April 14, 2008 INFORMATION REPORT SECY-08-0049

For: The Commissioners

From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
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/RA/
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 4, 2008

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: U. Shoop, OEDO by E-mail: uss@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Vendor Inspection and Joint-Utility Audit at RTP Corporation (RTP)

From March 25 - 28, 2008, Division of Engineering (DE) staff observed a joint-utility audit and conducted a limited scope inspection at RTP in Pompano Beach, Florida. RTP provides safety-related data acquisition systems to the nuclear industry. The purpose of the audit observation was to assess the Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) quality assurance audit process used for approving suppliers of safety-related and commercial-grade dedicated components to the nuclear industry. The DE staff inspected selected portions of RTP's program to implement the provisions of 10 CFR Part 21, "Reporting of Defects and Noncompliance."

Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) Meeting

On March 26, 2008, the Division of Policy and Rulemaking and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response staff conducted a public meeting with NEI and utility representatives to discuss issues associated with proposed rulemaking to enhance the NRC's ERDS. The purpose of the meeting was to engage the public early in the rulemaking process to incorporate feedback into technical bases development. Public feedback received included: (1) delay rulemaking until outstanding issues are resolved, (2) enhancements should be cost beneficial as determined by cost-benefit analyses, (3) NRC should install ERDS enhancements on its power-plant simulators in Chattanooga to determine enhancement feasibility and cost before finalizing rulemaking, (4) the Electronic Plant Reference Data system should be updated electronically and be kept up-to-date, (5) the amount of ERDS data supplied to states should be limited to that necessary for the states to do required assessments, (6) NRC and industry should pilot the ERDS enhancements before finalizing rulemaking, and (7) the industry needs time to implement any rulemaking.

Oconee Steam Generator (SG) Tube Wear Root Cause Meeting

On March 27, 2008, Division of Component Integrity staff participated in a Category 1 public meeting with Duke Energy Power Company, LLC (Duke) representatives to discuss the root cause findings for wear in the tubes in the replacement SGs at all three Oconee units. Duke and Babcock & Wilcox Canada (B&W), the manufacturer of the Oconee SGs, have determined that the most probable cause of the tube wear is due to the tubes vibrating and impacting the tube support plates. Duke and B&W have developed a conceptual repair to reduce the amount of tube vibration and plans to make a decision on the path forward by late summer 2008.

Meeting on Fire Induced Multiple Spurious Actuation

On March 27, 2008, Division of Risk Assessment staff conducted a public meeting with representatives from Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss the staff's proposal to address fire induced circuit faults and multiple spurious actuations. The staff's proposal provides a regulatory basis for where prescriptive fire protection features, such as barriers and suppression systems, are required for the protection of safe shutdown trains. In addition, the staff's proposal addresses where other fire protection features, such as manual actions, may be used to assure

safe shutdown capability. The staff plans to schedule another meeting with NEI and industry representatives to obtain feedback on the proposed plan prior to submitting the proposal to the Commission.

NRC Observation of Ultra Sonic Flow Meter Operation

During April 1-4, 2008, Division of Safety Systems staff observed the operation of the Westinghouse CROSSFLOW Ultra Sonic Flow Meter (UFM) at the Ft. Calhoun plant. Omaha Public Power District is attempting to recertify the UFM for use in conjunction with the Ft. Calhoun measurement uncertainty recovery power uprate.

Monthly License Renewal Meeting

On April 2, 2008, Division of License Renewal staff conducted a Category 2 public meeting to discuss generic license renewal topics and license renewal process improvements. The staff conducts monthly meetings to discuss current topics of interest related to license renewal activities. The purpose is to ensure good communication between the staff, industry, and the public regarding license renewal activities.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) on Limited Work Authorizations (LWA)

On April 1, 2008, the staff issued proposed Combined License/Early Site Permit (COL/ESP) ISG-004 on implementation of the revised LWA rule. This ISG will replace the previous guidance issued in June 2007 in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.206, "Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition)," concerning requests for LWAs submitted as part of an early site permit or combined license application. Upon receiving public comments, the staff will evaluate and disposition the comments, as appropriate. Once complete, the staff will issue the ISG for use. The NRC staff will also incorporate the approved COL/ESP-ISG-004 into the next revisions of RG 1.206 and NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants," and related guidance documents.

Approval of Mitsubishi's Criminal History and Background Information Procedure

By letter dated April 2, 2008, the NRC staff approved Mitsubishi's procedure titled, "Gathering and Protecting Criminal History and Background Information for Purposes of Access to Safeguards Information of MNES." The staff's approval allows Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems (MNES) to use this procedure to determine the trustworthiness and reliability of individuals for whom fingerprinting and a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history records check is not reasonably expected to yield sufficient criminal history in order to determine whether to grant access to Safeguards Information (SGI). Additionally, the staff will perform an inspection of any facility where Mitsubishi proposes to use and store SGI, both inside and outside the United States. The staff has already approved of two locations within the United States.

