

INFORMATION REPORT

July 7, 2006

SECY-06-0151

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
JUNE 30, 2006

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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 June 30, 2006

EPRI Sponsored Conference on Welding and Repair Technology

On June 21-23, 2006, staff participated in an industry conference entitled, "The Seventh International Conference on Welding and Repair Technology for Power Plants," sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute. The purpose of the conference was to provide a forum for utilities, repair vendors, and original equipment manufacturers to share state-of-the-art welding and repair technology and information. Presenters covered topics including repair welding of reactor improvement alternatives, advanced repair processes, temper bead welding, stress improvement alternatives, Alloy 600 repairs, and combustion and steam turbine rotor, disc, and blade repair. The staff received feedback from various industry representatives on NRC positions related to weld overlays, American Society of Mechanical Engineers code issues, and relief requests.

Meeting with Constellation Energy Regarding Materials Issues at the R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

On June 27, 2006, staff from NRR and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with representatives from Constellation Energy to discuss two materials issues concerning the R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. The first issue concerned the inspection of the reactor vessel bottom mounted instrumentation nozzles. The licensee presented information on paint removal problems which preclude near-term inspections fully in accordance with the expectations in NRC Bulletin 2003-02, "Leakage From Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity." The licensee also presented plant-specific technical information and industry-wide experience which supported their conclusion that operation of the facility while better inspection methods were developed could be justified. The staff expects to receive and review a modification to the inspection commitments made by the licensee in response to Bulletin 2003-02. The second issue that was discussed concerned the licensee's plans for the submittal and implementation of a reactor vessel internals aging management program to address a commitment made as part of the license renewal application. Due to delays in the industry program for developing guidance on the vessel internals aging management, the licensee proposed to modify their commitment and defer the submittal and implementation of the aging management program by approximately 18 months. At this time, the licensee proposes to pursue this commitment modification in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59.

Professional Reactor Operator Society Annual Meeting

On June 27, 2006, an NRR manager gave a presentation at the Professional Reactor Operator Society annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of the meeting was "Operational Fundamentals/Back to the Basics," and the presentation touched on a number of issues including safety culture, a recent reactivity management event and operator licensing examination performance, and new reactor licensing.

Risk Management Technical Specifications Meeting

On June 29, 2006, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute and industry owners groups representatives to discuss the Risk Management Technical Specifications (RMTS) initiatives. The staff discussed the results of the recent visit to the South Texas Project to audit the adequacy of the plants' probabilistic risk assessment in support of the application of Risk-Informed Completion Times. The staff also discussed the status and schedule of other active RMTS initiatives.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station License Renewal Audit

During June 19-23, 2006, the staff conducted an Aging Management Review (AMR) audit and a Time Limiting Aging Analysis (TLAA) audit at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. The team previously conducted an Aging Management Program (AMP) audit during the week of May 22-26, 2006. The audit team will conduct a final AMR/TLAA/AMP audit during July 25-27, 2006, and a public audit summary meeting is currently scheduled for July 27, 2006.

NRC Receives North Anna Early Site Permit (ESP) - Revision 07

On June 21, 2006, revision 7 to the subject ESP application was received from Dominion Nuclear. This revision incorporates the staff's requests for additional information as well as additional information identified as a result of Dominion's proposed changes to the Unit 3 cooling system design and increase in the power level for proposed units 3 and 4. The staff is currently reviewing the submittal.

Meeting on the Multinational Design Approval Program

On June 19 and 20, 2006, NRR and the Office of International Programs participated in an Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) meeting on the Multinational Design Approval Program (MDAP) for new reactors. In addition to the NRC, regulatory authorities from France, UK, Canada, China, Japan, Finland, Korea, South Africa and Russia were actively involved. NEA hosted and chaired the meeting and played a significant role in developing a consensus among the participants. NEA will develop a Charter ("Terms of Reference") for a steering committee made up of core country regulators and two pilot working groups: one to address regulatory oversight of component manufacturing (including quality assurance requirements, vendor inspection and eventually technical codes and standards); and a second broader working group to address the technical scope of design reviews and new reactor licensing bases (including the use of safety goals). This second group will identify additional areas to explore for cooperation and will recommend additional working groups as necessary.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Conference on Strengthening Federal-Agency Public Engagement

