

INFORMATION REPORT

August 12, 2005

SECY-05-0147

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0147 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 5, 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 August 5, 2005

NRC Information Notice (IN) 2005-23: Vibration-Induced Degradation of Butterfly Valves

On August 1, 2005, NRR issued the subject IN to inform power reactor licensees about vibration-induced degradation of butterfly valves experienced at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Degradation has occurred during plant operation as a result of the loss of taper pins which are used to connect the valve disc to its stem. The degradation can involve leakage and affect valve operation. No specific action or written response is required for the IN, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Draft Generic Letter: Inaccessible or Underground Cable Failures that Disable Accident Mitigation Systems

On August 1, 2005, NRR published the subject draft generic letter (GL) in the Federal Register (70 FR 44127) for public comment. The staff is proposing to issue the GL to: 1) alert licensees to the potential susceptibility of certain electrical cables to affect the operability of multiple accident-mitigation systems; and 2) request that addressees provide information regarding the monitoring of the inaccessible or underground electrical cables in light of the information provided in the GL. Adequate monitoring will help to prevent abrupt cable failures that could cause plant transients or disable accident mitigation systems when they are needed. The comment period expires on September 30, 2005.

NRC Information Notice (IN) 2005-24: Nonconservatism in Leakage Detection Sensitivity

On August 3, 2005, NRR issued the subject IN to inform power reactor licensees about the potential problems associated with the detection capabilities of containment radiation gas channel monitors for a small reactor coolant system leak (i.e., 1 gallon-per-minute within 1 hour) within the containment. No specific action or written response is required for the IN, however, it is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Public Meeting on Louisiana Energy Services' License Application for a Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Plant

On August 2, 2005, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of the General Counsel, and Region II conducted a public meeting in Eunice, NM, to discuss the results of the staff's review of the Louisiana Energy Services' license application for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant as documented in the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and to answer questions from the public. The SER and FEIS were issued on June 15, 2005. Prior to the public meeting, the staff met with local elected officials from Andrews County, TX, and Lea County, NM, to discuss the current status of the project and to answer questions.

National Source Tracking

On July 28, 2005, the proposed rule on National Source Tracking was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 43646). The public comment period ends on October 11, 2005. The staff will be holding two public meetings to allow stakeholders to provide their comments on the proposed rule. The first meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2005, at NRC headquarters offices in Rockville, MD. The second meeting will be held on September 20, 2005, in Houston, TX, at the offices of the Texas Department of State Health Services in the Elias Ramirez State Office Building.

Staff Approves Yankee Rowe License Termination Plan

On July 28, 2005, the staff approved the Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Station License Termination Plan (LTP). The LTP was submitted in March 2004. In response to a hearing request filed by Citizens Awareness Network (CAN), the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) admitted several contentions on November 22, 2004. The staff continued its review of the LTP and on June 3, 2005, the Environmental Assessment was published in the Federal Register. On June 29, 2005, the Commission affirmed the granting of the hearing request. On July 11, 2005, Yankee Rowe and CAN filed a joint motion for approval of a settlement agreement and termination of the proceeding. On July 21, 2005, the ASLB approved the settlement agreement between Yankee Atomic Electric Company and Citizens Awareness Network.

Briefing of National Academy of Sciences

On July 26, 2005, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection staff held a teleconference briefing of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the "Management of Certain Radioactive Waste Streams in Tanks at Three Department of Energy Sites." The briefing included NRC's previous review of an incidental waste determination for high-level waste tanks at the Idaho National Laboratory, completed in 2003. This meeting was also attended by representatives of the State of Idaho, Shoshone Bannock Nation, and Idaho National Laboratory Citizens Advisory Board.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program"

On July 29, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations approved Management Directive (MD) 6.4, "Generic Issues Program (GIP)," for publication. MD 6.4 was revised to address one of the recommendations in the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force (DBLLTF) Report. The objective of this limited MD revision was not only to simplify the process for proposing candidate generic issues but to also encourage increased participation in the GIP by the staff and other stakeholders.

Approval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) standard, ANSI/ANS-5.1-2005, "Decay Heat Power in Light Water Reactors"

On July 22, 2005, the subject ANSI/ANS-5.1-2005 standard was approved by ANSI, replacing the 1994 version of the standard. The revised 2005 standard contains the main features of the 1994 standard with relatively minor changes and corrections described in the new standard. One notable addition to the new standard is the statement that except for ^{239}U (Uranium-239) and ^{239}Np (Neptunium-239) "...decay heat power from other actinides and activation products is not included in the standard and shall be evaluated by the user and appropriately included in any analysis of shutdown power." The possible implementation of this standard for emergency core cooling system (ECCS) analyses was discussed extensively in Research Information Letter 0202 dated June 20, 2002 (ML021720744).

Meeting with North American Electric Reliability Council Representatives

On July 28-29, 2005, staff members from RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation met with the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) in Princeton, New Jersey. Working under a Memorandum of Agreement, this meeting initiated a collaborative effort to incorporate nuclear power plants (NPP) in more detail within the NERC grid model. NERC grid models are used for seasonal operation reviews that are of interest to the NRC. They can be used to provide confidence that a NPP shutdown will not initiate a large-scale system disturbance and conversely a small scale system disturbance should not shutdown an NPP.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Contract Award

On July 27, 2005, a competitive fixed price contract (no. NRC-09-05-320), was awarded to G3 Visa and Passport Services. The contractor will provide professional visa and passport services which include verifying applications are filled out correctly and transporting the applications to and from embassies. The total estimated cost is \$94,448.00. The period of performance is for five years (base plus four 1-year options).