Public Scoping Meeting Regarding Environmental Review of Bellefonte COL Application

On April 3, 2008, NRC staff held two public meetings in Scottsboro, Alabama, to solicit comments on the scope of the staff's environmental review of the COL application for the Bellefonte site. Approximately 125 people attended each meeting, including representatives of the NRC staff, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Tennessee Valley Authority, State and local governments, the nuclear industry, and members of the public. About 40 people provided comments. In addition, the NRC staff hosted an informal "open house" for one hour prior to each meeting to answer questions about the COL application review process. The public comment period for scoping ends on April 25, 2008. After the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received, develop the scope of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS), and prepare the draft EIS. The draft EIS is currently scheduled to be published in the spring of 2009.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Public Meeting on Total System Performance Assessment Model of Yucca Mountain

On March 31, 2008, NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) staff held an Appendix 7 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on topics related to post-closure performance of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The meeting allowed NRC and DOE staff to exchange information on aspects of the DOE's Total System Performance Assessment model, while observed by interested members of the public. No commitments between NRC and DOE were made and no written reports or meeting summaries will be issued. The meeting was observed by representatives of the State of Nevada, various Nevada county governments, and other stakeholders.

Global Threat Reduction Initiative Reactor Conversion Program

On March 31, 2008, NMSS, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response staff met with three National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) representatives. At this public meeting, the agency staff and NNSA representatives discussed the potential licensing of a new manufacturing facility, which will produce low-enriched uranium (LEU) research and test reactor fuels. The NMSS staff described the special nuclear material licensing process, with emphasis on the National Environmental Policy Act, 10 CFR Part 70 requirements, and safeguards regulations. NNSA published a request for interest in the *Federal Register* on February 29, 2008, soliciting expressions of interest from companies capable of manufacturing this fuel. Responses are due on May 30, 2008.

Public Meeting on Yucca Mountain Unsaturated Zone Process Uncertainty

On April 1, 2008, NRC and DOE held an Appendix 7 meeting, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on topics related to post-closure performance of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The meeting focused on DOE's treatment of uncertainties in its models for unsaturated zone processes. The meeting was open for observation by stakeholders and interested members of the public.

Technical Exchange on Yucca Mountain Groundwater Infiltration

On April 2, 2008, NRC and DOE held a technical exchange at the NRC Hearing Facility, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on topics related to post-closure performance of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The meeting focused on DOE's approach for infiltration at Yucca Mountain. The meeting was open to stakeholders and interested members of the public.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Update: Onsite Observation Visit to Savannah River Site Saltstone Facilities

During the week of March 24, 2008, NRC staff conducted an observation visit for the Saltstone facilities at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site. This visit was conducted as part of NRC responsibilities under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, and was a follow-up to a previous visit that was conducted in October 2007, during which several open items were identified. The staff reviewed several documents, toured the salt waste disposal facilities, and met with DOE and contractor personnel to discuss technical issues such as vault integrity, wasteform composition, waste sampling, tracking of inventory, and environmental monitoring. The DOE provided significant information regarding its plans to address many of the open items identified during the staff's October 2007 visit. NRC staff will issue a publicly available observation report that will discuss its observations resulting from the visit.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2008; Correction (AI28 – Part 171)

On March 28, 2008, the Office of the *Federal Register* published a notice (73 FR 16747), correcting various printing errors made in a proposed rule published February 13, 2008 (73 FR 8508) concerning NRC's fee recovery for FY 2008. The notice reprints several fee tables to correct missing headings and other typographical errors.

Fitness for Duty (FFD) Programs; Final Rule (AF12 – Part 26, PRM-26-1, and PRM-26-2)

On March 31, 2008, NRC published a final rule (73 FR 16966) amending its FFD regulations to update these requirements and enhance consistency with advances in other relevant Federal rules and guidelines. The rule also grants, in part, a petition for rulemaking (PRM–26–1) submitted by Virginia Electric and Power Company (now Dominion Virginia Power) on December 30, 1993, by relaxing several required FFD program audit frequencies, and partially grants a petition for rulemaking (PRM–26–2) submitted by Barry Quigley on December 28, 1999. The rule is effective April 30, 2008; however, licensees and other applicable entities may defer implementation of the rule, except for Subparts I and K, until March 31, 2009.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 28, through April 3, 2008:

Enforcement Action EA-07-280 (ML080800088), Notice of Violation	FOIA/PA-2008-0160
Current positions (with series numbers) in the bargaining unit represented by National Treasury Employees Union whose positions are non-sensitive or low risk	FOIA/PA-2008-0161
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), Alabama (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0162
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Luke AFB, Arizona (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0163
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Little Rock AFB, Arkansas (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0164
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Tyndall AFB, Florida (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0165
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Kessler AFB Mississippi (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0166
Companies/business with radioactive material licenses/permits within 25 miles of Goodfellow AFB, Lackland AFB, Laughlin AFB, Randolph AFB, and Sheppard AFB, Texas (list of cities provided) including copy of license/permit, specific isotope and maximum activity authorized	FOIA/PA-2008-0167
Mailing list except hospitals and those related to the medical industry	FOIA/PA-2008-0168
“Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United Stated for Existing Plants” as described in Generic Issue 0199	FOIA/PA-2008-0169
Database of electronic records which include the Federal Employer Identification Number, Employee Identification Number, Taxpayer Identification Number, or Tax ID with name, address, phone number and industry code	FOIA/PA-2008-0170
Correspondence between named individuals or companies and NRC, regarding lobbying since 2004 filings with the House and Senate	FOIA/PA-2008-0171

