, the Regional State Agreements Officer and the Agreement State Project Officer from the Office of State and Tribal Programs met the New Hampshire Radiation Program Director and management to discuss the status of the Agreement State program. Important topics discussed at the meeting included the State's progress on filling staffing vacancies and meeting NRC compatibility requirements. The State has only one overdue NRC regulation which they plan to adopt by January 2007. The program continues to have strong management support within State government.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs Visits Region II

On July 13, 2006, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs (DEDR), OEDO, visited the Region II Office and met with senior managers and regional staff.

On July 14, 2006, the DEDR and Regional Administrator visited the Crystal River Nuclear Plant for a site tour and met with licensee management.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 14, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 26					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	07/11/06 311 CHOB	2:00	Markup	Chemical Facility Security Act	Reps. Lungren/Sanchez Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity Homeland Security
Shane	07/11/06 2247 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Improving Federal Employee Appeals	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Shane	07/11/06 SD-342 **Postponed**	2:30	TBA	Cyber Security Issues	Senators Coburn/Carper Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Combs	07/19/06 2125 RHOB	2:00	DOE	DOE's schedule for Yucca Mountain	Reps. Hall/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce