

INFORMATION REPORT

March 28, 2012

SECY-12-0045

For: The Commissioners

From: Nader L. Mamish
Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 23, 2012

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/RA/

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Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

Neutral Services Supporting the NRC Office of Enforcement's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (ADR)

On March 12, 2012, as a result of a competitive solicitation, a hybrid firm-fixed-price and indefinite delivery-requirements type contract (NRC-HQ-12-C-37-0039) was awarded to Cornell University of Ithaca, NY, for comprehensive ADR case management services from initial contact by a potential party through completion of a potential ADR settlement agreement. The period of performance is from March 27, 2012, to March 26, 2013, with four 1-year option periods. The total value of the contract is \$998,337.00, inclusive of all options.

Station Blackout; Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 10 CFR Part 50 (RIN 3150-AJ08; NRC-2011-0299)

On March 20, 2012, the NRC published in the *Federal Register* (77 FR 16175) an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to begin the process of considering amendments of its regulations to address a condition known as station blackout (SBO). SBO involves the loss of all onsite and offsite alternating current power at a nuclear power plant. The NRC is seeking public comments on specific questions and issues with respect to possible revisions to the NRC's requirements for addressing SBO conditions to develop new SBO requirements and a supporting regulatory basis. This regulatory action is one of the near-term actions based on lessons-learned stemming from the March 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi accident in Japan. Comments on the proposed rule are due by May 4, 2012.

Petition for Rulemaking Submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.; Consideration in the Rulemaking Process, Proposed Rule, 10 CFR Part 50 (PRM-50-101; NRC-2011-0189)

On March 21, 2012, the NRC published in the *Federal Register* (77 FR 16483) a document stating the NRC will consider the issues raised in the petition for rulemaking (PRM) submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC or the petitioner), in the NRC's rulemaking process. The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its regulations to require each operating and new reactor licensee to establish station blackout mitigation strategies and resources. The NRC determined that the issues raised in the PRM are appropriate for consideration and will consider them in the planned "Station Blackout" rulemaking.

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

Arrivals		
None		
Retirements		
Newgent, Christine	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	R-I
Departures		
Azeem, Almas	SENIOR STAFF ASSISTANT	NRR
Johnson, Jonathan	RESIDENT INSPECTOR (PWR)	R-I

March 23, 2012

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 23, 2012

Montgomery County Public Schools Mock Job Interviews

On March 14, 2012, staff from the Program Management, Policy Development, and Analysis Staff (PMAS) supported Montgomery County Public Schools and the National Academy Program by participating as a mock interviewer at Gaithersburg High School (GHS). The GHS' Academy of Information Technology (IT) is the NRC's primary partner for IT Job Shadow Day. NRC recently hosted its 4th annual IT Job Shadow Day on February 2, 2012, where 24 students from GHS attended in the IT and financial areas. The mock interviews were a follow-up activity to continue the agency's partnership with the community, as well as the partnership with a local school that has potential, future NRC IT professionals. The Office of Information Services hopes to hire, via the Student Temporary Employee Program, at least two of the students who attended IT Job Shadow Day and participated in the mock interviews.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 16, 2012 through March 22, 2012:

Simulation documents dated 3/11/11 - 4/30/11 by Shunsuke Kondo, Japan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman, regarding possible sequences of the Fukushima crisis, referral from State Department	FOIA/PA-2012-0172
NRC License No. XR081 Westinghouse Electric Company	FOIA/PA-2012-0173
Zion Nuclear Power Station Units 1 & 2, membership interests, management interest, directorships incorporated in the limited liability company operating agreements	FOIA/PA-2012-0174
NRC Regulatory Guide 3.74, additional documents existing that provide a regulatory justification for the implementation of Section C.5	FOIA/PA-2012-0175
All documents relating to any inquiry by any entity into the Colorado Department of Health and Environment licensing of Pinon Ridge Mill from 1/1/07-3/19/12	FOIA/PA-2012-0176
NRC Part 170 and 171 Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning Fees, Eight Categories of Records	FOIA/PA-2012-0177
NRC License No. XR081 Amendments 1, 2 & 3	FOIA/PA-2012-0178
NRC-Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Employee Survey, including Employee Satisfaction with Office of Investigations	FOIA/PA-2012-0179

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

Staff Visit to a Defense Threat Reduction Agency Technical Equipment Inspection Facility

On March 20, 2012, Material Control & Accounting Branch (MCAB) staff visited a facility used by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to perform technical equipment inspections on equipment being brought into the United States by foreign nationals for the purpose of treaty verification activities to ensure it does not pose a threat to national security. This facility, in particular, is involved in the inspection of equipment used by inspectors for treaties and agreements such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, the U.S.- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement, and the U.S. Additional Protocol. MCAB staffs were shown the various commercial off the shelf instruments used by DTRA staff such as a thermal imaging camera, radiofrequency detection antenna, and a portable digital x-ray imaging system.

