

INFORMATION REPORT

March 8, 2005

SECY-05-0042

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0042 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Public Meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP) Application

On February 17, 2005, NRR staff, assisted by its contractor, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and staff members from the Office of General Counsel, Office of Public Affairs, and Region II held a public meeting to solicit comments on the staff's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) associated with the North Anna ESP application. The DEIS was issued on December 2, 2004, and the public comment period for the DEIS ends on March 1, 2005. Approximately 300 people attended the meeting, including members of the public, the licensee, local government representatives, and the local news media. A number of comments and questions were received during the meeting regarding nuclear security, potential effect on Lake Anna water temperature, alternative energy sources, and radiological effluent releases. At the conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received and revise the DEIS as appropriate. The staff's project schedule calls for issuance of the final Environmental Impact Statement in August 2005.

Electrical Grid Reliability Workshop

On February 16 and 17, 2005, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs and other staff members attended the subject workshop sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs presented the NRC's perspective regarding electrical grid reliability to an audience of nuclear plant operators, transmission system operators, independent system operators, industry consultants, NEI, INPO, EPRI, and NERC. The main theme of the workshop involved enhancing communications between nuclear power plant operators and grid operators to support both nuclear safety and grid reliability.

Public Meeting with Three Mile Island, Unit 1

On February 16-17, 2005, NRR staff met with representatives from Exelon in a public meeting to discuss the licensee's steam generator tube inspection and flaw evaluation methodology for Three Mile Island (TMI), Unit 1, which is currently under staff review. The discussions centered on open issues with the licensee's acceptance criteria related to flaw indications located in the expanded portion of the tube within the hot-leg tubesheet. Two of the major outstanding issues pertain to the adequacy of the assumptions and inputs to the thermal hydraulic model, and whether Exelon has selected the most limiting parameters for assessing the structural and leakage integrity of the tubing in accident scenarios. These issues must be resolved before Exelon can adopt the new steam generator technical specifications.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Department of Energy's (DOE's) Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Analysis Update Meeting

On February 15-18, 2005, staff from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended "Workshop-2" of the DOE's "Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Analysis Expert Elicitation Meeting." The staff observed the process employed by DOE, in its expert elicitation, to update its Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Assessment (PVHA). The primary purpose of Workshop-2 was to discuss alternative approaches to volcanic hazard analysis. Presentations and discussions covered the following areas: (1) updating the analysis of the recent aeromagnetic survey of the Yucca Mountain region; (2) planned drilling of selected anomalies which will begin in March/April 2005; (3) various geophysics surveys and studies conducted in the Yucca Mountain vicinity; (4) interpreted geology of the Yucca Mountain Region; and (5) various models used worldwide to develop hazard assessments. The results are anticipated to be used by DOE in its potential license application for a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. To date, volcanism is calculated to be of dominant risk significance. The staff will continue to observe DOE's ongoing efforts to update its PVHA.

NRC/DOE Quarterly Management Meeting on High-Level Waste Repository

On February 17, 2005, NRC senior management representatives met with representatives from DOE in a public meeting, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss management issues and progress regarding DOE's potential license application for a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Staff members from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas, and the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland participated in the meeting via video and audio connections to the meeting facility.

Meeting with Duratek About Transport of Uranium Hexafluoride in the Model No. UX-30 Package

On February 22, 2005, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives from Duratek, Inc., on the subject issue. The discussions focused on the evaluations and analyses undertaken to demonstrate that the UX-30 package meets the performance requirements in 10 CFR Part 71. The application for approval of the shipments is scheduled to be submitted by mid-April 2005.

Joint Convention Executive Steering Committee Meeting

On February 22, 2005, a meeting of the interagency Executive Steering Committee for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was held at the DOE Forrestal Building in Washington, D.C. Representatives from NRC, DOE, and the Department of State participated.

Discussion topics included: (1) the schedule leading up to the May 2006 Meeting of the Contracting Parties to review the national reports; (2) the coverage strategy for the review

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meeting; and (3) the Morocco Regional Workshop for promoting the ratification Joint Convention by African Nations. Additionally, the Department of State requested DOE and NRC to provide talking points on the Joint Convention, by the beginning of March, for upcoming venues, such as the G-8 meeting.

Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) Workshop

On February 22, 2005, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Region II Division of Fuel Facility Inspection conducted the subject workshop at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Attendees included the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry representatives and the members of the public. The purpose of this Workshop was to discuss ISA-related issues for nuclear fuel cycle facilities under 10 CFR Part 70, Subpart H. NRC staff made presentations on the inspection plans for Subpart H implementation, licensing reviews of fuel cycle licensees' ISA summaries and annual change submittals, and draft Interim Staff Guidance documents on natural phenomena hazards, qualitative evaluation of likelihood, and justification for minimum margin of subcriticality. NEI and industry representatives presented comments on industry's assessment of Subpart H implementation, including successes, current concerns, and future expectations.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Preliminary Notifications:

1. PNO-IV-05-005, Pacific Gas and Electric Company - NOTIFICATION OF MISSING IN-CORE DETECTORS AT HUMBOLDT BAY.
2. PNO-III-05-003, Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant - SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 72 HOURS DUE TO AUXILIARY FEEDWATER SYSTEM DECLARED INOPERABLE DUE TO HIGH ENERGY LINE BREAK CONCERNS.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2005 (AH61 - Parts 170 and 171)

On February 22, 2005, a proposed rule to amend the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to the Commission's applicants and licensees was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 8678). The proposed rule is intended to ensure compliance with the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended. The Act mandates that the NRC recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in Fiscal Year 2005, less amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund. The amount to be recovered for FY 2005 is approximately \$540.7 million. The comment period on the proposed rule closes March 24, 2005.

Broadening Scope of Access Authorization and Facility Security Clearance Regulations:
Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule (AH52 - Parts 25 and 95)

On February 24, 2004 (70 FR 8921), the NRC withdrew a direct final rule that was published on December 15, 2004 (69 FR 74949). The direct final rule would have made two clarifying amendments. First, the direct final rule would have expanded the scope of the regulations applicable to persons who may require access to classified information to include persons who may need access in connection with licensing and regulatory activities under the regulations that govern the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in geologic repositories. Second, the direct final rule would also have expanded the scope of the regulations applicable to procedures for obtaining facility security clearances to include persons who may need to sue, process, store, reproduce, transmit, transport, or handle NRC classified information in connection with licensing and regulatory activities under the regulations that govern the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in geologic repositories. The direct final rule was withdrawn in response to a significant, adverse comment. A subsequent final rule will be issued that responds to comments received on a companion proposed rule that was published with the direct final rule.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
February 18 through February 24, 2005:

Department of Energy's Safety Analysis Rreport dated 3-31-98, docket 71-9098	FOIA/PA-2005-0148
North Anna, radiological impacts addressed in chapter 5 of NUREG-1811, Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit, all records re: independent evaluations or confirmatory analyses	FOIA/PA-2005-0149
OI Investigation, re: Hershey Medical Center, Nuclear Medicine Dept., May 2004, outcome of investigation	FOIA/PA-2005-0150
Commission's part in the process & determination in neutralizing a hijacked airline carrying hazardous nuclear material	FOIA/PA-2005-0151
OIG report re: Under reporting of FY03 financial statements because of a deficiency in license fee billing system	FOIA/PA-2005-0152
NRC Contract 2600307, Sections B, C, H, J, L & M, & modifications	FOIA/PA-2005-0153
Seismograph charts for underground tests performed in the 1960s & 1970s	FOIA/PA-2005-0154

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Arrivals		
Kathleen Clayton	Secretary (OA)	RES
Jane Fogg	Secretary (OA)	HR
Natreon J. Jordan	Nuclear Process Engineer (Criticality)	NMSS
Paul Michalak	Hydrogeologist	NMSS
Retirement		
James H. Myers	Health Physicist	OSTP
Departures		
William H. Lovell, Jr	Chief, Planning Team	OCFO
David N. Orrik	Consultant	NSIR

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

The Atomic Safety & Licensing Board's ruling in the Private Fuel Storage, LLC, hearing.

The NRC's continuing review of its online documents library for sensitive information.

Duke Power's indication of interest in building a new nuclear plant in the Carolinas.

