

INFORMATION REPORT

August 26, 2011

SECY-11-0119

For: The Commissioners
From: Nader L. Mamish
Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director for Operations
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 5, 2011

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/RA/

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Fracture of Dissimilar Metal Weldments: Modeling Analysis and Support

On July 25, 2011, as a result of a competitive General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule solicitation, a blanket purchase agreement (NRC-HQ-11-A-04-0014) was awarded to Engineering Mechanics Corporation of Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. This contract will provide technical assistance to continue the development of analytical and computational tools in support of the Extremely Low Probability of Rupture Project. The period of performance is July 25, 2011, through July 24, 2014, with no option periods. The ceiling for the blanket purchase agreement is \$1,292,721.00.

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists; Petition for Rulemaking; Consideration in the Rulemaking Process, 10 CFR Part 26 (PRM-26-4, NRC-2010-0269)

On August 3, 2011, the NRC published a petition for rulemaking (76 FR 46651) in the *Federal Register* to consider the issues raised by Ms. Mary Riemersma, on behalf of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (the petitioner) in a future rulemaking (Docket ID NRC-2011-0137). The petitioner asked the NRC to amend its regulations to add marriage and family therapists as substance abuse experts.

Domestic Licensing of Source Material--Amendments/Integrated Safety Analysis; Extension of Public Comment Period and Public Meeting; Correction, 10 CFR Part 40, RIN-3150-A150 (NRC-2009-0079 and NRC-2011-0080)

On August 4, 2011, the NRC published a correction to a proposed rule (76 FR 47085) that appeared in the *Federal Register* on July 27, 2011 (76 FR 44865), that extended the public comment period and provided a date for a public meeting for the proposed rule. This action is necessary to correct the date of the public meeting in the DATES section, and to correct the Docket ID information for accessing publicly available documents related to the proposed rule and draft guidance document in the ADDRESSES section.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Meeting with Transnuclear, Inc.

On August 3, 2011, Transnuclear Inc. met with NMSS staff to present proposed responses to staff's Request for Supplemental Information, dated July 26, 2011, pertaining to the TN-LC package application. The TN-LC package is a new Type B(U)F-96 package design that can be used, in particular, for transport of high burnup fuel for post-irradiation examination and Transnuclear Inc. had requested an expedited review to support the U.S. Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

Staff discussed proposed responses in the structural, materials, criticality, and shielding technical disciplines, and Transnuclear Inc. advised staff that a revised application will be submitted on or around August 17, 2011 (one week behind schedule). Staff indicated that, in view of the quality of this application and of the agreed upon responses, such application will likely be accepted for a detailed technical review. No regulatory decision was made at this meeting.

August 5, 2011

ENCLOSURE B

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Revised Schedules Issued for Vogtle and Summer Combined License (COL) Applications

On August 2, 2011, the staff issued revised safety review schedules for Southern Nuclear Operating Company's (SNC) COL application for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4 and South Carolina Electric and Gas's (SCE&G) COL application for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station Units 2 and 3. The original projected completion date for the Vogtle final safety evaluation report (FSER) was June 2011. The new projected completion date for the Vogtle FSER is August 2011. The original projected completion date for the Summer FSER was June 2011. The new projected completion date for the Summer FSER is September 2011. The NRC revised the safety review schedules to reflect the delay in the schedule for the FSER for the AP1000 design certification amendment.

Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) Issued for AP1000

On August 5, 2011, the staff issued to Westinghouse Electric Company the FSER for the AP1000 Design Certification Amendment. This FSER documents the NRC staff review of the amendment application through Revision 19 of the Design Control Document (as submitted June 13, 2011). The FSER is publicly available in ADAMS at ML112061231. Also on August 5, 2011, the staff issued a separate letter to Westinghouse with a projected schedule for the final rulemaking. The letter states that the staff projects that the final rule will be submitted to the Commission by October 5, 2011, and published in the *Federal Register* in January 2012.

FSER for Vogtle Combined Licenses (COLs) Issued

On August 5, 2011, the staff issued the FSER for Southern Nuclear Operating Company's application for COLs and a limited work authorization (LWA) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 3 and 4. The FSER reflects the NRC staff's safety conclusions related to the potential construction and operation of the proposed reactors. The FSER and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (issued on March 24, 2011) will be provided to the Commission for the next phase of the licensing process, which is a mandatory hearing.

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Nuclear Power Engineering Committee (NPEC) Meeting

From July 25-27, 2011, staff attended the IEEE NPEC meeting in Dana Point, California. The objective of the meeting was to work on an update to several IEEE standards. The staff is assigned to Sub-Committee 3 (Operations, Maintenance, Aging, Testing and Reliability) and Sub-Committee 4 (Auxiliary Power) working with IEEE standards 336, 338, 308, 741 and 765. In addition, during the IEEE Standard 741, (Sub-Committee 4) meeting, the staff also addressed and clarified the concerns and questions raised during the NRC's public workshop conducted on June 28-29, 2011, regarding the regulatory requirements and guidance provided in the proposed Regulatory Issue Summary for nuclear power plant electric power system degraded voltage protection schemes.