On June 19-21, 2006, NMSS staff represented the NRC at "Champions of Participation: A Working Conference on Strengthening Public Engagement and Knowledge-Sharing Within and Across Federal Agencies." The conference was organized by "America Speaks" and sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The goal of this conference was to identify ways federal officials can enhance efforts to advance good-citizen engagement practice at the local and national level. Federal officials from 15 Federal agencies discussed strategies and techniques for improving policy, service delivery, regulation, and governance through effective public participation. Conferees agreed to establish and maintain a network of practitioners to foster better public outreach by federal agencies. A report summarizing the conference findings and recommendations will be published later this year.

Meetings with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Regarding Incidental Waste Determination

From June 20-21, 2006, NMSS staff visited Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), toured its Tank Farm Facility (TFF) and flood diversion facility, and met with DOE and IDEQ staffs on INTEC TFF waste-determination issues. The June 20th meeting with DOE, with IDEQ staff present, focused on INTEC TFF waste classification. DOE presented information to clarify its responses to NRC staff's Request for Additional Information (RAI) and to justify the technical basis of its concentration-averaging approach. The June 21st meeting with the IDEQ staff addressed IDEQ's organizational functions and its roles and responsibilities. The discussions focused on monitoring associated with the waste determination under the Ronald Reagan National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2005, Section 3116.

Ninth International Symposium on Electrochemical Methods in Corrosion Research

From June 18-23, 2006, staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) attended the 9th International Symposium on Electrochemical Methods in Corrosion Research, in Dourdan, France. The staff presented a paper entitled "Potentiodynamic Polarization and Galvanic Coupling to Evaluate Localized Corrosion of Alloy 22 in Chloride Solutions," which is based on independent analyses CNWRA conducted for NRC. Technical topics discussed at the symposium included: (a) corrosion models and mechanisms; (b) passivation and localized corrosion; (c) corrosion in the nuclear and aeronautical Industries; (d) microbiological induced corrosion; (e) corrosion in soils and concrete; (f) inorganic and organic coatings; (g) atmospheric corrosion; and (h) high-temperature corrosion.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Management of Spent Fuel from Nuclear Power Reactors

On June 19-22, 2006, NMSS staff and management attended the subject IAEA conference in Vienna, Austria. The NMSS manager led the session and panel discussion on storage terms for spent fuel storage facilities. A NMSS staff member presented a paper that generated significant

interest in a new definition of damaged fuel, based on the fuel's regulatory function. The conference provided an effective forum to share NRC experiences and status in spent fuel storage and to learn of other countries' program direction and issues relevant to spent fuel storage. Almost all presentations and discussion focused on dry-cask spent fuel storage.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) C26.03 Meeting

From June 17-22, 2006, two staff members attended the ASTM C26.03 meeting in San Antonio, TX. One staff member is leading a task force to develop a standard set of definitions, and the other staff member heads a group finalizing a standard for qualification and use of neutron-absorber materials.

Staff Briefs St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners on Dry-Cask Storage

On June 27, 2006, staff made a presentation to the St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners, at the Board's weekly public meeting in St. Lucie County, FL. The staff appeared at the County's request. At the meeting, Florida Power and Light (FPL) described its specific schedule and plans for its independent spent fuel storage installation at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant. FPL plans to use the NUHOMS-HD system designed by Transnuclear, Inc. (which is in final rulemaking), with initial cask-loading scheduled for early 2008. The staff subsequently described NRC's role in the licensing and oversight of spent fuel dry-cask storage. The staff responded to a few questions from the County Commissioners, on topics regarding the "temporary" nature of onsite dry storage, the potential for one reactor site to ship its spent fuel to another site for interim storage, and the relative safety of wet versus dry storage of spent fuel. The Board expressed its thanks and appreciation for the NRC staff's presentation.

