INFORMATION REPORT

March 7, 2007 SECY-07-0043

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 2007

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Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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R. Taylor, OEDO

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RTaylor:paa	MRJohnson
03/07/07	03/08/07

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 2007

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 February 16, 2007

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2007-02, "Clarification of NRC Guidance for Emergency Notifications During Quickly Changing Events"

On February 2, 2007, the staff issued the subject RIS. The RIS described that it is not permissible to restart the 15-minute notification clock if degrading plant conditions cause an escalation in the declared emergency while the notification for the previous declaration was in progress.

Public Meeting with Industry on Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191

On February 7 and 8, 2007, the staff participated in a public meeting with the nuclear industry including the Nuclear Energy Institute, nuclear utilities, and vendors on GSI-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Sump Performance." The primary focus of the meeting was chemical effects and downstream (in vessel) effects. In the chemical effects area, presentations from the sump strainer vendors and PWR Owner's Group indicate that the initial industry testing strategy to account for chemical effects has encountered challenges. Currently, Westinghouse is performing tests to support the revision of its chemical model. The sump strainer vendors are revising their test plans and most vendors indicated revised testing would initiate in the late spring to summer time frame. Licensees are evaluating a number of options to address chemical effects including removal of fibrous insulation, changes to the post-Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) containment pool buffer, ability to back-flush the strainer, and water management to prevent debris from reaching the sump strainer.

Meeting with Entergy Corporation on GSI-191

On February 9, 2007, the staff met with representatives of Entergy Corporation, the licensee for Indian Point, at NRC headquarters. Entergy described the existing containment sump configuration at Indian Point and the modifications completed or under consideration to address GSI-191. Entergy noted that both units will have much larger strainers installed by spring 2007, but that additional changes may be required to address chemical effects. Entergy discussed its strategy for handling post-LOCA debris, including a circuitous flowpath to the sumps through the incore instrumentation tunnel.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP) Hearing

On February 8, 2007, counsel filed the staff's responses to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board questions related to the Safety Evaluation Report for the North Anna ESP. This filing was in accordance with the Board's Order of January 18, 2007.

On February 8, 2007, the ASLB held a Limited Appearance Session in Louisa County, Virginia. About 30 members of the public presented their views.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

Meeting with Transnuclear Inc. (TN), to Discuss Amendment Request

On February 8, 2007, staff met with TN to discuss their January 12, 2007, Standardized NUHOMS® design, amendment 10, application. The amendment proposes to: (1) add two new high heat-load, high-burnup dry shielded canisters (DSCs); (2) add a high-seismic version of the horizontal storage module; and (3) change the authorized contents for the NUHOMS®-24PTH DSC and the NUHOMS®-32PT DSC. TN requested an expedited review of it's application. The staff stated at the meeting that, given the complexity of the review, and assuming all issues can be resolved with one Request for Additional Information, a typical time for completing a safety evaluation report for this type of amendment request is approximately 1 year.

Meeting with Holtec International to Discuss the HI-STAR 180 Transportation Package

On February 13, 2007, staff met with Holtec International, to discuss a new application for the HI-STAR 180 transportation package. The HI-STAR 180 is unique because it uses METAMIC®, a neutron absorber, for the fuel basket material. Holtec is also proposing a bolted dual lid configuration. Either lid can act as the containment boundary. Holtec provided an introduction and brief overview of the design and special features of the new package. The application was submitted January 10, 2007.

Meeting with Eureka County, Nevada, Officials

On February 14, 2007, the NMSS Director and staff met with a County Commissioner, the Director of Public Works, and nuclear waste consultants for Eureka County, Nevada. As a recipient of nuclear waste funds, the county conducts oversight of the Yucca Mountain project, including full participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process, relative to the proposed repository.

The county officials were particularly interested in NRC's process for deciding the extent to which it could adopt a final environmental impact statement for the repository. Eureka County officials' primary concerns relate to potential transportation impacts. Another topic of discussion was potential impacts of the Department of Energy's use of a Transportation, Aging, and Disposal Canister (TAD).

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 9 through February 15, 2007:

Allegation NRR-2005-A-0033, all records	FOIA/PA-2007-0117
Emergency Response Plans for nuclear power plants, emergency management, evacuation services, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0118
Contract NRC-10-04-398, copy of winning proposal from SPS Consulting	FOIA/PA-2007-0119

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

Arrivals		
COPLIN, SETH	PROJECT MANAGER (FINANCIAL)	FSME
DEAHL, ELIZABETH	TECHNICAL LIBRARIAN	OIS
FIELDS, TIFFANY	SECRETARY (OA)	CFO
GALLETTA, THOMAS	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NRR
GOSSMAN, MICHAEL	CONSULTANT	FSME
GULLA, GERALD	RELIABILITY & RISK ANALYST	NRR
JOHNSON, ANDREA	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
JOHNSON, DWINESE	SECRETARY (OFFICE AUTOMATION)	NRR
KELSH, JANICE	PERSONNEL SECURITY SPECIALIST	ADM
KHOURI, GEORGE	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RII
LANGLIE, ELIZABETH	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
LENNING, EKATERINA	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
LOVE BLAIR, ANGELLA	REGULATIONS SPECIALIST	ADM
RAHN, DAVID	I&C ENGINEER	RES
SHAIK, SAMINA	NUCLEAR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RES
TELLO, LINDA	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRR
Departure		
FRANKLIN, CALVIN	HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT	HR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

The OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Indian Point's test of its new siren system and the Commission's decision not to conduct an independent safety assessment of the plant.