Staff Issues Seabrook Station License Renewal Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Public Comment

On August 1, 2011, the staff issued for public comment the draft of NUREG-1437, Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 46, Regarding Seabrook Station, Unit 1. This draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's preliminary analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. It also includes the staff's preliminary recommendation that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Seabrook Station, Unit 1, are not great enough to deny the option of license renewal for energy-planning decision-makers. The public comment period ends on October 26, 2011. The staff has scheduled public meetings near the plant on September 15, 2011, to present its analyses and to solicit public comments on the document.

Westinghouse In-Vessel Fuel Head Loss Test

On August 3, 2011, as part of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191 review, the staff witnessed an in-vessel fuel head loss test. The test was the second half of the cross-test that staff requested several months ago but industry did not perform. The test was a Westinghouse fuel assembly test in the AREVA test rig.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 5, 2011

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of July 29, 2011, through August 4, 2011:

TAMKO/EPOCH facilities in Missouri, general licenses for devices used to measure thickness	FOIA/PA-2011-0313
NIACS codes 541613, 541810, etc., names and dollar amounts of past vendors; publication "Forecast of Contracting Opportunities;" women's business advocate	FOIA/PA-2011-0312
NRC1007414, contract and all modifications	FOIA/PA-2011-0311
Studies used to support conclusions referenced in "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century - The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident, July 12, 2011," page 50, Section 4.3, paragraph 3	FOIA/PA-2011-0310
Any documents, records, reports, and situation reports relating to any and all actions taken by Chairman Jaczko while using "emergency powers" following the earthquake in Japan including emails, faxes, or correspondence	FOIA/PA-2011-0309
Nuclear Material Events Database event reports for well logging sources abandoned downhole in state of Kentucky	FOIA/PA-2011-0308
Office of New Reactors (NRO) Office Instruction NRO-REG-114, "Rulemaking Procedures," Revision 0	FOIA/PA-2011-0307
All licensees who hold a Radioactive Materials License including name, address, phone, Radiation Safety Officer and/or contact person for each licensee in Excel format	FOIA/PA-2011-0306

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Termination of the Licensing Support Network and the ultimate closing of the Las Vegas hearing facility.

Senate oversight hearing on the Commission's actions following the NRC Japan Task Force's recommendations.

Updates of the seismic hazard information found in the NRC's seismic generic issue (GI-199).

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA coordinated press coverage following the Senate Hearing.

OPA did a recorded interview and answered media questions on a fish found in the Connecticut River downstream of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant (Vermont) identified with very low levels of strontium-90.

Press Releases Issued	
Headquarters:	
11-144	**CORRECTED** Licensing Board to Conduct Hearing August 17 in Austin, Texas, on South Texas Project New Nuclear Reactor Application (8/4)
11-145	NRC Seeks Public Input on Draft Environmental Report for Seabrook Nuclear Plant License Renewal, Meeting September 15 (8/2)
11-143	NRC to Hold Public Workshop in Houston August 11-12 on Medical Event Definition and Other Rule Changes (8/2)
Regions:	
III-11-028	NRC Schedules Public Meeting August 11 to Discuss Perry Nuclear Power Plant Performance and NRC Oversight (8/4)
II-11-043	NRC Schedules Meeting to Discuss Restart of NFS Process Line (8/4)
IV-11-037	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Columbia Generating Station (8/2)

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Publication of Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.156, "Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants"

On August 3, 2011, the RES staff published Revision 1 of RG 1.156, "Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants." Revision 1 of RG 1.156 endorses the use of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) standard 572-2006, "Qualification of Class 1E Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Generating Stations." In conjunction with RG 1.89, "Environmental Qualification of Certain Electric Equipment Important to Safety for Nuclear Power Plants," RG 1.156 provides an acceptable method of demonstrating compliance with current NRC regulations on the environmental qualification of connectors, terminations, and environmental seals for cable and wire assemblies for service in nuclear power plants. RG 1.156 is available on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/rq/>.

International Forum for Reactor Aging Management (IFRAM) Meeting

On August 4-5, 2011, RES staff participated in the Kickoff Meeting for the International Forum for Reactor Aging Management (IFRAM) at Colorado Springs, Colorado. IFRAM is intended to foster collaborative research projects and knowledge transfer among parties interested in long term reactor operations. Also participating in the meeting are representatives from domestic and international organizations including the International Atomic Energy Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, Electric Power Research Institute, Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (Japan), Nuclear Plant Life Prediction Programs, and the Materials Ageing Institute.

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2011

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-11-0104	08/02/2011	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending July 22, 2011
Memoranda		
1. M110719	08/01/2011	Staff Requirements-Briefing on the Task Force Review of NRC Processes and Regulations Following the Events in Japan
2. M110728B	08/03/11	Staff Requirements-Briefing on Severe Accidents and Options for Proceeding with Level 3 Probabilistic Risk Assessment Activities

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, dated July 29, 2011, responds to letter urging the NRC to initiate a rulemaking process to require a more rapid shift of spent nuclear fuel to dry cask storage.
2. Letter to Congressman Darrell Issa, dated July 29, 2011, responds to letter concerning information related to the submittal of the Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century (Task Force Report).
3. Letter to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, dated July 27, 2011, responds to letter regarding the planned strike by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 97 at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station.
4. Letter to Congress, dated July 27, 2011, responds to letter from the Blue Dog Coalition and the Task Force on Oversight and Regulatory Review regarding Executive Order 13563.