March 23, 2012

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

Safety Evaluation Issued for GE-Hitachi

On March 15, 2012, staff issued the Final Safety Evaluation for GE-Hitachi topical report NEDC-33173P (“Applicability of GE Methods to Expanded Operating Domains”), Revision 2 and Supplement 2, Parts 1-3, “Analysis of Gamma Scan Data and Removal of Safety Limit Minimum Critical Power Ratio (SLMCPR) Margin.”

Westinghouse Fuel Performance Update Meeting

From March 21-22, 2012, staff met with Westinghouse technical staff and their client licensees to discuss fuel performance issues. This meeting was one of several periodic meetings the staff holds with nuclear power plant fuel vendors to gather information on fuel performance and to exchange information on fuel operating experience. Westinghouse also provided submittal information on future topical reports for new fuel designs and analytical methods for fuel performance.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1265 “Initial Test Program of Condensate and Feedwater Systems for Light-Water Reactors”

On March 16, 2012 the staff issued DG-1265 for a 60 day public comment period. The draft guide is proposed revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.68.1, “Preoperational and Initial Startup Testing of Feedwater and Condensate Systems for Boiling Water Reactor Power Plants.” The name and scope of the regulatory guide has been changed to (1) expand the scope of the guide to encompass preoperational, initial plant startup, and power ascension tests for the condensate and feedwater systems in all types of light water reactor facilities licensed under 10 CFR Parts 50 and 52; and (2) incorporate lessons learned by the NRC staff since the 1977 revision. DG-1265 is available on the NRC Website at:

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1120/ML112020111.pdf>

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1268, “Preoperational Testing of Instrument and Control Air Systems”

On March 16, 2012 the staff issued DG-1268 for a 60 day public comment period. The draft guide is proposed revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.68.3, dated January 1982. This regulatory guide is being revised to address new issues that have been raised since RG 1.68.3 was first issued. These include required vibration testing of instrument and control air systems (ICAS) to meet seismic requirement, ICAS air-dryer testing to meet dew point design requirements, ICAS accumulator check valves and solenoid valves operating and testing experience, an update to Individual Study Activity-S7.3 for acceptable industry standards for oil, water and particle matter in ICAS, etc. The revised guide contains information specific for testing both older plants and newer reactors licensed under both 10 CFR Part 50 and Part 52. DG-1268 is available on the NRC Website at: <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1131/ML113180379.pdf>

Value of Statistical Life (VSL) Workshop

On March 19 and 20, 2012, RES sponsored an interagency regulatory analysis workshop focusing on the value of statistical life (VSL) used in cost-benefit analysis. The workshop brought together approximately 50 participants from 10 different federal agencies and included representatives from the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Agriculture. The participants exchanged lessons learned regarding calculating, updating, applying, and communicating VSL, and identified potential areas for future interagency collaboration in the area of regulatory analysis. The workshop highlighted similar and unique challenges regarding VSL faced by each agency and provided useful insights as the agency updates the dollar per person-rem conversion factor used in regulatory analysis.

Publication of Regulatory Guide 4.11, "Terrestrial Environmental Studies for Nuclear Power Stations"

On March 21, the staff published Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.11, revision 2, "Terrestrial Environmental Studies for Nuclear Power Stations." This guide provides technical guidance that NRC staff considers acceptable for terrestrial environmental studies and analyses supporting licensing decisions for nuclear power reactors. Regulatory Guide 4.11 is available on the NRC website at <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1133/ML113350385.pdf>

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 2005 (DG-2005) "Quality Verification for Plate-Type Uranium-Aluminum Fuel Elements for Use in Research Reactors"

On March 21, 2012 the staff issued DG-2005 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is proposed Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 2.3, which provides licensees and applicants with a method that the staff of the NRC considers acceptable for complying with the Commission's regulations concerning establishing and executing a quality assurance program for verifying the quality of plate-type uranium-aluminum fuel elements used in research and test reactors (RTRs). DG-2005 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/res-test-reactors/draft-index.html>

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2012

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

A federal district judge's ruling on Vermont Yankee nuclear plant (VT) caused protest and demonstrations which lead to arrests.