Detroit Edison's announcement that it intends to apply for a combined license for a new reactor at the Fermi plant site.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Commissioner McGaffigan was interviewed by National Public Radio for a profile that ran February 16 on "Morning Edition."

OPA Region II assisted at the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's pre-hearing session in Waynesboro, Georgia regarding the Vogtle early site permit application.

Press Releases	
Regions:	
III-07-002	NRC Finds Problem with Tank Design of Low to Moderate Safety Significance (2/12)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-07-0001	1/23/07	Appointment to the Patients' Rights Advocate Position for the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes
SRM on COMSECY-07-0001	2/12/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMSECY-07-0001	2/12/07	(same)
2. Revised COMSECY-06-0068	12/28/06	Independent Assessment of the Implementation of the Reactor Oversight Process by the Regional Offices
SRM on COMSECY-06-0068	2/15/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0068	2/15/07	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0018	1/12/07	Licensing Support Network Program Administration - Semiannual Report
2. SECY-07-0029	2/8/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 2, 2007
3. SECY-07-0028	2/7/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 26, 2007
4. SECY-07-0022	1/30/07	Status Report on proposed Improvements to the Generic Issues Program
5. SECY-07-0023	1/31/07	Issuance of Generic Letter 2007-01, "Inaccessible or Underground Power Cable Failures that Disable Accident Mitigation Systems or Cause Plant Transients"
Memoranda		
1. SRM-M070215A	2/15/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-07-0024 - System Energy Resources, Inc. (Early Site Permit for Grand Gulf)

2. SRM-M070123	2/16/07	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Grid Reliability

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Hinchey, Congresswoman Lowey, and Congressman Engel, dated February 15, 2007, responds to letter requesting the development of an independent assessment of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process at the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

2. Letter to Congress, dated February 9, 2007, concerns NRC's competitive sourcing efforts for Fiscal Year 2006.

3. Letter to Congress, dated February 2, 2007, expresses appreciation for interest in the resources needed for NRC's anticipated increased workload and related hiring goals.

4. Letter to Dixon Butler and Kevin Cook, dated February 2, 2007, expresses appreciation for interest in the resources needed for NRC's anticipated increased workload and related hiring goals.

5. Letter to Mun-Ki Lee, Republic of Korea, dated February 2, 2007, expresses congratulations on new appoint in the Energy and Environment Coordination Bureau at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

6. Letter to Dr. Yuichi Tonozuka, Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), dated February 2, 2007, responds to letter advising of his retirement as President of JAEA.

7. Letter to Takuya Hattori, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc, (JAIF) dated February 2, 2007, responds to invitation to participate in the upcoming 40th JAIF Annual Conference.

8. Letter to Byung-Ryong Moon, Atomic Energy Bureau, dated February 2, 2007, express congratulations on new position as Director General for Nuclear Safety at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures" (03/07/2007).

2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Future Plant Designs (03/07/2007).

3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 540th meeting (03/8-10/2007).

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

Tennessee Valley Authority-Sequoyah Public Meeting

On February 13, 2007, representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority attended a public meeting for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in the Region II Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Annual Plant Status.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 16, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 4					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	02/13/2007 406 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Findings of the US Climate Action Partnership Report	- Chad Holliday - co-chairman and CEO, DuPont - Jonathan Lash - president, World Resources Institute - Peter Darbee - chairman, CEO and president, PG&E Corp. - Steve Elbert - vice chairman of BP America - Kevin Book - senior analyst and vice president, Friedman Billings Ramsey and Co. - Fred Smith Jr. - president, Competitive Enterprise Institute - Harold Hamm - chairman and CEO, Continental Resources
Combs / Decker	03/13/2007 TBD	2:30	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Oversight, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia (Senators Akaka / Voinovich)	GAO's report: DOE's International Radiological Threat Reduction Program Needs to Focus Future Efforts on Securing the Highest Priority Radiological Sources	Not yet determined Requested: - GAO - IAEA - DOE - State Department - NRC - non-government organization

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 4					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Decker	03/28/2007 TBD	1:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	Not yet determined Requested: - NRC - DOE Office of Nuclear Energy - DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)