INFORMATION REPORT

March 8, 2007 SECY-07-0045

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 2007

Contents	Enclosure
Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
New Reactors	B*
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	C
Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs	D*
Nuclear Regulatory Research	E
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	F*
Administration	G*
Information Services	H
Chief Financial Officer	I*
Human Resources	J
Small Business and Civil Rights	K*
Enforcement	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Secretary	O
Region I	P*
Region II	P*
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

Michael R. Johnson
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
R. Taylor, OEDO

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03/08/07	03/08/07

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 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.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.
PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	OE	*
NRO	*	OPA	17
NMSS	4	OIP	*
FSME	*	SECY	19
RES	5	Region I	*
NSIR	*	Region II	*
ADM	*	Region III	*
OIS	12	Region IV	23
CFO	*	EDO	*
HR	16	OCA	24
SBCR	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the NEI White Paper on Operational Leakage

On February 15, 2007, NRC staff met with industry representatives to discuss industry concerns with Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2005-20, regarding actions to be taken following the discovery of operational leakage in American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Class 2 and 3 piping systems. The meeting focused on staff comments on the NEI revision of its White Paper provided in October 2006. The industry agreed to hold further discussions with the staff regarding comments on the white paper. NEI representatives requested that the staff consider issuing interim guidance to address concerns regarding potential unnecessary plant shutdowns. The staff is considering options in addressing NEI's request.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Public Meeting

On February 21, 2007, the staff conducted the monthly ROP public meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to allow discussion on staff initiatives and provide a forum for industry feedback. Meeting attendees discussed mitigating systems performance index (MSPI) implementation, safety culture integration into the ROP, performance indicator issues, open and new frequently asked questions, and 2007 goals for the ROP Working Group.

2007 International Conference on Simulation Technology for Power Plants

On February 21, the staff participated in an industry workshop sponsored by NEI and the Utility Simulator Users Group at the 2007 International Conference on Simulation Technology for Power Plants in San Diego, CA. The staff made a presentation on an acceptable simulator scenario based testing approach.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Staff Briefing to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) on Moderator Exclusion in Spent Fuel Transportation Packages

On February 15, 2007, the staff briefed ACNW on the topic of Moderator Exclusion in Spent Fuel Transportation Packages. Moderator exclusion means that a transportation package relies on the absence of water to assure nuclear criticality safety. Briefing topics included the regulatory basis for moderator exclusion and staff practice with respect to approving spent fuel package designs. The staff discussed possible regulatory options for allowing some level of moderator exclusion for spent fuel packages.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Publication of NUREG/CR-6925, "Assessment of Analysis Methods for Seismic Shear Wall Capacity Using JNES/NUPEC [Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization/Nuclear Power Engineering Test Center] Multi-Axial Cyclic and Shaking Table Test Data"

On February 23, 2007, the subject report was posted to the NRC public website. NUREG/CR-6925 documents the collaborative efforts between the NRC and JNES in the area of seismic engineering research. This shear wall test program was one of a series of large-scale seismic testing programs of nuclear power plant (NPP) structures, systems, and components conducted by JNES. Under contract to the NRC, Brookhaven National Laboratory performed this study and has established that the JNES tests have yielded valuable data, which, together with insights gained from the various correlation analyses presented in this study, will serve as a resource for seismic fragility estimates of reinforced concrete shear wall structures. On the basis of the study, the NRC staff has concluded that the JNES data can be used to benchmark analytical models and methods for seismic response analysis of NPP low-rise shear wall structures.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6917, "Experimental Measurements of Pressure Drop Across Debris Beds on PWR [pressurized water reactor] Sump Screens in Support of Generic Safety Issue 191," Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

On February 23, 2007, the subject report was posted to the NRC public website. NUREG/CR-6917 documents testing conducted to provide data on pressure drop across debris beds composed of fiberglass (Nukon) and calcium silicate particulate on a typical PWR sump screen under post-LOCA (loss-of-coolant-accident) containment conditions. The tests also studied the effects of water temperature on pressure drop. Results from the tests can be used to support the development of an improved head loss correlation.

