

INFORMATION REPORT

March 19, 2007

SECY-07-0053

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 9, 2007

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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R. Taylor, OEDO

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03/19/07	03/19 /07

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 9, 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 March 9, 2007

Office Director Decision on a Differing Professional Opinion, DPO-2006-003

On January 20, 2007, the NRR Director, issued a decision on a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) regarding the use of leak-before-break (LBB) technology in the design of a facility modification involving the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) at Oconee, Units 1, 2 and 3 (DPO-2006-003).

On May 3, 2006, an NRC employee submitted a DPO that focused on the concern that the cross-connect modification between the redundant discharge lines of the low pressure injection (LPI) system inside the containment building should not have been approved by the NRC nor implemented by the licensee because the LPI system, as modified, would not meet requirements in 10 CFR Part 50. This contention stemmed from the submitter's interpretation of Commission policy that LBB cannot be used if the dynamic effects of the pipe rupture adversely affect the ECCS. On December 5, 2006, an Ad Hoc Review Panel provided the results of its independent review to the Director of NRR. The panel concluded that the submitter's concern regarding inappropriate application of LBB technology in the LPI cross-connect modification at Oconee, Units 1, 2 and 3 was based on an incorrect understanding of the Commission's regulations and policy on the use of LBB technology in the design of the ECCS. The staff's decision to authorize the application of LBB technology to this modification was appropriate and conforming to NRC's policy and regulations. The panel also recommended that the staff should develop a knowledge management document clearly describing the NRC's policy and practice on the application of LBB. Based on a review of the panel's report and additional comments from the DPO submitter, including those when the panel met with the submitter on July 20, 2006 to obtain clarification on certain details of his concerns and his confirmation on the panel's summary of the issues, the NRR Director agreed with the panel's conclusions and recommendations.

Office Director Decision on a Differing Professional Opinion

On February 17, 2007, the NRR Director issued his decision on a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) regarding the use of leak-before-break (LBB) technology in the design of a facility modification involving installation of new emergency core cooling system (ECCS) recirculation sump strainers at Oconee, Units 1 and 2 (DPO-2006-002).

On May 3, 2006, an NRC employee submitted a DPO that focused on the concern that ECCS sump strainer modification should not have been approved by the NRC nor implemented by the licensee. This contention stemmed from the submitter's interpretation of Commission policy that LBB technology cannot be used if the dynamic effects of the pipe rupture adversely affect ECCS and containment. On November 13, 2006, an Ad Hoc Review Panel provided the results of its independent review to the NRR Director. The panel concluded that the submitter's concern regarding inappropriate application of LBB technology in the ECCS recirculation sump strainer modification at Oconee, Units 1 and 2, was based on an incorrect understanding of the Commission's regulations and policy on the use of LBB technology in the design of the ECCS. The regulations and policy support the staff's decision to authorize the application of LBB

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technology to this modification. The panel also recommended that the staff should develop a knowledge management document clearly describing the NRC's policy and practice on the application of LBB. The submitter did not have any comments with regards to the panel's report issued on November 13, 2006. Based on the review of the panel's report and other background information, including the submitter's comments when the panel met with the submitter on July 20, 2006, to obtain clarification on certain details of his concerns and his confirmation on the panel's summary of the issues, the NRR Director agreed with the panel's conclusions and recommendations.

Meeting with Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Internals Program on the Integrated Surveillance Program

On March 2, 2007, the staff met with the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Internals Program (BWRVIP) members to discuss their plan to update and consolidate the BWRVIP Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP). The boiling water reactor owners use the ISP to comply with the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix H, "Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance Program Requirements." The meeting focused on the BWRVIP's proposals for future updates to the ISP, and the consolidation of the two current ISPs (one for the current operating period, and the other for the extended period of operation). The NRC staff provided comments on the BWRVIP proposals. The BWRVIP will evaluate the staff's comments, and provide feedback to the staff, as necessary, prior to updating the ISP and submitting it to the NRC for approval.

Generic Fundamentals Examination

On March 7, 2007, the staff administered the Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) to 139 reactor operator applicants at 17 utilities across all four regions. The GFE, a written examination, measures applicant knowledge in components, reactor theory, and thermodynamics and must be passed before applicants are eligible to take their site-specific examination and attain their operator licenses.

Issuance of Pilgrim License Renewal Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items

On March 1, 2007, the staff issued its safety evaluation report with open items in response to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., request to extend the operating license for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station for an additional 20 years. The staff has identified four open items in its review. The staff plans to present the results of its evaluation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Plant License Renewal Subcommittee on April 4, 2007.