Office of Investigations Report 4-2007-006 including transcript of named individual	FOIA/PA-2008-0172
MLTS database, active and retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2008-0173

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Arrivals		
MOSSMAN, KENNETH	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE	ASLBP
KING, SHANNON	SECRETARY (OA)	NRO
Retirements		
HIMMELBERG, JUDE	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
KUO, PAO-TSIN	DIR, DIV OF LICENSE RENEWAL	NRR
LEE, MABEL	DIR, PROG MGMT, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS STAFF	RES
SOLANDER, IDA SUSAN	TECH ASST FOR COMM	NSIR
SOLANDER, LARS	SENIOR STAFF ASSISTANT	EDO

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Reanalysis of metal fatigue for reactor recirculation nozzles at the Oyster Creek nuclear plant

Oyster Creek nuclear plant's license renewal proceedings status

Condenser tube leak at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant

Power Resource Inc. recent notice of violation from the State of Wyoming for slow groundwater remediation at its in-situ leaches recovery facility.

Low-Level Waste Imports

Closeout of New England Coalition's petition on radiation after 32 years

Fitness-for-duty rule

Pennsylvania officially becoming an Agreement State

Combined license applications submittals from Southern Nuclear and S.C. Electric and Gas Company

Other Public Affairs Items:

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-069	NRC Completes Pennsylvania Agreement to Regulate Certain Radioactive Materials (03/31)
08-070	NRC Publishes Final Rule Enhancing Fitness-for-Duty Requirements (03/31)
08-071	Correction: NRC Accepting Environmental Review Comments for Calvert Cliffs New Reactor Application Until April 14 (04/03)
Regions:	
I-08-018	NRC to Discuss Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant Annual Assessment at Public Meeting Scheduled for April 8 in Prince Frederick, Maryland (04/01)
I-08-019	NRC to Discuss Annual Assessment for Limerick Nuclear Plant at Public Meeting Scheduled for April 10 in Royersford, Pennsylvania (04/03)
III-08-011	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Fermi Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 (04/03)
IV-08-010	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Fort Calhoun Station Nuclear Plant April 10 (04/02)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0040	03/26/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending March 21, 2008
2. SECY-08-0038	03/19/08	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Staff Comments on the International Commission on Radiological Protection's Draft Report on Environmental Protection: The Concept and Use of Reference Animals and Plants
Memoranda		
1. M080317B	04/03/08	Staff Requirements – Briefing on State of NRC Technical Programs

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated March 28, 2008, provides NRC's written statement on the actions taken regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO) unclassified report Nuclear Security: Research Reactor Security" GAO-08-403.

2. Letter to Congress, dated March 28, 2008, provides a summary of actions taken by the NRC in response to recommendations contained in various GAO reports that address NRC activities.

3. Letter to Congress, dated March 28, 2008, responds to request for the status of the NRC's compliance with government-wide initiatives to protect Personally Identifiable Information.

4. Letter to Tomihiro Taniguchi, International Atomic Energy Agency, dated March 27, 2008, responds to letter concerning the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission to take place in the United States in 2010.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Discontinuance of Certain Commission Regulatory Authority within the State; Notice of Agreement Between the NRC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Notice of Waiver Termination.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

Reactor Oversight Process Annual Assessment Meetings

On April 1, 2008, the Regional Office held the Annual Assessment meetings for the St. Lucie and V. C. Summer Nuclear Power Plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Process at the sites.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 4, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 10					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	04/02/08 342 DSOB	11:00 a.m.	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Senators Lieberman / Collins)	Nuclear Terrorism: Assessing the Threat to the Homeland	• Charles E. Allen - Undersecretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis and Chief Intelligence Officer • Rolf Mowatt–Larsen - Director, Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, DOE • Matthew Bunn - Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University • Gary Ackerman - National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism, University of Maryland
Kron	04/02/08 2154 RHOB	2:00 p.m.	House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives (Representatives Clay / Turner)	Federal Advisory Committee Act of 2008	• TBD

Powell	04/03/08 2322	10:00 a.m.	House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Selling the Department of Energy's Depleted Uranium Stockpile: Opportunities and Challenges	• TBD
Shane/Dacus	05/15/08 (Tentative)	TBD	Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	New Reactors and License Renewal	• NRC Commission • Others TBD
Powell	Spring 08 TBD	TBD	House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Inattentive Guards at Peach Bottom and other Security Related Topics	• TBD