INFORMATION REPORT

November 21, 2006 SECY-06-0223

For: The Commissioners

From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 2006

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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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L. Rakovan, OEDO

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Contact:
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11/08/06	11/21/06

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 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 October 27, 2006

Meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to discuss electrical issues

On October 26, 2006, the staff met with FERC to discuss the North American Electrical Reliability Council (NERC)/FERC program and documents that FERC has endorsed that apply to Nuclear Power Plants. Other areas addressed included the scope and status of the Department of Energy/FERC/NRC grid status monitoring map and the FERC modeling and analysis. FERC provided the results of their review of NRC's inspection performance monitoring, human factors research, and use of simulators for training.

Reactor Oversight Process

On October 24, 2006, the staff held the monthly Reactor Oversight Process public meeting at NRC headquarters. Meeting topics included discussions on Mitigating Systems Performance Index implementation, safety culture integration into the Reactor Oversight Process, performance indicator issues, and open and new frequently asked questions.

Senior Reactor Analysts Counterpart Meeting

During the week of October 23, 2006, the staff hosted a Senior Reactor Analysts Counterpart meeting at the Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The meeting agenda focused on training and other topics involving risk assessment of inspection findings. Meeting attendees included the Senior Reactor Analysts representing each Regional office and NRC Headquarters.

Meeting with Brookhaven National Laboratory and General Electric

On October 18, 2006, the staff and contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory met with representatives from General Electric's (GE) Lungmen project at the Foxboro facility of Invensys, a GE contractor. The purpose of the meeting was to gain an overview of the Lungmen project, which is an advanced boiling-water reactor, and understand how it relates to the Economic Simplified Boiling-Water Reactor in terms of human factors engineering aspects. The Lungmen site is located in Taiwan, and at the time of the meeting, some of the actual control room equipment was still at the Foxboro facility.

Public Meeting on 10 CFR Part 52 Final Rule

On October 25, 2006, the staff held a public meeting for the purpose of answering stakeholder questions about the draft final rule language for 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," and for other 10 CFR Parts affected by the Part 52 rulemaking. The draft final rule language was made publicly available on September 28, 2006. The staff answered stakeholder questions about the draft final rule language and outlined several changes to the rule that have been made since the draft final rule language was made available.

Meeting with Sump Strainer Vendors, Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group and NEI

On October 19, 2006, staff met with NEI and strainer vendors to discuss chemical effects issues related to Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191. The staff summarized recent NRC-sponsored chemical effects testing, and strainer vendors discussed their individual approaches to addressing the chemical effects issue. The staff and NEI also discussed some possible ways to reduce conservatisms in the GSI-191 evaluation methodology and to reduce plants' vulnerabilities to strainer clogging. NEI agreed to consider providing proposals for reducing conservatisms in specific areas of the GSI-191 evaluation methodology. The staff emphasized that any such changes must be fully justified.

Direct Final Rule Signed by Acting Executive Director for Operations

On October 31, 2006, the Acting Executive Director for Operations approved a direct final rule which revises 10 CFR 50.68, “Criticality accident requirements,” so that the requirements governing criticality control for spent fuel pool storage racks do not apply to the fuel within a spent fuel transportation package or storage cask when a package or cask is in a spent fuel pool. These packages and casks are subject to the criticality control requirements in 10 CFR Parts 71 and 72, respectively. This action is necessary to avoid applying two different sets of criticality control requirements to fuel within a package or cask in a spent fuel pool.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Technical Exchange on the U.S. Department of Energy's High-Level Waste Repository Performance Assessment

From October 24 to 25, 2006, the NRC and the U.S Department of Energy staff held a technical exchange in Las Vegas, Nevada on the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The exchange included discussions on numerous aspects of repository performance assessment. This meeting was also attended by representatives from the State of Nevada and other interested parties.

Public Meeting in Piketon, Ohio, to Discuss the USEC, Inc. Safety Evaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement

On October 18, 2006, the staff held a public meeting in Piketon, Ohio, to discuss the USEC, Inc. Safety Evaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed American Centrifuge Plant, a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility to be located in Piketon, Ohio. About 50 people attended the two-hour meeting. After presentations, the staff answered questions related to historical preservation, waste streams, safety and security at the plant, and depleted uranium tails storage and disposal.

Public Meeting with Holtec International on HI-STAR 180 Storage/Transportation Cask

On October 24, 2006, the staff met with Holtec International to discuss the criticality safety design of the HI-STAR 180 storage/transportation cask which Holtec is planning to submit to the NRC for review and approval by the end of 2006. The discussion was focused on the use of Moderator Exclusion, per Diision of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation (SFST) Interim Staff Guidance -19 (ISG-19), under the hypothetical accident conditions. ISG-19 provides alternatives in demonstrating the criticality safety of high-burnup spent fuel assemblies in casks under transport accident conditions in light of the lack of data on cladding materials. The staff provided a number of clarifications on the use of ISG-19. The HI-STAR 180 cask can accommodate a 32-PWR with flux traps or a 37-Pressurized Water Reactor with burnup credit baskets. The cask is being designed by Holtec for one of their international clients.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Technical Evaluation Report

On October 20, 2006, the staff issued a Technical Evaluation Report describing the staff's review of a draft incidental waste determination prepared by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center Tank Farm Facility (INTEC TFF). The report concludes that DOE has met the appropriate criteria under Section 3116 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2005 for determining that the residual waste is not high-level radioactive waste and need not be disposed of in a geologic repository. Once DOE issues its final waste determination for the INTEC TFF, it may commence actions to stabilize and dispose of the waste onsite.