Meeting with Georgia Power Company on Integrated Resource Plan regarding Vogtle

On March 2, 2007, the staff met with members of Georgia Power Company to discuss NRC's inspection of the 2007 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which is fundamental and necessary, in order for the NRC to evaluate the "Need for Power" submitted with the Early Site Permit application for Vogtle Units 3 and 4. In an unusual move, the Georgia Public Utility Commission had previously granted Georgia Power Proprietary Status on the 2007 IRP. Therefore, an agreement was reached that allowed the NRC staff to review the IRP only at the Georgia Power Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Generic Safety Issue-191 Meeting on Potential Use of Backflush to Clean Strainer Surfaces

On March 1, 2007, the staff met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and several pressurized water reactor (PWR) licensees to discuss the potential use of a strainer backflush system as a potential contributor to resolution of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191 (PWR Sump Clogging). Industry representatives presented a plant-specific example of how a backflush system might be implemented. Following the plant-specific presentation, several strainer vendors and licensees shared their design- and plant-specific perspectives on the topic. There are two potential uses of backflush systems. The first use is to serve as a defense-in-depth measure for plants that already have adequate screen surface area to accommodate a full debris load. The second use is to serve as an essential part of the solution for plants that cannot accommodate their anticipated debris load or chemical effects load. The staff considers backflush to be an option for all plants to consider. If the system is to be relied upon as an essential solution rather than a defense-in-depth measure, additional consideration will be needed to verify its effectiveness.

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Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Meeting with Mitsubishi to Discuss Topics Related to US-Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor Design Certification

On March 1, 2007, the staff held a public meeting with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) to discuss several topics that will be part of their design certification application. MHI had requested this meeting to discuss their plans to address severe accident mitigation, probabilistic risk assessment, and dose assessment. MHI plans to submit a design certification application during December 2007.

Meeting with the Advanced Plant 1000 (AP1000) Design-Centered Working Group (DCWG)

On March 1, 2007, NRC staff participated in a workshop on seismic issues with the AP1000 DCWG and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). The DCWG representatives presented the structural analysis results that the group has developed using site-specific ground motion. Comparison of results between the certified design response and the site-specific analysis was presented to highlight areas of exceedance, to explore potential concerns, and develop an acceptance basis.

The staff presented the framework for the review of the seismic issues in a Combined License (COL) application as drafted in the updated Standard Review Plan. As a result of this meeting, the staff is now cognizant of issues that may need further development in the Standard Review Plan. The industry also recognizes that additional analyses may be required during the COL stage. There was general agreement between the industry and staff on the overall framework of the review process.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Executive Branch Subcommittee on International Safeguards and Monitoring Meeting

On, March 1, 2007, the Executive Branch Subcommittee on International Safeguards and Monitoring (SISM) met to discuss non-proliferation and international safeguards issues. Of greatest interest to the NRC were the discussions on updating the Eligible Facilities List (EFL) and preparations for ratifying the Additional Protocol. The EFL approved in September 2006 has not yet been sent to Congress. NRC staff identified the need for the Executive Branch agencies to conduct assessments to determine if the Separation of Isotopes by Laser Extraction (SILEX) Test Facility, USEC American Centrifuge Plant, and High-Enriched Uranium Down Blending Facility at Nuclear Fuel Services-Erwin should be added to the list. The Executive Branch agencies also provided their views on how the Additional Protocol Implementation Act affects preparations for ratification of the Additional Protocol. The State Department will prepare a paper stating its understandings on actions that will need to be taken to ensure that the Additional Protocol implementation meets both the law and treaty requirements. The next SISM meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2007.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Presentation at Waste Management Symposium 2007 on Implementation of 10 CFR 20.1406

On February 27, 2007, the staff presented a paper on the development of guidance to support implementation of 10 CFR 20.1406 "Minimization of Contamination." As part of the public outreach effort for an upcoming regulatory guide, the presentation covered the relationship of various activities that are supporting development of related guidance (e.g. Decommissioning Lessons Learned, legacy sites rulemaking, groundwater initiative). Departing from past design practice for nuclear facilities, the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1406 require any applicant to describe how facility design and procedures for operation will: (1) minimize, to the extent practicable, contamination of the facility and environment and the generation of radioactive waste; and, (2) facilitate decommissioning.

