

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 29, 2005

SECY-05-0050

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/  
Subject: SECY-05-0050 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING MARCH 18, 2005"

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

William M. Dean  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 18, 2005

Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station: On-line Monitoring of Instrument Performance

On March 9, 2005, the NRC staff held a public meeting with South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), the licensee for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS), to discuss the status of the licensee's efforts with on-line monitoring of safety-related instrument performance. SCE&G indicated that before the end of this year it will be submitting an application to amend the plant Technical Specifications related to the frequency of calibrations required in the existing surveillance requirements and incorporating on-line monitoring requirements. The proposal by the licensee will be a first-of-a-kind effort to implement the on-line monitoring program developed by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for which the NRC staff issued a safety evaluation report (SER), dated July 24, 2000.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-13, Supplement 1: Consideration of Sheltering In Licensees' Range of Protective Action Recommendations

On March 10, 2005, NRC issued the subject Supplement to RIS 2004-13, which confirms the NRC staff position regarding inclusion of sheltering for consideration in licensees' range of protective action recommendations. The RIS Supplement also informs licensees that the NRC staff will begin evaluating the use of enforcement action for licensees in non-compliance; however, to provide licensees sufficient time to evaluate the issue and update their emergency plans as necessary, the NRC staff has decided to use discretion and not take enforcement action on this issue for a period extending 90 days following the issuance of this supplement. No specific action or written response is required for RISs, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facility and consider actions, as appropriate.

Duke Power - Planning Related to Possible COL Application

On March 14, 2005, NRR staff held a public meeting with Duke Power to discuss planning currently being undertaken by Duke Power for the possible development of a combined license (COL) application. Duke Power identified four possible COL application scenarios: certified design with a greenfield site, certified design with a previously characterized site, certified design with an existing site, and non-certified design with a greenfield site. Duke Power is considering three reactor technologies: General Electric ESBWR [Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor], Framatome ANP EPR [European Pressurized-water Reactor], and Westinghouse AP1000.

Duke Power indicated that it will decide or whether to proceed with the project in May 2005 and, if applicable, select the site and reactor technology by the end of 2005. Duke Power also has indicated that it plans to actively engage the NRC in pre-application discussions and to submit a COL application in early 2008, once a decision is made to proceed with the project. The NRC staff presented nominal review schedules and resource estimates based, in part, on SECY-01-0188, "Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment." In addition, the staff discussed other COL application topics, including pre-application interactions, inspections to

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support COL application review, antitrust review, and NEI 04-01, "Draft Industry Guideline for Combined License Applicants Under 10 CFR Part 52."

#### Public Meeting to Discuss Implementation of Mitigating System Performance Index

On March 16, 2005, NRR staff hosted the monthly public meeting on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI). Meeting attendees discussed questions and issues raised during the recent industry workshop held on February 9-10, 2005, in Dana Point, CA. Although a majority of the major technical issues were substantially resolved during the meeting, there is still no agreement on certain issues related to PRA quality. Industry had previously made a proposal on PRA quality to staff and is currently re-evaluating its position. The staff will continue to work with industry and public stakeholders to resolve potential changes to the original proposal. Industry-wide implementation of the MSPI is scheduled to begin in January 2006.

#### Public Meeting to Discuss Reactor Oversight Process Implementation

On March 17, 2005, NRR staff hosted the monthly public meeting on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). Meeting participants discussed Significance Determination Process issues, plant security related issues, status updates from the Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal and Reactor Coolant System Leakage Performance Indicator Task Forces, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The next public ROP meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2005.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 18, 2005

Meeting to Draft a Safety Guidance for Enrichment and Conversion Facilities

On March 7-11, 2005, NMSS staff participated in a working-level consultant's meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, to complete the first draft of DS 344, "Guide on Safety of Conversion and Enrichment Facilities." DS 344 contains guidance for the siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of commercial enrichment and UF<sub>6</sub> [uranium hexafluoride] conversion facilities. Once finalized, a fuel cycle facility operator/designer or a country may use this document to enhance safety at its commercial enrichment or UF<sub>6</sub> conversion facilities. If requested, an IAEA safety review team may also use DS 344 to independently evaluate safety at a commercial enrichment or UF<sub>6</sub> conversion facility. DS 344 will be forwarded to the IAEA's nuclear safety committee, for comment, by the end of March 2005.

Staff Participates in Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum Meeting

On March 14-15, 2005, NMSS staff participated in the Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Forum held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Staff made presentations on NRC's LLRW activities, the June 2004 General Accountability Office report on low-level radioactive waste, and the "Disposition of Solid Materials" rulemaking. Staff also participated in a session on the Joint Position of the Organization of Agreement States and Health Physics Society, on "Uniform Safety and Security Regulations for Radioactive Materials." Through its participation, the staff enhanced its relationship with the Forum in anticipation of increased LLRW activities in the coming year.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 18, 2005

2005 International Primary Water Stress Corrosion Cracking (PWSCC) of Alloy 600 Conference

The RES staff participated in the subject conference held in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, during March 7 -10, 2005. This meeting was organized by Electric Power Research Institute and was attended by approximately 170 participants from 16 countries. Parallel sessions were held on the following subject areas: Crack Growth and Initiation, Strategic Planning, Cracking and Reliability Studies of Alloy 600, Repair Methods and Technologies, Laboratory Investigations of Cracks, Mitigation and Repair, Boric Acid Corrosion, Inspection Technologies and Planning, Mitigation Methods, Inspections, and Regulatory Issues. Researchers shared preliminary data on Alloy 690 showing PWSCC and cracking, but only under extreme laboratory conditions. From the information presented it appears that the laboratory and field experience in France with Alloy 690 and 182 is excellent in terms of resistance to PWSCC.