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of July 29 through August 4, 2005:

Office of Inspector General Case 04-79D	FOIA/PA-2005-0310
Baltimore Tunnel fire, 7-18-01 (Referral by the National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB])	FOIA/PA-2005-0311
Baltimore Tunnel fire, 7-18-01 (Referral by NTSB)	FOIA/PA-2005-0312
Baltimore Tunnel fire, 7-18-01 (Referral by NTSB)	FOIA/PA-2005-0313
Baltimore Tunnel fire, 7-18-01 (Referral by NTSB)	FOIA/PA-2005-0314
FOIA requests from news media for the past 2 years, responses & released records	FOIA/PA-2005-0315
Allegation, RI-2005-A-0035, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0316

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
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Arrival		
GANONG, JAMES W.	STUDENT ENGINEER	R-II
MARTINEZ-NAVEDO, TANIA	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
MCDERMOTT, JEFFREY L.	SENIOR CONTRACT SPECIALIST	ADM
NICHOLS, RUSSELL A.	TEAM LEADER	OIS
OFFUTT, DAVID	TEAM LEADER	OIS
RALPH, MELISSA COOK	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
RODRIGUEZ, TOMAS	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-III
SHAFFNER, JAMES	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
YEE, ON	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
Retirements		
BURKE, KEVIN D.	SR. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICER	OIP
DUNNINGTON, EILEEN T.	LICENSING ASSISTANT	NRR
WINFREY, TANYA X.	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	ACRS
Departures		
CARTER, DANIEL R.	SENIOR HEALTH PHYSICIST	R-IV
DYKES, JONATHAN M.	STUDENT ENGINEER	OIG
ERICKSON, REBECCA I.	SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST	OCFO
GRIFFITH, CANDICE D.	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	RES
SOBEL, PHYLLIS A.	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
WILSON, STACEY MAE	STUDENT ENGINEER (SUMMER)	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

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

The impact of the energy bill on the NRC.

The future of the nuclear power industry and new reactor licensing.

Other OPA Items of Interest:

OPA arranged an interview for the Cleveland Plain Dealer with the NRC's Chairman on the energy bill and the future of nuclear power.

OPA assisted at public meetings regarding the Global Nuclear Fuels facility in North Carolina and the proposed uranium enrichment plant in New Mexico.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-108	NRC Proposes Further Strengthening Drug-Testing and Worker Fatigue Provisions for Nuclear Workers (8/3)
Regions:	
I-05-041	NRC Bans Former Technician at Pennsylvania Company From NRC-Licensed Activities (8/5)
I-05-042	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Fine for N.J. Firm for Nuclear Gauge Violations (8/5)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0126	7/15/05	Summary of Activities Related to Generic Safety Issues (WITS198300621)
2. COMJSM-05-0001	7/27/05	Staff Formal Membership in Committees and Outside Groups
SRM-COMJSM-05-0001	8/3/05	(same)
Voting Record - COMJSM-05-0001	8/3/05	(same)
3. SRM-SECY-05-0121	8/4/05	Request to Consider Developing a Formal Tribal Consultation Protocol
Commission Voting Record on 05-0121	8/4/05	(same)
4. SECY-05-0130	7/21/05	Policy Issues Related to New Plant Licensing and Status of the Technology-Neutral Framework for New Plant Licensing
Memoranda		
1. M050804	8/4/05	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. COMSECY-05-0027 - Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3), Docket Nos. 50-336-LR & 50-423-LR

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator James M. Jeffords, dated July 29, 2005, responds to letter regarding a Severity Level II Notice of Violation sent to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.
2. Letter to Congress, dated July 28, 2005, provides NRC's responses to recommendations made by GAO in its report "Internet Protocol Version 6: Federal Agencies Need to plan for Transition and Management Security Risks" (GAO-05-471).

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Proposed rule: 10 CFR Part 26, RIN 3150 - AF12, Fitness-for-Duty Programs.

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Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Calvert Cliffs - Congressional Member Visit

On August 1, 2005, Congressman Steny Hoyer (Maryland - 5th District), visited Calvert Cliffs to tour the site and discuss the security program at the plant. Congressman Hoyer met with Constellation senior management during his visit.

Periodic Management Meetings with South Carolina Agreement State Program

On August 2, 2005, staff from Region I and the Office of State and Tribal Programs met with representatives of the South Carolina Bureau of Radiological Health and Division of Waste Management to discuss the status of the South Carolina Agreement State program. Topics of discussion included staffing and training, status of each group's progress in adopting NRC amendments required for compatibility and the Barnwell low-level waste disposal facility. No performance issues were identified as a result of the discussions.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

Licensee Performance Review Meeting at Global Nuclear Fuels - Americas, LLC.

On August 2-3, 2005, the Regional Administrator visited the Global Nuclear Fuel facility for a site tour and conducted the Licensee Performance Review Meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Fuel Facility Inspection Procedures Workshop

On August 4, 2005, the Division of Fuel Facility Inspection hosted the Fuel Facility Inspection Procedures Workshop in the Regional Office. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit stakeholder feedback on revised inspection procedures for the fuel facilities.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 5, 2005

NRC Senior Management Visit to Waterford and River Bend Stations

On August 2-3, 2005, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs (DEDR) visited the Waterford and River Bend nuclear power reactor facilities for plant tours and discussions with the resident inspectors and licensee managers. On August 4, the DEDR visited the Region IV office and met with regional staff.

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