Meeting With Students from the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland

On March 1, 2007, the staff held the subject meeting with fire engineering students at the University of Maryland to share information related to fire protection in nuclear power plants. The presentation was part of the professional development seminar course which covers topics such as professional licensing, codes and standards, career selection, and various contemporary issues in fire protection engineering. The presentation was well received.

Presentation to the Greater Atlanta Society of Fire Protection Engineers Annual Meeting

On March 6, 2007, the staff made a presentation at the subject meeting as part of its initiative to reach out to professional societies and inform them of the fire research that RES is performing. The presentation focused on fire modeling advances, specifically the staff's work which is described in a report entitled Fire Modeling Verification and Validation (NUREG-1824) and which is scheduled to be released as a final report within the next two months. As a result of the meeting, more than 25 of the attendees requested to be placed on the RES stakeholders distribution list for fire research products.

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Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-087-003A - PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT, PALISADES SHUTDOWN TO REPLACE HEAT DAMAGED CABLES (UPDATE)
2. PNO-IV-07-001A - IPS, UPDATE: RADIATION DOSE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Mr. Eric Epstein; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-81)

On March 5, 2007, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 9708) that denies a petition for rulemaking submitted by Eric Epstein. The petition requested that the NRC codify criteria in the Federal Emergency Management Agency 1986 Guidance Memorandum EV-2, "Protective Actions for School Children," into its emergency planning regulations. The petitioner believed that this action is necessary to provide preplanned emergency evacuation capability for children in Pennsylvania. The petition was denied because it did not provide significant new information or arguments that were not considered in Commission deliberations in denying an earlier petition on the same subject (PRM-50-79).

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 2 through March 8, 2007:

Radioactive material licensees in state of New Jersey	FOIA/PA-2007-0136
NRC defense plans for nuclear reactors; most recent annual report including budget; OIG semi-annual report; OIG audit reports FY06; FOIA guide	FOIA/PA-2007-0137
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), copy of letter from Lee Gard to NRC dated 01/12/2007 re: use of INPO Nuclear Network Operating Experience Reports	FOIA/PA-2007-0138
Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations, allegations & related enforcement action documents, Jan. 1, 2003 to present	FOIA/PA-2007-0139
NUREG-0933, make public correspondence listed in NUREG, list provided	FOIA/PA-2007-0140
Post-use site restoration, disclosure reports for terminated license STB-00504, Docket 40-003802	FOIA/PA-2007-0141

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Arrivals		
CULP, LISA	TECHNICAL WRITER / EDITOR	ADM
FEDERLINE, MARGARET	CONSULTANT	NMSS
MISENHIMER, DAVID	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
YOUNG, DANIELLE	STUDENT CLERK	NRR
Departure		
ELWOOD, MARY	SECRETARY	OGC

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

The Commission's approval of an Early Site Permit for the Clinton plant site.

The agency's annual assessments of nuclear plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Chairman Klein, Commissioner Merrifield, and New Reactors Director Bill Borchardt were interviewed by Bloomberg News regarding the Clinton Early Site Permit.

OPA assisted in an emergency drill for the FitzPatrick nuclear plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-030	NRC Issues Annual Assessments for Nation's Nuclear Plants (3/6)
07-031	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Browns Ferry Unit 1 (3/6)
07-032	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Hearing on Proposed Uranium Enrichment Plant in Ohio (3/8)
07-033	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, March 20-22 (3/9)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 9, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-07-0003	02/02/07	Change in Priorities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Certification and Accreditation of Information Technology Systems
SRM on 07-0003	03/05/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0003	03/05/07	(same)
2. SECY-06-0228	11/21/06	Denial of a Petition for Rulemaking to Codify Federal Emergency Management Agency Guidance Memorandum EV-2, "Protective Actions for School Children," Into the Emergency Planning Regulations in 10 CFR Part 50 (PRM-50-81)
SRM-SECY-06-0228	01/19/07	(same)
VR-SECY-06-0228	01/19/07	(same)
3. SECY-07-0030	02/07/07	Final Rulemaking on Limited Work Authorizations
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0035	02/16/07	Annual Report on Court Litigation (Calendar Year 2006)
2. SECY-07-0036	02/22/07	Staff Comments on the Draft Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection
3. SECY-07-0045	03/08/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 23, 2007
4. SECY-07-0043	03/07/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 16, 2007
Memoranda		

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- SRM-M070308A	03/08/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-07-0034 - Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Early Site Permit for Clinton ESP)
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Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Deborah J. Cavett, Department of Education, March 2, 2007, provides name of NRC's designated agency representative.
2. Letter to Congress, dated February 28, 2007, provides an invitation to NRC's 19th Annual Regulatory Information Conference.
3. Letter to Congress, dated February 28, 2007, expresses appreciation for time and attention in considering the resources needed for the NRC anticipated increase workload and the relating hiring goals.
4. Letter to Congressional Staff Members, dated February 28, 2007, expresses appreciation for meeting and discussing NRC's budget request for Fiscal Year 2007.