Pacific Gas & Electric's report on its search for missing in-core detectors at Humboldt Bay.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-032	NRC Proposes to Amend Licensing, Inspection, and Annual Fees Rule (2/22)
05-033	NRC Lifts Immediate Effectiveness of Order Suspending License of Safety Light (2/22)
05-034	NRC Licensing Board Finds in Favor of Company in PFS Case; Decision Now Goes to Commission (2/24)
05-035	NRC Invites the Public to Submit Nominations for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (2/25)
05-036	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet March 3-5 in Rockville, Maryland (2/25)
05-037	NRC Issues Licenses Allowing Westinghouse to Export Nuclear Reactor Equipment and Fuel to China (2/25)
Regions:	
I-05-008	NRC, Company to Discuss License Renewal Inspection Conducted at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant (2/23)
III-05-006	NRC Seeks Public Input on Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Point Beach Nuclear Plant License Renewal (2/24)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

NRC-MOST/KINS Second Bilateral Regulatory Information Exchange Meeting Held at NRC

On February 22-23, 2005, the second annual Bilateral Regulatory Information Exchange Meeting was held at NRC headquarters in Rockville, MD, between the NRC and representatives from the South Korean government. The eight-person delegation from South Korea consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS). The discussions centered on issues relating to probabilistic safety assessments, license renewal, reactor oversight process, spent fuel management and transportation standards. The third Bilateral is scheduled to occur in April 2006.

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0029	2/7/05	Use of the NRC Public Web Site for Dissemination of the NRC Enforcement Policy
2. SRM on SECY-04-0236	2/23/05	Southern Nuclear Operating Company's Proposal to Establish a Common Emergency Operating Facility at its Corporate Headquarters
Voting Record on SECY-04-0236	2/23/05	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0037	2/23/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 11, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050215	2/25/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans
2. M050222B	2/22/05	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: a. COMSECY-05-0009 - Safety Light Corporation (Materials Licensing Suspension)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward Markey and Congressman John Dingell, dated February 16, 2005, concerning ongoing rulemaking efforts related to the revision of current fire protection regulations.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, notice of meeting (04/20-21/05).
2. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3), Docket No. 50-336 and 50-423, ASLBP No. 05-837-01-LR.

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Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
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Millstone Unit 2 - Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)

On February 19, 2005, the licensee completed first loading of spent fuel into the ISFSI. NRC inspectors observed the licensee's loading activities. The licensee, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, employs the Transnuclear NUHOMS-32PT Horizontal Modular dry cask storage system as the storage system for the spent fuel.

Meeting with New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection Representatives

On February 25, 2005, Region I and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff met with Dr. Jill Lipoti and Mr. Kent Tosch of the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection. The discussion topics included: (1) interagency communications; (2) the 1987 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRC and NJ; (3) performance issues at the Oyster Creek, Salem, and Hope Creek Nuclear Stations; (4) NJ state observations and concerns regarding implementation of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process; and (5) questions about the Oyster Creek license renewal exemption approval.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Shearon Harris - Senior NRC Management Visit

On February 24, 2005, the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) accompanied by the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects from Region II visited the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant in North Carolina for a plant tour and meeting with licensee officials. On the following day, the Director of NRR participated in a meeting with Progress Energy Officials in Raleigh, NC, to discuss the upcoming Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) inspection at the Brunswick nuclear plant in May 2005. OSART inspections are sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote the continuous development of operational safety within all Member States by in-depth review of nuclear power plant operational safety performance and by the dissemination of information on good practices.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 25, 2005

Public Meeting with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD)

On February 24, 2005, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety held a public meeting with NPPD officials at the Region IV offices in Dallas, Texas. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss fidelity issues with Cooper Nuclear Station's control room simulator. NPPD representatives provided a presentation covering simulator testing and work management, simulator training, and the plans for going forward.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 25, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 8</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	03/02/05 SD-138	10:30	DHS	FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations	Senators Cochran/Byrd Homeland Security Appropriations
Madden	03/03/05 SD-366	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	Tentative for Week of March 7	TBD	DOE	Funding for Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Madden	03/15/05 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget; Science, Nuclear Energy and Renewable Energy	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	Tentative for mid March	TBD	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April	TBD	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Exelon CEO, IBEW rep, City Council rep near Grand Gulf	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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