The expansion of emergency planning zones at Indian Point nuclear plant (NY).

The dispute over the licensing process for Colorado Uranium Mill (CO).

The Japan orders and whether the actions would impact license renewal reviews.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA supported the following media interviews and events:

- Palisades nuclear plant (MI) annual assessment meeting and OPA facilitated an interview between NRC staff and WSJM news radio.
- OPA facilitated an interview of Mike Johnson and Frank Akstulewicz of NRO for a freelance reporter regarding the NRC's review of the AP1000 design certification.
- OPA facilitated an interview between a freelance journalist and the two NRC staffers who were involved with the review of the Indian Point nuclear plant (NY) license renewal application.
- OPA participated in a live interview with KMJ Radio to provide an update on the status of the ongoing steam generator tube testing at San Onofre nuclear generating station (CA).
- OPA participated in an interview with KMOX Radio regarding a report the licensee made after a test of the backup generator caused lights to flicker.

OPA issued 3 blog posts:

- Asking the public for input on the FY 2012 proposed fee rule.
- Eager "IT Shadow Day" Students Indicate a Promising Tomorrow.

Press Releases Issued	
Headquarters:	
12-030	NRC, Energy Department to Host International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Conference on Nuclear Plant Life Management for Long-Term Operations May 14-18 in Salt Lake City (3/22/2012)
12-029	NRC to Discuss Upcoming Earthquake Re-evaluation April 2-3 in Palo Alto, Calif. (3/21/2012)
12-028	NRC Seeks Public Comment at Start of Process to Revise "Station Blackout" Rule (3/20/2012)
Regions:	
I-12-011	NRC to Hold Open House on March 29 in Plymouth, Mass., to Discuss Annual Assessment of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (3/22/2012)
I-12-010	NRC to Hold Open House on March 28 in Stafford Township, N.J., to Discuss Annual Assessment of Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant (3/20/2012)
IV-12-009	NRC Staff to Meet With Omaha Public Power District Officials to Discuss Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant (3/20/2012)
II-12-003	NRC Schedules Meetings to Discuss Vogtle Nuclear Plant Performance and Construction Inspection for New Units (3/20/2012)
I-12-009	NRC to Hold Open House on March 22 in Shippingport, PA., to Discuss Annual Assessment of Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant (3/19/2012)
I-12-008	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on March 21st in Berwick, PA., to Discuss Annual Assessment of Susquehanna Nuclear Plant and Results of Recent Supplemental Inspection (3/19/2012)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 23, 2012

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. Commission Voting Record on SECY-11-0170	3/16/12	Final Rule: Physical Protection of Byproduct Material (RIN 3150-AI12)
2. SECY-12-0034	3/1/12	Proposed Rulemaking – 10 CFR 50.46c: Emergency Core Cooling System Performance During Loss-of-Coolant Accidents (RIN 3150-AH42)
3. SRM on SECY-12-0003	3/19/12	Draft Final Policy Statement on Volume Reduction and Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management
Commission Voting Record on SECY-12-0003	3/19/12	(same)
4. SRM on SECY-12-0010	3/21/12	Engagement of Stakeholders Regarding the Events in Japan
Commission Voting Record on SECY-12-0010	3/21/12	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-12-0037	3/13/12	Blue Ribbon Commission Final Report: Status of Relevant Nuclear Regulatory Commission Activities
2. SECY-12-0041	3/21/12	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending March 16, 2012

Memoranda		
1. M120316	3/16/12	Staff Requirements – Affirmation Session: I. SECY-11-0170 – Final Rule: Physical Protection of Byproduct Material (RIN 3150-AI12); II. SECY-12-0014 – Luminant Generation Company LLC (Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 3 & 4); Entergy Northwest (Columbia Generating Station); Southern Nuclear Operating Co. (Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4); Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (William States Lee III Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2), Petitions for Review of LBP-11-27 (November 2, 2011)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated March 12, 2012, provides NRC's Status Report on Implementation of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendations Based on Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident.
2. Letter to Senator Barbara Boxer, dated March 13, 2012, responds to letter regarding recent events at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.
3. Letter to Congress, United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB), dated March 14, 2012, provides a summary of actions taken by the NRC in response to recommendations contained in various GAO reports that address NRC activities.
4. Letter to Congress, dated March 15, 2012, provides NRC's Updated Fiscal Year 2008-2013 Strategic Plan.
5. Letter to Congress, dated March 16, 2012, provides an NRC draft bill that would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI), Renewal Notice.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on Regulatory Policies and Practices, notice of meeting (04/25/2012).