INFORMATION REPORT

May 12, 2008 SECY-08-0066

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2008

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Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

Vonna L. Ordaz
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Bagley, OEDO

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/RA/

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2008

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

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

GSI-191 Testing in Winterthur, Switzerland

During April 21 - 25, 2008, the Division of Component Integrity (DCI) and Division of Safety Systems staff observed Generic Safety Issue (GSI) - 191 chemical effects head loss testing at the Control Components, Inc. (CCI) laboratory in Winterthur, Switzerland. The primary objective was to observe a head loss test that included chemical precipitates as part of the debris mix. The test was conducted to support the GSI-191 activities for Salem. In addition, the staff observed a portion of the testing to support GSI-191 activities for Palo Verde. The staff presented several test observations to CCI.

Environmentally Assisted Corrosion International Meeting

During April 21 - 25, 2008, DCI staff participated in the 2008 Annual Meeting of the International Cooperative Group on Environmentally Assisted Corrosion in Bastad, Sweden. Approximately 150 researchers and regulators from 19 different countries attended the meeting. DCI staff participated in various activities, including an expert panel meeting on new resistive materials and a meeting for international materials regulators. Items of note included a discussion of dissimilar metal weld inspection findings for steam generator inlet and outlet welds, a new problem identified with chloride assisted stress corrosion cracking for stainless steel valves, identification of stress corrosion cracking from weld fabrication flaws, and results from a series of initiation testing including stainless steel materials in pressurized water reactor chemistries.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code Meeting

During April 21-25, 2008, DCI staff attended the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The staff participated in discussions on repairing and mitigating primary water stress corrosion cracking in dissimilar metal welds. The staff also participated in the newly formed joint Section III and Section XI Task Group on New Reactors. The primary responsibility of this new Task Group is to identify technical areas where changes to the ASME code are needed, and to recommend those changes to the appropriate ASME Section. In addition, the staff participated in discussions related to the development of high density polyethylene piping fabrication, fusing and inspection requirements.

International Group on Radiation Damage Mechanisms in Pressure Vessel Steels Meeting

During April 21 - 25, 2008, DCI and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff participated in the 14th meeting of the International Group on Radiation Damage Mechanisms (IGRDM). The objective of the IGRDM is to provide a forum for broad technical interaction in research on radiation damage mechanisms in reactor pressure vessel (RPV) steels. Session topics included: microstructure, environmental and metallurgical variables, micromechanics, as well as special sessions on materials defects and high fluence.

License Renewal Staff Holds Public Meeting to Discuss Metal Fatigue Analysis with Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation

On May 1, 2008, Division of License Renewal staff conducted a public meeting with representatives of Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation to discuss the status of the metal fatigue analyses related to an open item in the Wolf Creek Generating Station Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with open items, dated February 1, 2008. The licensee submitted the metal fatigue analyses in its License Renewal Application. The licensee's response to the SER open items is scheduled to be submitted by May 15, 2008.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Office of New Reactors' Participation at American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler Code Meetings

The staff participated in several American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section III and Qualification for Authorized Inspection (QAI) meetings at the sub-group, subcommittee and main committee levels during the week of April 21, 2008. Specifically, the staff participated in the following committee meetings: Subcommittee on Nuclear Accreditation, QAI Subcommittee on AIA Accreditation, QAI Standards Committee, and Section III Sub-group on General Requirements (SG-GR). In addition, the staff participated in task groups on NCA-4000 Clarification (Section III), New Reactors, and Multinational Design Evaluation Program.

Vendor Inspection at Namco Controls

Between April 21 and April 25, 2008, the staff conducted an inspection at the Namco Controls facilities located in Lancaster, South Carolina. The purpose of the inspection was to verify that Namco Controls had adequately implemented their quality assurance and reporting programs consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B and 10 CFR Part 21, respectively. The NRC inspection focused on quality activities affecting limit switches that Namco Controls supplies as safety-related items to US utilities.

Meeting with TVA to Discuss Hydrology Review for the Bellefonte Combined License Application

On April 25, 2008, the staff held a Category I public meeting with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to discuss hydrology issues associated with the Bellefonte combined license application (COLA). The meeting focused on an April 17, 2008, paper that TVA developed to address issues that the staff had identified in its review of the probable maximum flood (PMF) analysis contained in the Bellefonte COLA. The review of the PMF analysis has been identified by the staff as being in the critical path for the Bellefonte COLA review. TVA described key points in the paper, provided a current status, and proposed actions going forward.

