

INFORMATION REPORT

July 13, 2006

SECY-06-0155

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
JULY 7, 2006

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Office of Information Services	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business and Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P*
Region III	P
Region IV	P*
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R*
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/ Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste	S*

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Meeting with General Electric (GE) Regarding ESBWR Technical Specifications

On June 28 and 29, 2006, the staff participated in the subject meeting to discuss the proposed ESBWR technical specifications (TS). Discussions focused on the development and content of the following TS: sections, 2.0 "Safety Limits," 3.1 "Reactivity Control Systems," 3.2 "Power Distribution Limits," 3.3 "Instrumentation," 3.5 "ECCS," 3.6 "Containment Systems," 3.7 "Plant Systems," 3.9 "Refueling Operations," 3.10 "Special Operations," and 4.0 "Design Features." This meeting was the third in a series of meetings related to the ESBWR TSs. All TS sections have now been discussed with GE. Additional meetings will be scheduled to discuss TS Sections 3.3 "Instrumentation" and 3.8 "Electrical Power Systems" in more detail.

Department of Energy (DOE)/NRC Coordination Meeting

On June 27, 2006, staff participated in an interagency meeting with DOE to discuss the status of new reactor programs. NRC staff presented information regarding the status of early site permits, potential combined license submittals, and Part 52 Rulemaking. DOE staff discussed program prioritization, support for standardization, and Next Generation Nuclear Plant licensing strategy.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 806, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Nuclear Reactor Electric Generating Plants"

During the week of June 26, 2006, staff participated in a meeting of the NFPA Technical Committee on Nuclear Facilities. The Committee is currently working on the subject standard, which is due to be published in 2008. Progress was made at adding the enhanced fire protection requirements spelled out in SECY-90-016 "Evolutionary Light Water Reactor (LWR) Certification Issues and Their Relationship to Current Regulatory Requirements" and additional fire protection design requirements. The NRC is scheduled to host the next Committee meeting in March 2007.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Tour of Geological and Geochemical Natural Analog Site for High-Level Waste Repository

From June 20-23, 2006, in order to be better prepared to review any uses of natural analog information that may support a potential Yucca Mountain license application, Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) staff attended a Department of Energy lead tour of a natural analog site at the Nopal I Uranium Mine, located in the Pena Blanca Mining District of Chihuahua, Mexico. The tour included recently drilled water table wells, a meteorological station, and a new seepage collection system located in a mine tunnel.

Staff Observes Bechtel-SAIC (BSC) Quality Assurance (QA) Audit of BSC Design Control Process

On June 20-29, 2006, NMSS staff observed a BSC QA audit of the implementation of design control procedures, and the resulting engineering products, at the BSC offices in Las Vegas, NV. The audit reviewed the effectiveness of the implementation of the newly revised Yucca Mountain design control processes being used for proposed site-infrastructure improvements (non-nuclear facilities). These new design control procedures will also be applicable to the design of site nuclear facilities once DOE approves the new Yucca Mountain surface-facilities design.

Quality Assessment Audit of CNWRA

From June 26-30, 2006, NRC staff observed an audit of its contractor, CNWRA, in San Antonio, TX. This audit was conducted to determine if CNWRA's Geosciences and Engineering Divisions met contractually mandated QA program requirements.

NRC Staff Issues License to Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to Construct and Operate a Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Plant in Lea County, NM

On June 23, 2006, NRC issued LES a license to construct and operate a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Lea County, NM. LES submitted its application for the facility in December 2003. On June 15, 2005, NRC staff documented the findings from its environmental, safety, and safeguards reviews in "Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, NM," NUREG-1790 and "Safety Evaluation Report for the National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, NM," NUREG-1827. On May 31, 2006, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a decision in favor of LES and NRC staff on the remaining contentions in the contested hearing involving Nuclear Information and Resource Services and Public Citizen. On June 23, 2006, the ASLB issued its decision on the mandatory hearing relating to the adequacy of NRC staff's safety and environmental reviews in favor of LES and NRC staff. The issuance of the LES license was completed on the initial 30-month schedule the Commission set out in January 2004.

Public Workshop on Rulemaking for Groundwater Protection Requirements at In-Situ Leachs (ISLs)

On June 29, 2006, staff held a public workshop in Denver, CO, on the rulemaking for groundwater protection requirements at ISL uranium recovery facilities. This workshop was the first public opportunity for stakeholder involvement on the rulemaking; over 50 stakeholders participated. Industry and government agencies were the primary representatives for the stakeholders. Topics discussed at the workshop, with active stakeholder participation, included background information on ISLs; existing regulatory requirements (including a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presentation); concerns with dual regulation; and proposals on how to resolve the underlying issues involved in the rulemaking. A transcript and copies of slides presented during the workshop will be posted on NRC's website. The rulemaking working group will begin to consider stakeholder comments received during the public workshop.