Implementing Agreement Between NRC and the State Office for Nuclear Safety of the Czech Republic in the Area of Severe Accident Research

On March 14, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations signed the subject international agreement between NRC and the State Office for Nuclear Safety of the Czech Republic (SÚJB). This Implementing Agreement defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and SÚJB will continue cooperation in the area of severe accident research, contribute to expanding the NRC's data and knowledge base in the area of severe accident research and independently verifying the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code. The work performed and exchanged under this Implementing Agreement also enhances the quality assurance of the NRC's reactor safety codes through the expansion of the international user community and through their subsequent code assessments and feedback. In addition to exchanging technical information and data, SÚJB will provide a cash contribution each year for the duration of this Implementing Agreement to help support the severe accident research activities. This Implementing Agreement will enter into force upon signature and will remain in effect for a period of 5 years.

Public Workshop on "Regulatory Structure for New Plant Licensing, Part 1: Technology- Neutral Framework"

On March 14-16, 2005, staff members from RES, NRR, and NSIR held a public workshop to solicit comments on draft NUREG 3-2005, "Regulatory Structure for New Plant Licensing, Part 1: Technology-Neutral Framework." The framework and the associated technology-neutral requirements are intended as the first steps in formulating the technical basis for future rulemaking for technology-neutral regulations for new plant licensing. The workshop was well attended and included representatives from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Nuclear Society, the Nuclear Energy Institute, Westinghouse Electric Company, General Atomics, Framatome, the International Atomic Energy Agency, several power reactor licensees, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and four Department of Energy Laboratories (Brookhaven, Idaho, Lawrence Livermore, and Sandia National Laboratories).

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The workshop participants agreed that the concepts in the framework are reasonable and that it is feasible to develop both a technology-neutral framework and technology-neutral requirements. The participants encouraged the staff to continue with similar workshops in the future to further explore the technical issues. In addition, participants recommended performing a test-case and encouraged expanding the schedule to include the rulemaking phase. The overall goals of the regulatory structure for new plant licensing include the development of a process for identifying safety issues uniquely associated with reactor technologies that are not addressed by current NRC regulations and providing stability and predictability for licensing of these new reactor technologies.

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Office of Administration (ADM)  
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Week Ending March 18, 2005

Contract Award

On March 14, 2005, a competitive small business set-aside task order no. NRC-33-05-335 was awarded to Webworld Studios under a Comprehensive Information Systems Support Consolidation (CISSCO) II Blanket Purchase Agreement. The contractor will provide technical services to the Office of Information Systems to expand and maintain the data in the enterprise architecture repository system. The period of performance is one year, with a total estimated cost of \$169,389.

Federal Acquisition Workforce Training

The Federal Acquisition Institute has teamed with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to develop and deliver core contracting and acquisition courses for the Federal acquisition workforce to support the Office of Federal Procurement Policy's initiative to create a government wide curriculum. DAU has the lead on course development, and will work with agencies experienced acquisition workforce members to share their knowledge in developing courses that will benefit the entire Government. The Office of Administration will provide feedback to DAU's representative on its development of Continuous Learning Modules and assist in other areas as may be identified by DAU, such as identifying particular areas where acquisition personnel need services acquisition training, reviewing draft course materials, and participating in course pilots.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 18, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
March 11 through March 17, 2005:

Allegation - RII-2004-A-0063, RII-2004-A-0064, RII-2004-A-0091, RII-2004-A-0105, & RII-2005-A-0006, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0176
OI Reports, 2-2004-020, 1-2002-045, 3-2004-011, & 3-2004-012	FOIA/PA-2005-0177
Records related to the review of selection packages for all GG-15 positions by the Executive Review Board (ERB) EEO review group for FY03, 04 & 05 to date	FOIA/PA-2005-0178
Baker Engineering, 118 S. Clinton, Chicago, IL 60606, license no. 12-24477-01, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0179

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Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
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<b>Arrivals</b>		
Julie Frampton	Office Automation Assistant	NRR
Alexandra Greene	Secretary (OA)	NMSS
Howard J. Larson	Consultant	ACRS
Sharon Sarna-Paulikatis	Secretary (OA)	R-III
Ruth Spencer	Program Assistant	OCFO
Andrey Turilin	General Engineer(NSPDP)	NRR
<b>Retirements</b>		
Ronnie K. Maxey	Reactor Inspector	R-II
Francis Jape	Sr. Project Manager	R-II

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SRM on SECY-05-0017	3/11/05	Proposed Rule - AP1000 Design Certification
Voting Record on SECY-05-0017	3/11/05	(same)
<b>Information Paper</b>		
1. SECY-05-0044	3/15/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 4, 2005
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M050223	3/15/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of OCFO Programs, Performance, and Plans
2. M050224	3/15/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Nuclear Fuel Performance
3. M050222A	3/15/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Office of Information Services Programs, Performance, and Plans
4. M050316A	3/16/05	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0036 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI
5. M050307B	3/17/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans - Materials Safety

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Joseph Biden, Senator Thomas Carper, and Congressman Castle, dated March 9, 2005, responds to concerns at the Hope Creek Generating Station.
2. Letter to Congress, dated March 14, 2005, provides NRC report responding to the National Academies of Science recommendations.

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Federal Register Notices Issued:

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, subcommittee meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (4/6/05).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 521<sup>st</sup> meeting (4/7-9/05).

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 11**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	TBD	TBD	TBA	National Response Plan	Reps. King/Pascrell Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology Homeland Security and Economic Development <b>AND</b> Rep. Shuster/Holmes Norton Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Transportation and Infrastructure
Combs	Tentative for April 7	TBD	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April/May	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