INFORMATION REPORT

March 29, 2007 SECY-07-0059

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 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

March 29, 2007 SECY-07-0059

For: The Commissioners

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

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

Contents

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

DISTRIBUTION:
EDO R/F
AO R/F

Document Name: C:\WIR\week323.WPD

OEDO	AO/OEDO
RTaylor:jva	MRJohnson
03/27/07	03/29/07

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 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	8
NMSS	*	OIP	*
FSME	*	SECY	9
RES	3	Region I	*
NSIR	4	Region II	11
ADM	5	Region III	12
OIS	6	Region IV	13
CFO	*	EDO	*
HR	7	OCA	14
SBCR	*		

*No input this week

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

Training Accreditation Board Observation

On March 20-22, 2007, the staff observed a periodic National Nuclear Accrediting Board (NNAB) meeting to assess the effectiveness of the accreditation process. The NRC periodically sends an official observer to monitor NNAB meetings in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations.

Meeting with Japanese Nuclear Safety Commission

On March 16, 2007, the staff met with members of the Japanese Nuclear Safety Commission to discuss how the NRC conducts inspections at nuclear power plants. Other topics included: 1) developing 18-month inspection schedules and selecting activities or system/components for inspection; 2) dealing with minor findings that are not documented in inspection reports; 3) inspector competencies and inspector training requirements; and 4) enhancing NRC safety culture in the reactor oversight process.

Reactor Oversight Process Monthly Meeting

On March 21, 2007, the staff held the monthly Reactor Oversight Process (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 implementation, safety culture integration into the reactor oversight process, performance indicator issues, open and new frequently asked questions, and 2007 goals for the ROP Working Group.

Meeting with Exelon Generation Company

On March 20, 2007, the staff held a public meeting with licensing managers from Exelon Generation Company to discuss the current status of licensing actions and the details of the company's plans for upcoming licensing activities. The staff took the opportunity to provide feedback to Exelon on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the licensing process.

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

Publication of NUREG/CR-6923, "Expert Panel Report on Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment"

On March 16, 2007, the subject report was posted to the NRC public website. As part of NRC's Proactive Materials Degradation Assessment program, Brookhaven National Laboratory used the knowledge of an international panel of eight experts and the Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table process to identify materials and components where future degradation may occur in specific light water reactor (LWR) systems. The panel was given information on the materials, fabrication process, and operational environment for hundreds of different boiling-water reactor and pressurized-water reactor components. Prediction methodologies for various phenomena, calibrated by past component failures in the global LWR fleet, aided in judgements of future degradation behavior. Also considered were the successes and limitations of mitigation/control approaches that have been used to date. This report includes the panel's scoring, rationale, conclusions, as well as considerable documentation of issues relevant to materials degradation.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2007

Preliminary Notification

- PNO-III-07-005, Prairie Island 1 & 2, NON-CREDIBLE BOMB THREAT

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2007

Design Basis Threat (AH60-Part 73)

On March 19, 2007, the NRC published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (72 FR 12705) amending the regulations pertaining to its design basis threat requirements. The final rule makes the security requirements imposed by the Commission's April 29, 2003, design basis threat Orders generically applicable. The final rule redefines the level of security requirements necessary to adequately protect public health and safety and common defense and security. The final rule also revises design basis threat requirements for radiological sabotage and the theft or diversion of NRC-licensed strategic special nuclear material. The final rule becomes effective April 18, 2006.

Periodic Update of 10 CFR 50.55a to Incorporate New Editions of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Codes

During the week of March 26, 2007, EDO staff will review and issue a proposed rule that amends the regulations to incorporate by reference the 2004 Edition of Division 1 of Section III of the ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (BPV Code); the 2004 Edition of Division 1 rules of Section XI of the ASME BPV Code; and the 2004 Edition of the ASME *Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants* (OM Code) to provide updated rules for constructing and inspecting components and testing pumps and valves in light-water nuclear power plants. This action is in accordance with the NRC's policy to periodically update § 50.55a to incorporate new editions and addenda of the ASME Codes by reference. ASME Codes are national voluntary consensus standards, and, as such, are required by the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-113, to be used by government agencies unless the use of such a standard is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical.