July 7, 2006

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Institut de Radioprotection et de Sureté Nucléaire (IRSN) Delegation Visit to Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)

On June 27 and 28, 2006, RES and SNL staff met with an IRSN delegation at SNL to view a calibration test for the small scale radiant flux cable fire test facility, and tour the intermediate scale facility that will be used for later tests in this program. SNL staff also provided a presentation of the cable fire test program's status and future plans, and the IRSN staff discussed the status and plans of their fire-related programs.

American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) D02 Subcommittee Meeting on Nuclear Graphite Specifications

On June 27-29, 2006, staff participated in the subject meeting, which included technical discussions on a draft nuclear material specification for components, such as core supports and other core internals, which will be exposed to low neutron doses in a gas-cooled high-temperature reactor, and the technical challenges involved in writing standards for critical properties such as fracture toughness, Weibull modulus, and oxidation kinetics data for graphites. Other activities included discussions on draft standards development and various materials-related testing. Staff participation in this ASTM meeting supports NRC activities related to establishing ASME codes and standards for nuclear graphites.

Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Coordination and Cooperation on Research and Development of Multimedia Environmental Models

On July 5, 2006, the renewal of the subject MOU became effective. Under the MOU, an interagency steering committee (ISCMEM) was created to facilitate cooperation among Federal agencies involved in the development and use of multimedia environmental models. The Department of Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, and the NRC have signed the renewal documents, and more of the original participants, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are expected to sign before the ISCMEM annual public meeting in August. During the first five years of the MOU, four working groups were formed to actively expand interagency cooperation in software system design, uncertainty, reactive transport, and watershed modeling. Examples of their activities and products can be viewed at <http://www.iscmem.org>. By participating in this MOU, the NRC is seeking common solutions to environmental modeling problems that will increase staff capabilities to assess difficult sites and reduce costs through the shared use of common technology.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-06-008A, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, -UPDATE-LEAKAGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM STORAGE TANK.
2. PNO-IV-06-009, Union Electric Company, Callaway Plant, -RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IDENTIFIED BY LICENSEE AT LOCATIONS ALONG THE PLANT DISCHARGE PIPELINE.

July 7, 2006

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (AH48 - Parts 20 & 32)

On July 3, 2006 (71 FR 37862), the NRC published a document in the Federal Register that extends the comment period on a proposed rule concerning the establishment of a National Source Tracking System for certain sealed sources. The NRC is proposing to change the basis for the rule from its authority to promote the common defense and security to protection of public health and safety. The comment period for this action now closes July 28, 2006.

July 7, 2006

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending July 7, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of June 30 through July 6, 2006:

BWX Technologies Inc. June 11, 2002, Final Status Survey Plan & Decommissioning Plan for the Industrial Waste Landfill I	FOIA/PA-2006-0232
Oak Ridge National Lab, total funds paid directly to Tusculum College of Knoxville or to employees for tuition reimbursement, last 5 years	FOIA/PA-2006-0233
Nuclear Fuel Services, Request for Exemptions; Response to Request for Additional Information (RAI) for Exemption of Low-Level Waste; Response to second request for RAI	FOIA/PA-2006-0234
Standard combined license (COL) review template for emergency planning	FOIA/PA-2006-0235
NRC's environmental justice policy dealing with Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory & Licensing Actions found at 69 Fed. Reg. 52040	FOIA/PA-2006-0236
OIG Tracking ID #5733, status disposition, formal & informal documents by OIG & OI, re: OIG "Closed" case	FOIA/PA-2006-0237
Byproduct Material Licenses for Historical Site Assessments for select military sites, AEC and/or NRC licenses	FOIA/PA-2006-0238
Ferriot Brothers and/or Ferriot Inc., 2685 Mogadore Rd., Akron, OH 44312, documents on regulating any type of radioactive material, studies of groundwater, etc.	FOIA/PA-2006-0239
Memorandum from R. L. Baer to V. Stello Jr., "Recommended Interim Revisions to LCOs for ECCS Components," dated 12-1-75	FOIA/PA-2006-0240

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Arrival		
BENTON, LARAY	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
BLOODGOOD, MICHAEL R.	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-IV
BRADFORD, LADONNA J.	REACTOR INSPECTOR (NSPDP)	R-II
BRAMNIK, ANDREW	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-III
BRAND, MARY LYNN	BUDGET ANALYST	R-I
BURRELL, DARRELL	PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOW	HR
GATELY, MATTHEW B.	IT STUDENT TRAINEE	R-I
GIANTELLI, JOSEPH M.	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
HAYES, MAHDI O.	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-IV
HEHER, PATRICK J.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
HOCH, JOSPEH A.	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NRR
JONES, MICHAEL	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-III
KHAN, OMAR HYAT	IT SPECIALIST (PLCYPLN)	NSIR
MALAVE-VELEZ, YANELY	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
MORRIS, EDDIE D.	RI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	R-II
MOTTLER, CHRIS	SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
NGUYEN, CHAU	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
OBODOAKO, ALOYSIUS O.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
PENNY, MELISSA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
RIKHOFF, JEFFREY J.	ECONOMIST/SOCIAL SCIENTIST	NRR
RODRIGUEZ-CRUZ, ELAINE Y.	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
ROMAN-CUEVAS, CYNTHIA	CHEMICAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NMSS
SIMS, CHERIE J.	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	R-I
THOMPSON, JON H.	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
WHITE, ALEXANDER W.	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST	NMSS
WILLIAMS, LINDA P.	POLICY ANALYST	CFO