UniStar Response to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2008-01

By letter dated May 1, 2008, UniStar Nuclear Energy (UNE) provided its response to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2008-01, Process for Scheduling Acceptance Reviews based on Notification of Applicant Submission Dates for Early Site Permits, Combined Licenses, and Design Certifications and Process for Determining Budget Needs for Fiscal Year 2010. In its letter, UNE indicated that Union Electric Company (AmerenUE) expects to submit a complete combined license application for the proposed Callaway Plant Unit 2 which is to be located in Callaway County, Missouri, on or before August 4, 2008.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Geologic Site Visit to Yucca Mountain

On April 24, 2008, the NRC and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staff participated in a site visit to the Yucca Mountain area. Staff observed drill cores stored at the United States Department of Energy Sample Management Facility, and examined geologic characteristics of the Buckboard Mesa area on the Nevada Test Site. The visit was observed by representatives from Clark County, Nevada.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

MDS Nordion and Best Theratronics Vendor Visit

On April 29, 2008, the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME), conducted a vendor visit to MDS Nordion, and its successor, Best Theratronics, in Ottawa, Canada, as part of a series of visits to manufacturers of sealed sources and device products containing cesium chloride (CsCl). Both of these companies are United States NRC licensees who manufacture irradiators with large activity sources. This initiative is designed to determine the physical and chemical forms of CsCl that are currently used, the feasibility of using alternative forms of CsCl, and the use of alternative isotopes. The team was comprised of staff from FSME, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and a representative from the Agreement State, Massachusetts.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Technical Exchange with Idaho National Laboratory on Methods for Very High Temperature Reactors (VHTR)

On April 21 through April 24, NRC staff attended a joint meeting at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) on Methods for VHTRs. The meeting covered the objectives and scope of Department of Energy funded VHTR Research and Development (R&D) activities in three major topical areas: thermal-fluids and accident analysis, fuel, and fission products transport. The emphasis of the meeting was on methods development, i.e., tools and data development for VHTR design and safety analysis with applications to the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP). A similar meeting focusing on graphite and high temperature materials R&D is scheduled at INL the week of May 5, 2008.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Limited Work Authorizations for Nuclear Power Plants; Correction (3150-AI05, 10 CFR Parts 2, 50, 51, 52, and 100)

On April 28, 2008, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a correction (73 FR 22786) to a final rule (72 FR 57415, October 9, 2007) that amended the Commission's regulations applicable to limited work authorizations. The document corrected erroneous language to the preamble and codified language of the final rule. The correction became effective April 28, 2008, and is retroactively applicable to November 8, 2007.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of April 25, 2008 through May 1, 2008:

Memorandum from W. Parler, General Counsel, to the Commission regarding issues of the OI Mission & role of Investigations, dated May 25, 1988	FOIA/PA-2008-0198
Correspondence from Senator Hillary Clinton and/or her staff to NRC since 2004	FOIA/PA-2008-0199
Correspondence from Senator Barack Obama and/or his staff to NRC since 2004	FOIA/PA-2008-0200
Correspondence from Senator John McCain and/or his staff to NRC since 2004	FOIA/PA-2008-0201
Correspondence from former President Bill Clinton and/or his staff to NRC since 2004	FOIA/PA-2008-0202
Senior Reactor Operator License, personal qualification statement, certificate of medical history, cancellation letter	FOIA/PA-2008-0203
Entergy Nuclear Operations, copies of SEC filings, internal structure financial information, etc.	FOIA/PA-2008-0204
Investigation of Interquest Northwest Inc., approximate date December 2007	FOIA/PA-2008-0205
NMED, lost, abandoned or stolen radioactive sources in metal scrap report in 2007; NMED, meltings of radioactive sources in United States steel mills between 1998 and 2007	FOIA/PA-2008-0206
NUREG/CR-5496, “Evaluation of Loss of Offsite Power Events at Nuclear Power Plants: 1980 - 1996"	FOIA/PA-2008-0207
Foreign travel (to France) in support of mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility licensing efforts, 1999-2008, to include itinerary, reimbursements, etc.	FOIA/PA-2008-0208
Bio-Nucleonics and Bio-Nucleonics Pharma Inc., 1910 NE Miami Court, Miami, Dade County, Florida 33121, 2000 - 2008, compliance or investigations, inspection reports of any loss incidents or damages	FOIA/PA-2008-0209
Rep. Kenny Hulshof, MO, communications between Rep. Hulshof and/or his staff and NRC from January 1, 1997 to present	FOIA/PA-2008-0210

Office of Human Resources (OHR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Retirements		
BOYLE, MICHAEL	SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER	NRR
BURRELL, MICHAEL	SR. ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST	OE
COLLINS, DOUGLAS	DIR, DIV OF FUEL FACILITY INSP	RII
GUO, JIN-SIEN	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
LINEHAN, JOHN	DIR, INFORMATION & RECORDS SERVICES D	OIS
MCGUIRE, STEPHEN	SENIOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR	NSIR
TRIPP, PEGGY	SECRETARY (OA)	RII
Departures		
CALVO, JOSE	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NRO
GUERRERO, CRISTINA	GENERAL SCIENTIST	NRO
TAVLARIDES, LAWRENCE	CONSULTANT	ACRS
THROM, EDWARD	SENIOR REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

United States low-level wastes imports/exports

Vermont Yankee nuclear plant's decommissioning fund plans including dry cask storage

GE-Hitachi's uranium laser enrichment facility in Wilmington, N.C.