Meeting with Holtec International

On June 28, 2006, representatives from Holtec International (Holtec) met with NMSS staff. Holtec provided the staff with an overview of its proposed response to the staff's second request for additional information (RAI), regarding the Holtec 10 CFR Part 72 Certificate of Compliance Amendment Request 3 for the HI-STORM 100 dry-cask storage system. Amendment Request 3 has proposed use of an underground vertical dry-storage module designated the HI-STORM 100U. Holtec indicated the RAI response is tentatively scheduled to be submitted for staff review on July 5, 2006.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Implementing Agreement Between the NRC and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES)

On June 23, 2006, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed the subject international implementing agreement which defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the JNES will cooperate in the area of severe accident research. In addition to the NRC gaining data and knowledge related to severe accidents, this cooperative agreement will allow for the independent verification of the accuracy of the NRC's MELCOR severe accident code for different accident sequences. The NRC uses the MELCOR code to evaluate potential risk and security scenarios for severe accidents, address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants, and to review new designs. This Implementing Agreement will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Implementing Agreement Between the NRC and the Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear (ARN) of Argentina in the area of Thermal-Hydraulic Code Applications and Maintenance

On June 23, 2006, the EDO signed the subject agreement which defines the terms and conditions by which the NRC and the ARN will cooperate in the area of thermal-hydraulic code applications and maintenance program (CAMP). In addition to the in-kind information provided by ARN, this Implementing Agreement will allow for the independent verification of the accuracy of the NRC's thermal-hydraulic TRACE code. This code is used by the NRC to evaluate transient and accident scenarios, assess generic safety issues, and address regulatory and licensing issues for operating plants and for new reactor designs. The Implementing Agreement will remain in effect for five years.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-06-008, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center,-LEAKAGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM STORAGE TANK.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Revision of NRC Form 7, Application for NRC Export/Import License, Amendment, or Renewal:
Confirmation of Effective Date (AH89 - Part 72)

On June 23, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 35995) confirming the effective date of June 27, 2006, for a direct final rule that amends the regulations governing the export and import of nuclear material. The direct final rule reflects the consolidation of all license requests in one application form. An applicant will now use revised NRC Form 7 to apply for each type of licensing request (export, import, combined export/import, amendment, and renewal).

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
June 23 through June 29, 2006:

Oregon Program, letter re: Tenth Review dated on/about May 4, 1971; subsequent reviews from March 1971 to end of 1990; correspondence re: revisions of its regulations; analysis of disposal or on-site storage of Thorium or Uranium waste	FOIA/PA-2006-0229
Callaway Nuclear Plant & compliance with Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.2, re: unresolved item 05000483/2005002-05, internal documentation of NRC positions or interpretation of TS	FOIA/PA-2006-0230
Title 10, Parts 20.303, "Disposal By Release Into Sanitary Sewer Systems," advanced notice or proposed rulemaking; FRN, docket no.; NUREG/CR-1775; NUREG/CR-5814; NUREG/CR-6289; SECY-81-0576	FOIA/PA-2006-0231

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 30, 2006

Arrival		
MARKHAM, KELLI	GENERAL SCIENTIST (NSPDP)	NMSS
PATTERSON, MALCOLM D.	RELIABILITY & RISK ANALYST	NRR
SOLOMAKOS, MATINA	SECRETARY	RES
WASSON, DAVID P.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
WILLIAMS, TAMEIKA L.	STUDENT CLERK	EDO
Retirements		
ANDERSON, CLIFFORD J.	BRANCH CHIEF	R-I
DIAZ, NILS J.	CHAIRMAN	COMM
JACKSON, JACQUELINE F.	CHF, HUMAN RESOURCES SVCS & OPERATION	HR
Departures		
DAVIS, QIANA CLAYTON	AFFIRMATIVE EMP & DIVERSITY SP	SBCR
HARPER, KATHRYN J.	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	R-II

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

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

Congressional calls for an independent safety assessment of Indian Point.

Entergy's determination that "missing" neutron detectors at Pilgrim were actually disposed of properly several years ago, but proper records had not been maintained.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Commissioner Merrified was interviewed by Bloomberg Television regarding the license for LES to build and operate a uranium enrichment facility in New Mexico.