ZILKA, KATHLEEN M.	BUDGET ANALYST	R-I
Retirements		
BIES, MARY ANN	OPERATOR LICENSING ASSISTANT	R-III
THADANI, ASHOK C.	DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	ACRS
WRIGHT, FRED N.	SENIOR HEALTH PHYSICIST	R-II
Departures		
BREEN, JOSEPH J.	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
BAUM, ALLEN	CONSULTANT	RES
DONFOR, RHEA M.	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
FLEISCHER, LEON H.	SENIOR ACCOUNTANT	CFO
LEITCH, GRAHAM	CONSULTANT	ACRS
NARBUT, PAUL P.	CONSULTANT	NRR

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

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

The new Chairman and his plans for his first weeks at the NRC.

ASLB proceedings regarding Pilgrim's license renewal application.

The move by utilities to prepare applications for new commercial reactors.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted at ASLB "limited appearance" sessions regarding Pilgrim's license renewal application.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
06-090	Dr. Dale Klein Sworn In as NRC Chairman (7/1)
Regions:	
II-06-033	NRC to Present Results of Licensee Performance Review at Areva Commercial Fuel Plant on July 13 in Lynchburg (7/6)
III-06-028	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant (7/3)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0126	6/30/06	Proposed Rulemaking - Power Reactor Security Requirements (RIN 3150-AG63)
Voting Record on SECY-06-0126	6/30/06	(same)
2. SECY-06-0139	6/20/06	Secure Transfer of Nuclear Material (RIN: 3150-AH90)
3. SECY-06-0137	6/9/06	Request by Rhode Island to Relinquish Authority for Sealed Source and Device Evaluation and Approval
SRM on SECY-06-0137	6/9/06	(same)
Voting Record on SECY-06-0137	6/9/06	(same)
4. SECY-06-0142	6/21/06	Options and Recommendations for Replenishing Expired Potassium Iodide (KI)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated June 28, 2006, responds to letter regarding radioactive liquid releases from nuclear power reactors.
2. Letter to Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of Rhode Island, dated June 28, 2006, responds to request to relinquish Rhode Island's authority to evaluate and approve sealed source device application.
3. Letter to Senator Daniel K. Akaka, dated June 27, 2006, responds to concerns regarding efforts to control and regulate sealed radioactive sources.
4. Letter to Andre-Claude Lacoste, Director General for Nuclear Safety and Radiation, dated June 27, 2006, expresses gratitude for willingness to share technical review documents.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (7/17/06).
2. Notice of 172nd ACNW meeting (7/17-20/06).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Periodic Management Meeting with Kentucky Agreement State Program

On July 6, 2006, a Region I State Agreements Officer and the Agreement State Project Officer from the Office of State and Tribal Programs met the Kentucky Radiation Program Director and management to discuss the status of the Agreement State program. Topics of discussion during the meeting included the Commonwealth's progress on program performance issues identified during the July 2005 periodic meeting. These issues included staffing, status of inspections, and sealed source and device program elements. The program has made measured progress in addressing these issues as a result of a significant management commitment to their resolution.

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 7, 2006

Reactor Scram at Dresden Nuclear Power Station

On July 4, 2006, Dresden Unit 2 experienced a scram due to unexpected closing of one of eight main steam line isolation valves. The other seven valves closed as required and the reactor scrammed. All rods fully inserted, the isolation condenser was manually initiated to control reactor pressure and water level was maintained with normal feedwater. The event occurred when a fitting on the air line to the main steam isolation valve separated causing the valve to close. The component that keeps the fitting in place was not installed and the line apparently vibrated out of the fitting. All other similar fittings were verified before the unit restart on July 5, 2006, and appeared leak tight.

A Final White Finding Issued to Braidwood

On June 29, 2006, Region III issued the Final Determination Letter and White finding for the licensee's failure to adequately evaluate the radiological hazards associated with the leaks from the circulating water blowdown line vacuum breakers and to assess the environmental impact of the resultant onsite and offsite tritium contamination. The final determination clearly articulates that the dose from the releases was found to be insignificant and that the significance of the inspection finding was based upon an evaluation of the adequacy of the licensee's controls to preclude and to assess environmental impact of releases of radioactive material.