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's grant order for hearing in the Crow Butte in-situ leach facility's expansion review, a uranium recovery facility in Wyoming

The Federal District Court sentencing on the Davis-Besse vessel head corrosion issue.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA facilitated an interview with Energy Daily and OIP expanding on the subjects of the chairman's International Nuclear Regulators Association letter to International Atomic Energy Agency.

OPA regional staff assisted in numerous end-of-cycle meetings.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-084	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate in Hearing on New Reactor Application for Lee Site (4/28)
08-085	International Nuclear Regulators Association Encourages Nuclear Safety Enhancements Worldwide (4/28)
08-086	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 8-10 in Rockville, Md. (4/28)
08-087	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials to Meet May 20-22 In Rockville, Md. (4/29)
08-088	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Fatigue Analysis of Nuclear Power Plant Components (5/1)
Regions:	
I-08-029	New NRC Resident Inspector Assigned to Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant (5/1)
II-08-026	NRC Conducting Special Inspection at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant (4/30)
II-08-027	NRC Conducting Special Inspection at Oconee Nuclear Station (4/30)
II-08-028	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance of Robinson Nuclear Plant (5/1)
III-08-017	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant (5/2)
IV-08-015	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for South Texas Project Nuclear Plant (4/28)
IV-08-016	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Nebraska Public Power District on Cooper Nuclear Station (4/28)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-08-0011	3/25/08	Staff Proposal for the Establishment of a Committee for Nuclear Educational Programs Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act
SRM-COMSECY-08-0011	5/2/08	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMSECY-08-0011	5/2/08	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0060	4/29/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending April 18, 2008
Memoranda		
1. M080430B	4/30/08	SRM – Affirmation Session, 12:55 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2008, Commissioners' Conference Room, One White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland (Open to Public Attendance) – SECY-08-0052 – Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 2 and 3, License Renewal Docket Nos. 50-247-LR and 50-286-LR; WestCAN, SECY-08-0054 – Pacific Gas and Electric Co. Diablo Canyon ISFSI, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace's Motion for Reconsideration of CLI-08-05 and San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace's Request for Admission of Late-Filed Contention 6 Regarding Diablo Canyon Environmental Assessment
M080407A	5/01/08	SRM – Briefing on Digital Instrumentation and Controls, 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 7, 2008, Commissioners' Conference Room, One White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland (Open to Public Attendance)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to David Paterson, Governor of New York, dated April 25, 2008, requests an appointment of a State Liaison Officer to act as the State of New York's primary liaison to the NRC.

2. Letter to Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, dated April 25, 2008, provides NRC's FY 2007 Annual Federal Performance Report on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Tribal Colleges and Universities.

3. Letter to Jon Huntsman, Governor of Utah, dated April 25, 2008, responds to letter forwarding a letter from the Utah Radiation Control Board urging the NRC to deny a license to import approximately 20, 200 tons of radioactive waste from Italy.

4. Letter to Senator Bernard Sanders, dated April 22, 2008, responds to questions raised concerning the 02/19-21/2008, workshop on NRC Plant Life Extension Research and Development co-sponsored by the NRC and the DOE.

5. Letter to Congressman Jim Matheson, dated April 21, 2008, responds to letter requesting that the NRC study the broader policy implications associated with the 09/14/07 application from EnergySolutions, Inc., to import approximately 20,200 tons of radioactive waste from Italy.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

Reactor Oversight Process Annual Assessment Meeting

During the week of April 28 - May 2, 2008, the Regional Office held the Annual Assessment meeting for the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NRC Reactor Oversight Process at the site.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

End-of-Cycle Public Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc.

On April 29, RIV staff conducted a public meeting in St. Francisville, Louisiana, with representatives of Entergy to discuss the calendar year 2007 end-of-cycle assessment results for River Bend Station. Members of the public and the local media attended.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 2, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 14					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Kron	04/29/08 2154 RHOB	2:00	House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia (Representatives Davis / Marchant)	Recruiting and Retaining Federal Employees Through Better Benefits	• TBA
Kron	04/30/08 216 HSOB	3:00	Senate Special Aging Committee (Senators Kohl / Smith)	Proposals for Making the Government a Model for Hiring and Retaining Elderly Workers	• TBA
Kron	05/08/08 342 DSOB	10:00	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia (Senators Akaka / Voinovich)	Federal Hiring Practices	• NRC • Others TBD
Shane/Dacus	05/15/08 406 DSOB	10:00	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