OPA staff assisted the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board at public limited appearance sessions in Brattleboro, Vt., related to the power uprate at Vermont Yankee.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-085	NRC Renews Operating Licenses for Brunswick Steam Electric Plant for an Additional 20 Years (6/26)
06-086	Commissioner Peter B. Lyons Takes Oath of Office at NRC (6/28)
06-087	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet July 12-14 in Rockville, Maryland (6/29)
06-088	NRC Extends Comment Period on Basis for Establishing a National Source Tracking System for Certain Sealed Sources (6/30)
06-089	NRC Appoints E. Roy Hawkins Chief Administrative Judge (6/30)
Regions:	
I-06-039	New NRC Resident Inspector Assigned to Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant (6/27)
III-06-026	NRC Issues a White Finding to Exelon for the Handling of Unplanned Tritium Releases at Braidwood (6/30)
III-06-027	NRC Finds Inadequate Valve Analysis Prior to Power Uprate to Be of Low to Moderate Safety Significance (6/30)
IV-06-015	Grant Larkin Named Senior Resident Inspector at Waterford 3 Nuclear Plant (6/30)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-06-0117	5/18/06	Termination of Nuclear Regulatory Commission License for the Heritage Minerals Inc. Site in Manchester Township, New Jersey
2. COMSECY-06-0030	6/12/06	Renewal of Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) Charter
SRM on COMSECY-06-0030	6/27/06	(same)
Voting Record on COMSECY-06-0030	06/26/06	(same)
3. SRM-SECY-06-0069	6/28/06	Proposed Rule: Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material (RIN: 3150-AH84)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0069	6/28/06	(same)
4. SRM on COMSECY-06-0054	6/29/06	Policy Revision: Handling, Marking, and Protecting Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI)
Voting Record on COMSECY-06-0054	04/25/06	(same)
5. COMNJD-06-0006	6/9/06	Implementation of NRC Responsibilities under the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act
SRM on COMNJD-06-0006	6/29/06	(same)
Voting Record on COMNJD-06-0006	6/23/06	(same)
6. SRM on SECY-06-0124	6/30/06	Rulemaking Plan to Amend Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock Events (10 CFR 50.61)

Voting Record on SECY-06-0124	6/30/06	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-06-0141	6/23/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 9, 2006
2. SECY-06-0134	6/9/06	Technical Basis for Revising Environmental Issues to be Considered for License Renewal
3. SECY-06-0136	6/9/06	Status Report on Power Upgrades
4. SECY-06-0145	6/27/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 16, 2006
5. SECY-06-0146	6/29/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 23, 2006
Memoranda		
1. M060502	6/29/06	Briefing on Status of Emergency Planning Activities

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Governor Jon S. Corzine, New Jersey, dated June 21, 2006, responds to the intention of the State of New Jersey becoming an Agreement State.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Assumption by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of Sealed Source and Device Evaluation and Approval Authority from the State of Rhode Island.
2. Proposed Rule: National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources: Extension of Comment Period.

Office of the Executive Director for Operations (EDO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 30, 2006

Decision on Appeal of Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) dealing with the Issuance for Public Comment of a Draft NUREG-1824 on Fire Model Verification and Validation (DPO-2005-006)

On June 23, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) denied the appeal of the decision previously made by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES). The DPO focused on whether draft NUREG-1824, which was issued for public comment in January 2006, should be published without first publishing certain benchmark exercise research reports which addressed potential issues and limitations with two of the five fire models in the verification and validation. An Ad Hoc Review Panel determined that it was acceptable to publish the draft NUREG for public comment. The EDO found that it was acceptable to publish the draft NUREG for public comment without first publishing the results of the eight benchmark exercises because all of the information from the research was appropriately considered.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 30, 2006

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 25

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	06/27/06 2172 RHOB	10:00	Markup	Nuclear Cooperation with India	Reps. Hyde/Lantos International Relations
Decker	06/27/06 SD-138	2:30	Markup	Energy and Water FY 2007 Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Appropriations
Decker	06/28/06 SD-419	10:00	Markup	Nuclear Cooperation with India	Senators Lugar/Biden Foreign Relations
Shane	06/29/06 SD-342	9:30	OPM, Government Managers Coalition, NTEU, American Federation of Government Employees	Enhancing Federal Employee Performance	Senators Voinovich/Akaka Govt Mgmt, the Federal Workforce, And the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Govt. Affairs
Decker	06/29/06 SD-106	2:00	Markup	Energy and Water FY 2007 Appropriations	Senators Cochran/Byrd Appropriations