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

Louisiana Energy Services, L. P. National Enrichment Facility (LES) Management Meeting

On March 7, 2007, representatives from LES attended a management meeting in the Region II office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss items of mutual interest, including organizational changes, project status, and planned activities.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2007

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Public Meeting

On March 6, 2007, a public meeting was held in Arlington, Texas, to discuss equipment reliability and maintenance work practices at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. Participants included South Texas Nuclear Operating Company representatives and members of the Region IV staff.

Entergy Operations, Inc. Management Changes

Entergy Operations, Inc. announced the following Senior Management changes at Arkansas Nuclear One on March 8, 2007: Cleve Reasoner will be the Director of Engineering (acting), Joe Kowalewski will be the General Manager of Plant Operations (acting), and Curt Bregar will be the Director of Nuclear Safety Assurance. In addition, Arkansas Nuclear One has created the position Site Leader of Transitions, which will be staffed by Tom Marlow.

River Bend Station Management Changes

On March 8, 2007, Entergy Operations, Inc. announced the following management changes at River Bend Station: Eric Olson, General Manager of Plant Operations; Dennis Wiles, Engineering Director; and Jerry Roberts, Nuclear Safety Assurance Director.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Management Changes

On March 8, 2007, Entergy Operations, Inc. announced the following management changes at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station: Jerome Reed, General Manager of Plant Operations; Mike Krupa, Engineering Director; and Arthur Barfield, Nuclear Safety Assurance Manager.

Columbia Generating Station Management Changes

On March 9, 2007, Energy Northwest announced that Sudesh Gambhir will be the new Vice President, Technical Services at Columbia Generating Station. Mr. Gambhir will replace Scott Oxenford who will be transitioning to the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations loaned executive program for 2 years. Mr. Gambhir is currently the Division Manager, Nuclear Projects at Fort Calhoun Station.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 9, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 7					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Decker	03/06/2007 2362-B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	DOE's FY2008 budget request	▶ Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy
Decker	03/06/2007 2212 Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security (Representatives Price / Rogers)	"Container Security Challenges and Goals"	▶ Jay Ahern - US Customs and Border Patrol ▶ Vayl Oxford - Director, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office
Sahm	03/06/2007 2220 Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government (Representatives Serrano / Regula)	Federal Workforce Issues	▶ Linda Springer - Director, OPM ▶ Neil Anthony Gordon McPhie - Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board ▶ J. Christopher Mihm - Managing Director, Strategic Issues at GAO ▶ Colleen Kelley - National President, NTEU ▶ J. David Cox - National Secretary Treasurer, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO ▶ Max Stier - President, Partnership for Public Service

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CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 7

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	03/06/2007 2154 Rayburn	2:00	House Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives (Representatives Clay / Turner)	Pending business: House Report - "A Citizen's Guide on Using the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974 to Request Government Records"; draft bill - Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act of 2007; draft bill - Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007	▶ N/A
Decker	03/07/2007 2318 Rayburn	10:00	House Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment (Representatives Lampson / Inglis)	Proposed fiscal 2008 budget for Energy Department research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ray Orbach - Undersecretary of Energy for Science ▶ Andrew Karsner - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ▶ Jeffrey Jarrett - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy ▶ Dennis Spurgeon - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy ▶ Kevin Kolevar - Director, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 7

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	03/08/2007 2154 Rayburn	2:00	House Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and th District of Columbia (Representatives Davis / Marchant)	"Federal Personnel Reform"	Not yet determined
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)	International Efforts to Secure Radiological Materials	Not yet determined Requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GAO ▶ IAEA (will submit written statement) ▶ Andrew Bieniawski, Asst Deputy Administrator, Office of Global Threat Reduction, DOE ▶ Patty McNerney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation, Dept. of State ▶ Janice Dunn Lee - OIP, NRC ▶ non-government organization
Decker	03/28/2007 2362B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	Not yet determined Requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ NRC (Chairman Klein) ▶ DOE Office of Nuclear Energy ▶ DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)