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

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

Awarded contract to Lockheed Martin	FOIA/PA-2007-0151
Allegation NRR-1998-A-007, all documents including correspondence between named individual and NRC	FOIA/PA-2007-0152
Bargaining unit (or eligible) employees including name, title, grade, etc.; grievances filed and/or settlement agreements; copies of lawsuits or claims and/or settlements between NRC and employees	FOIA/PA-2007-0153
Office of Investigations Peer Review by the Social Security Administration, dated March 15, 2005	FOIA/PA-2007-0154
List of denied materials or operating licenses pertaining to Uranium Resources Inc and/or Hydro Resources Inc.; list of source material licenses allowing the possession of uranium by Hydro Resources, Inc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0155
Martin State Airport, 2920 Strawberry Point Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21220, any regulatory records regarding air, land, or water pollution incidents	FOIA/PA-2007-0156
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station's safety culture assessment and methodology, all documents from 3-15-07 meeting	FOIA/PA-2007-0157
Thorium-related material licenses at Dow Chemical, Michigan, Illinois and California, 1951-1973; Consolidated Aluminum Corp., Illinois 1973-1986; Spectrulite Consortium, 1986 - February 2007	FOIA/PA-2007-0158
NRR, Information Management Branch, work activities for the period fo September 17, 2006 through March 3, 2007, items to include TAC numbers, docket numbers, hours, budgetary codes, etc.	FOIA/PA-2007-0159
Proposed Staff Position on the Use of Industry Standard ANSI/AISC N690 in the Advanced Reactor Applications, February 22, 1993	FOIA/PA-2007-0160

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

Arrivals		
BAIG, USMAN	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR

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

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office Petition for changes in the context of license renewal reviews, with regard to spent fuel pools.

NRC's preparations for new reactor applications, licensing process and design certifications.

Missing Gauge in Philadelphia contamination issues.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA supported the Licensee Performance Review public meeting for the Honeywell conversion plant in Illinois.

Commissioner Merrifield was interviewed by Barron's about new reactor licensing and the global nuclear renaissance.

OPA participated in the Dresden Exercise.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-037	NRC Announces Hearing Opportunity and Intent to Develop Environmental Report on Harris Nuclear Plant License Renewal (03/21)
Regions:	
I-07-008	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Seabrook Nuclear Plant at Public Meeting Scheduled for March 29 (03/23)
I-07-009	Nuclear Gauge Reported Stolen in Philadelphia; Recovery of Device is Sought (3/20)
I-07-010	Stolen Nuclear Gauge Found in Philadelphia (3/23)
III-07-006	NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance Assessment for Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant (3/23)
IV-07-005	NRC Proposes $13,000 Fine for Accurate NDE & Inspection, LLC (03/21)

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

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-07-0009	03/02/07	Strategy for Funding the Agreement States for Training and Other Activities That Support the Development and Initiation of the National Source Tracking System
SRM on 07-0009	03/19/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 07-0009	03/19/07	(same)
2. COMNJD-97-007/COMEXM-97-004	12/15/97	Streamlining NRC Adjudications
SRM on COMNJD-97-007/COMEXM-97-004	01/30/98	(same)
SRM on COMNJD-97-007/COMEXM-97-004	06/26/98	(same)
Voting Record on COMNJD-97-007/COMEXM-97-004	12/30/97	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0053	03/19/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 9, 2007
2. SECY-07-0047	03/08/07	Staff Approach to Verifying the Closure of Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria Through a Sample-Based Inspection Program
3. SECY-07-0042	03/07/07	Status of the Plan for the Implementation of the Commission's Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment Quality
Memoranda		
1. M070307A	03/21/07	Briefing on Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response Programs, Performance, and Plans

2.	M070308C	03/22/07	Briefing on Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Programs, Performance, and Plans
3.	M070308B	03/22/07	Briefing on NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated March 16, 2007, provides NRC's quarterly report on the status of licensing and other regulatory issues (October through December 2006).

2. Letter to Congress, dated March 12, 2007, provides a summary of actions taken by NRC in response to recommendations contained in various Government Accountability Office reports.