Publication of NUREG-1862, "Development of Pressure Drop Calculation Method for Debris-Covered Sump Screens in Support of Generis Safety Issue 191"

On February 23, 2007, the subject report was posted to the NRC public website. NUREG-1862 contains new test data from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory that was used by the staff to develop an approach to calculate pressure drop across a sump screen or plate covered with fiberglass (Nukon), calcium silicate (CalSil), or a Nukon/CalSil mixture. A one-volume method provided conservative estimates of pressure drop across a debris bed composed of one debris type. For debris beds composed of particles and fibers, a two-volume calculation method predicted conservative pressure drops for larger CalSil concentration thicknesses and adequate estimates of pressure drop for debris beds with lower CalSil concentration thicknesses. The new test data revealed that the pressure drop across a debris bed depends on water temperature and debris bed exposure to flows and temperatures.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 16 through February 22, 2007:

Review of Region III concern re: Technical Specification covering diesel generator testing (TAC 77922) memo dated 10-22-1990 from E. G. Greenman, RIII, to D. M. Crutchfield, NRR	FOIA/PA-2007-0120
Advanced Isotopes of Idaho, 4968 Rainbow Lane, Pocatello, ID 83202, license application, materials license, & all amendments	FOIA/PA-2007-0121
Number of expedited requests received each fiscal year, 1998-2006, number granted, processing time, subject	FOIA/PA-2007-0122
Records about named individual	FOIA/PA-2007-0123
Data on monthly number of monitoring & enforcement activities & data on monthly number of NRC inspections conducted, all years to present	FOIA/PA-2007-0124
Contract NRC-27-01-001	FOIA/PA-2007-0125
BWXT facility, Lynchburg, VA, all records re: IAEA visits since January 1, 2000	FOIA/PA-2007-0126
BWXT facility, Lynchburg, VA, all records re: license renewal of Special Nuclear Materials license SNM-42	FOIA/PA-2007-0127
BWXT & BWXT-12, copies of advance notifications of upcoming shipments for calendar years 2001 through 2006	FOIA/PA-2007-0128
Monsanto Research Corp., Mound Lab, Miamisburg, OH, records on named individual	FOIA/PA-2007-0129

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Arrivals		
WELSH, JAMES	ACMUI MEMBER	FSME
Departure		
BENNETT, WILLIAM	GENERAL ENGINEER	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

The OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

A murder-suicide by an employee at the Indian Point power plant.

NRC's White finding for Palo Verde.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Chairman Klein toured the Palo Verde plant and held a press conference.

Commissioner Merrifield toured the Shieldalloy site in New Jersey, and met with reporters afterward.

Commissioner Merrifield was interviewed by The New Yorker for an upcoming report on security of radiological sources.

William Borchardt, Director of the Office of New Reactors, was interviewed by EnergyBiz magazine.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-024	NRC Reschedules Public Meeting to Discuss Revisions, Additions to Physical Security Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants (2/23)
07-025	NRC Completes Web Site Redesign (2/23)
07-026	NRC Chairman Klein Discusses Palo Verde Nuclear Plant (2/23)
07-027	Statement of NRC Chairman Dale Klein, Tucson, Arizona, February 23, 2007 (2/23)
Regions:	
III-07-003	NRC Staff Proposes $6,500 Fine for Security Violations at Materials Testing Facility in Pennsylvania (2/22)
IV-07-003	NRC Issues "White" Finding at Palo Verde Nuclear Plant (2/22)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0026	2/5/07	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System: Semi-annual Progress Report for July-December 2006
2. SECY-07-0027	2/5/07	Semiannual Update of the Lessons-Learned Program
Memoranda		
-- M070201C	2/23/07	Briefing on Strategic Workforce Planning and Human Capital Initiatives

Federal Register Notices Issued

-- Proposed rule. Reopening of public comment period, 10 CFR Parts 50, 72, and 73, RIN 3150-AG63, Power Reactor Security Requirements.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

Public Meeting with Arizona Public Service

On February 20, 2007, management and staff conducted a public meeting in the Region IV office with Arizona Public Service. The meeting was held to review licensee activities at Palo Verde associated with their component design basis review. The discussions included the scope of the licensee's review and the type of findings that have been identified to date.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 5					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Combs / Decker	03/13/2007 342 Dirksen	2:30	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 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 (will submit written statement) -DOE -Dept. of State -Janice Dunn Lee - OIP, NRC -non-government organization
Decker	03/28/2007	1:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	Not yet determined Requested: -NRC (Chairman Klein) -DOE Office of Nuclear Energy -DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)