Interagency Meeting on the Inadvertent Importation of Radioactive Materials

On October 18, 2006, staff met with other Federal departments and agencies to discuss the processes and protocols for handling the inadvertent importing of radioactive materials. This interagency meeting was initiated by NRC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The meeting was held at EPA offices in Washington, DC. Participants discussed government-wide and agency-specific technical, communication, and coordination issues related to the handling of radioactive materials identified by Customs during cargo screening at points of entry. This was a follow-on to an earlier coordination meeting held at EPA in November 2005 and the interagency materials tabletop exercise sponsored by NRC on August 30, 2006. NRC plans to continue meeting with the agencies on these matters through the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

RES Public Meeting with Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on Materials Engineering Research Programs

On October 17-18, 2006, the subject meeting was held to discuss primary system materials degradation mechanisms and research. Representatives from EPRI's Materials Reliability Program presented their evaluations of primary system materials degradation mechanisms and described EPRI's related research programs. RES staff presented an overview of the NRC's Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment program. The meeting provided an opportunity to identify materials degradation research of mutual interest which may be amenable to collaboration or sharing. The RES and EPRI representatives agreed to meet on a semiannual basis, with February 2007 proposed for the next meeting.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-06-021, Ohmart Vega Corporation - BREACHED CESIUM-137-SOURCES

2. PNO-II-06-004, AREVA, NP, Inc. - WORKERS EXPOSED TO HYDROGEN FLUORIDE (HF) RELEASE

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Power Reactor Security Requirements (AG63 - Parts 50, 72, and 73)

On October 26, 2006, the NRC published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 62664) that would amend the current security regulations and add new security requirements pertaining to nuclear power reactors. The proposed rule includes new security requirements for Category I strategic special nuclear material (SSNM) facilities for access to enhanced weapons and firearms background checks. The proposed rule would make security requirements imposed by Commission orders issued after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, generically applicable and reflect experience and insights gained by the Commission during implementation; fulfill certain provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; add several new requirements that resulted from insights from implementation of the security orders, review of site security plans, and implementation of the enhanced baseline inspection program and force-on-force exercises; update the regulatory framework in preparation for receiving license applications for new reactors; and impose requirements to assess and manage site activities that can adversely affect safety and security. The comment period for this action closes January 9, 2007.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of October 20 through October 26, 2006:

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, all correspondence re: ash-settling basin seepage	FOIA/PA-2007-0019
Background investigation on named individual from 1991 to 2006	FOIA/PA-2007-0020
Nuclear Fuel Services, security-related issues from 1-1-2000 through present, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0021
Nuclear facilities in the U.S.	FOIA/PA-2007-0022

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Arrivals		
BAKER, STEPHEN	LICENSING OFFICER	IP
BARNES, ROBIN	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (NSPDP)	ADM
BETTLE, JEROME	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
CARTWRIGHT, WILLIAM	REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
CHANG, YUNG HSIEN	HUMAN RELIABILITY ANALYST/ENGINEER	RES
COSTA, RICHARD	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
EINBERG, CHRISTIAN	SR. PROJECT MANAGER	FSME
FOSTER, JENNIFER E.	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR (ENTRY LEVEL)	RII
GIBBS, FLORETTA	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINEE	ADM
GRAHAM, JAY	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
JAIGOBIND, SAVI	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
JOHNSON, JONATHAN	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	NSIR
MIERNICKI, MICHAEL	PROJECT MANAGER/REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
RECIO, ANGELA	SECRETARY (OA)	CFO
SALAY, MICHAEL	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGR	RES
SMITH, EDWARD	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
WILLINGHAM, MICHAEL	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
WILSON, ANGELA	ACCOUNTANT	CFO
Departure		
WETZEL, BETH	CHIEF, TECH AND REG PROGRAMS SEC	EDO

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
- Commission Voting Record on SECY-06-0205	10/25/06	Final Rule: National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (RIN 3150-AH48)
Information Papers		
- SECY-06-0208	10/5/06	Status of the Accident Sequence Precursor Program and the Development of Standardized Plant Analysis Risk Models
Memoranda		
- M061025B	10/25/06	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0205 - Final Rule: National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (RIN 3150-AH48)

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Congress (Senator Menendez, Senator Lautenberg, and Congressman LoBiondo), dated October 19, 2006, responds to request for NRC to hold a public meeting on the decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Protection of Safeguards Information, Proposed Rule, RIN: 3150-AH57.

2. Application for a License to Export High-Enriched Uranium, DOE/NNSA - Y12 National Security Complex.

3. 10 CFR Part 35 [Docket No. PRM-35-20], E. Russell Ritenour, Ph.D.; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

4. 10 CFR Part 51 [Docket No. PRM-51-10], Massachusetts Attorney General; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 27, 2006

Turkey Point Public Meeting

On October 26, 2006, representatives from Florida Power and Light Company attended a public meeting in the Regional Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's response to the substantive cross-cutting issue.