3. Letter to Khammar Mrabit, International Atomic Energy Agency, dated February 23, 2007, responds to invitation for NRC to nominate a representative to participate in the workshop on "Lessons Learned from the integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission to France."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (04/04/07).

2. Request for a License to Import Radioactive Waste (Westinghouse Electric Company LLC).

3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of meeting (04/10-12/07)

4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems (04/18/07).

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2007

Commissioner and United Kingdom Visits Crystal River and Turkey Point

On March 19-20, 2007, Commissioner Merrifield, United Kingdom officials, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations and Director of Nuclear Safety, and Chief, Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Regulation, visited the Crystal River and Turkey Point Nuclear Plants and toured the site. They were accompanied by the Deputy Regional Administrator for Operations (DRAO). Commissioner Merrifield and the DRAO also visited the site in Levy County Florida which Progress Energy has proposed for a new reactor.

Licensee Performance Review Meeting with Honeywell

On March 21, 2007, the DRAO and staff met with licensee and corporate management from Honeywell's Metropolis, Illinois uranium conversion facility for a Licensee Performance Review. Other personnel who were present during the public meeting included approximately 20 members of the licensee's staff, USEC staff from the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, two print reporters and one television station reporter.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2007

Decision Issued on Differing Professional Opinion (DPO-2006-001) on Point Beach Problem Identification and Resolution Substantive Cross-cutting Issue

On March 1, 2007, the Regional Administrator issued a decision on a Differing Professional Opinion regarding the NRC's closure of the substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant during the 2005 end-of-cycle performance assessment. The Differing Professional Opinion questioned whether the NRC's decision to close the issue was correct. An AD Hoc Review Panel was put together to assess this matter and concluded that the decision to close the cross-cutting issue did not result in a reduction of inspection effort or a reduction in safety at the Point Beach Plant. After reviewing the panel's report and Manual Chapter 0305, the Regional Administrator agreed with the panel's conclusions.

Dresden Exercise and Visit of Major Nelson from North American Aerospace Defense Command

On March 21, 2007, Region III staff demonstrated response capabilities in the Dresden Biennial Exercise with full Base and Site Teams, along with Headquarters Operation Center, under the leadership of Commissioner Lyons.

The Region III response to the Dresden exercise was observed by Army Major Jeffrey Nelson of North American Aerospace Defense Command-United States Northern Command. Major Nelson is United States Northern Command's primary liaison to the NRC related to the "imminent threat" process. On March 20, the Region III Emergency Response Coordinator and Resident Inspectors at Braidwood station provided Major Nelson with a comprehensive tour of Braidwood.

Public Meeting at Perry

On March 21, 2007, staff conducted a public meeting in Ohio to present to the public the results of the NRC 2006 assessment of plant performance and the return of the plant to regular oversight which took place on March 2, 2007. State and local representatives attended the meeting.

Braidwood Community Meeting

On March 22, 2007, NRC resident inspectors participated in a community information night at Braidwood. They provided information to members of the public and local officials who attended the meeting. The plant started hosting information nights after the discovery of tritium offsite to keep the public informed about the ongoing tritium remediation efforts on and off plant property. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local law enforcement agencies and a contract health physicist also provided information at the meeting.

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

Management Changes at Palo Verde

On March 20, 2007, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station announced that Dave Mauldin, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering, has retired. John Hesser, formerly Director, Emergency Services, has been named acting Vice President, Nuclear Engineering.

Palo Verde Drop-in Visit

On March 21, 2007, Randy Edington, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Arizona Public Service Company, and Dwight Mims, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Performance Improvement, met with Bruce Mallett, Regional Administrator, Region IV and other Region IV management to discuss the status of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station performance improvement plan.

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

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 9					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Combs	03/21/2007 311 Cannon	10:00	House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology (Representatives Langevin / Sanchez	Countering the Nuclear Threat to the Homeland: Evaluating the Deployment of Radiation Detection Technologies	Not yet determined
Decker	03/22/2007 2362B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	Nuclear Nonproliferation - Draft Bill - FY2008 Energy-Water Appropriations	Not yet determined
Decker	03/28/2007 2362B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	Chairman Dale Klein - NRC Dennis Spurgeon - Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy DOE Ward Sproat - Director, DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)