

# INFORMATION REPORT

September 14, 2006

SECY-06-0198

For: The Commissioners  
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Public Release of Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1145, "Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition)"

On September 1, 2006, the subject draft Regulatory Guide was made available for public comment. This draft regulatory guide provides guidance to new reactor license applicants regarding the information to be submitted in a combined license (COL) application. Users can currently access DG-1145 using the following link: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>. The draft guide will be published in the *Federal Register* (FR) and the public comment period will end on October 21, 2006.

U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) Digital Instrumentation and Controls Meeting

On August 31, 2006, NRC staff met with representatives from AREVA NP to discuss digital instrumentation and control topics for the EPR as part of the ongoing design certification pre-application review. Topics discussed at the meeting included (1) an overview of the protection system (PS) architecture, redundancy and, functional diversity, (2) the priority actuation and control system, and (3) control room displays and human-machine interface. The AREVA NP representatives also outlined several instrumentation and control and human factors topical reports that they plan to submit between December 2006 and June 2007. Technical issues the staff raised included PS inter-divisional communication and safety to non-safety system interfaces and communication. Additional information in these areas is needed because the proposed design concepts have not been previously reviewed and approved by NRC staff.

ACRS Final Review of the License Renewal Application for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

On September 7, 2006, the staff presented the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the license renewal of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) for review. The Monticello SER was issued by the staff on July 28, 2006. The Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) submitted the Monticello application by letter dated March 16, 2005, requesting the renewal of the Monticello operating license for an additional 20 years, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54.

Generic Fundamental Examination

On September 6th, 2006, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation administered its Generic Fundamental Examination to 98 operator license applicants at 10 utilities across the country. The Generic Fundamental Examination is a separately administered written examination that measures applicant safety significant knowledge in three areas: components, reactor theory, and thermodynamics. The Generic Fundamental Examination must be successfully passed before applicants can take the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) site-specific examinations, ultimately leading to the attainment of a NRC Reactor Operator or Senior Reactor Operator license.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

On August 29, 2006, staff participated in a public meeting with NEI at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The purpose of this meeting was to continue the dialogue with industry on reaching a common understanding regarding a basis for resolving seismic issues related to future nuclear power plants. Topics of discussion included industry's integrating task results for determining the performance-based site specific safe shutdown earthquake ground motion and the status of Draft Regulatory Guide (DG-1146), "A Performance-Based Approach to Define the Safe Shutdown Earthquake Ground Motion." NRC staff informed the industry that DG-1146 is scheduled to be published for public comment in October 2006. Action items for resolution of key seismic issues were assigned to both NRC and industry representatives and future meetings were also discussed.

Extension of the Agreement Between the NRC and the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN) of France Regarding the CABRI Water Loop Program

On August 31, 2006, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) signed the subject Agreement. This Agreement, together with a broad "umbrella agreement" under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), provides the framework for program management, the direction of experimental testing, and the conduct of a multi-national investigation of high burnup fuel under reactivity-initiated accident (RIA) conditions. Participation in the program will allow the NRC to obtain significant technical information and data on the behavior of high burnup fuel under RIA conditions. The results and knowledge gained from this program will provide a realistic technical basis for developing new criteria for the rod ejection accident, which will be included in a revision to Regulatory Guide 1.77, "Assumptions Used for Evaluating a Control Rod Ejection Accident for Pressurized Water Reactors." This Extension Agreement will remain in effect for a period of five years.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6911, "Tests of Uranium (VI) Adsorption Models in a Field Setting"

The NRC recently published NUREG/CR -6911. This report provides information on the use of field-based techniques for determining site-specific  $K_d$  values (measures of contaminant absorption onto soil minerals) for use in performance assessments of decommissioning and waste disposal sites. This work contributes to NRC's effort to continue to develop, assess, and test groundwater transport models and assess the variability and uncertainty associated with hydrologic model parameters. These groundwater transport models are increasingly important for both evaluating environmental contamination and providing a method to anticipate, monitor, and prevent such contamination.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Preliminary Notification

- PNO-I-06-010, Seabrook Power Station, -SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS - EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATORS INOPERABLE DUE TO PROBLEMS IN THE VOLTAGE REGULATION CIRCUITRY.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Award for Technical Assistance

On August 14, 2006, a noncompetitive, 8(a) business set-aside, labor-hour type contract was awarded to Focal Point Consulting Group, Inc. of Potomac, Maryland. The contractor will provide business process re-engineering services for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. The contract calls for re-engineering of the office's business processes within one year of award and includes an option for a one-year follow-on for the continuance of re-engineering services, if needed. The total estimated cost, including all options, is \$744,482.16.

Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) for Technical Assistance

On August 2, 2006, a competitive BPA was awarded to ARES Corporation of Albuquerque, New Mexico under the GSA Federal Supply Schedule program. The contractor shall provide technical assistance to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in support of the resolution of generic safety issue (GSI) 191 for four plants. The contract calls for audit assistance of four plants within eight months of the BPA award. The total estimated cost of the BPA is \$479,099.18.

Award for Technical Assistance

On August 24, 2006, a competitive cost reimbursement contract was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc. The contractor shall perform computer simulation code improvements, upgrades and assessments. The total estimated cost is \$4,870,622.00. The period of performance is for five years (three-year base plus two one-year options).

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of  
September 1 through September 7, 2006:

RFQ OIS-06-317, Consolidated Information System Security Services (CISSS), contract, technical proposal, cost proposal, evaluated price of each proposal	FOIA/PA-2006-0291
Consolidated Information System Security Services (CISSS) contract, awarded to MAR Inc., July 31, 2006	FOIA/PA-2006-0292
Contract NRC3305339, SOW & Delivery Orders/task orders	FOIA/PA-2006-0293
Background investigation on named individual - Referral by OPM	FOIA/PA-2006-0294
OI report 3-2002-006 dated 8-23-03, unredacted version (ML062410110)	FOIA/PA-2006-0295

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

<b>Arrivals</b>		
ANCHONDO, ISAAC	MATERIALS ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
BLANEY, STEPHANIE A.	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
GREENE, NATASHA A.	PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	NRR
ZHANG, JING	ELECTRONICS ENGINEER	NRR
<b>Retirement</b>		
ROM, DANIEL S.	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
<b>Departure</b>		
KISH, EDWARD R.	STUDENT TRAINEE (ENGINEERING)	NMSS

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

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

A shipment of tools from Vermont Yankee to Susquehanna that had radiation levels above allowable limits.

Nuclear security issues in advance of the 9/11 anniversary.

Utilities' plans for building new commercial power reactors.

Other Public Affairs Items:

A reporter from the Wall Street Journal interviewed the Chairman and several senior staff for an upcoming piece on the future of nuclear power.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-106	NRC to Hold Annual Public Meeting on Nuclear Security on Sept. 14 in Rockville, Maryland (9/7)
06-107	NRC Names Two New Members to Its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (9/8)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-050	NRC to Discuss Preliminary Results of Inspection for Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant License Renewal Application (9/5)
I-06-051	Closure of Safety Conscious Work Environment Issue at Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Plants to Be Subject of Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> Open House (9/7)



Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0142	9/6/06	Options and Recommendations for Replenishing Expired Potassium Iodide (KI)
Commission Voting Record on 06-0142	9/6/06	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-06-0191	8/31/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 18, 2006
2. SECY-06-0184	8/22/06	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System: Semi-Annual Progress Report for January - June 2006
3. SECY-06-0185	8/23/06	Program Update Regarding Progress on Integration of System Architecture, Utilization of Information Technology to Enhance Synergies Among NRC Programs, and Improvement in Service Through Maintenance of an Up-to-date Web Site
<b>Memoranda</b>		
- M060906	9/6/06	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-06-0166 - Pacific Gas & Elec. Co. (Diablo Canyon ISFSI), Docket No. 72-26-ISFSI "Motion by San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Sierra Club, and Peg Pinard for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief with Respect to Diablo Canyon ISFSI"; II. SECY-06-0169 - Amergen Energy Company, LLC (License Renewal for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station) Docket No. 50-0219, Legal Challenges to LBP-06-07 and LBP-06-11; III. SECY-06-0174 - Pa'ina Hawaii, LLC, LBP-06-4, 63 NRC 99 (2006) and LBP-06-12, 63 NRC 409 (2006)

### Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Alan J. Kuperman, NCI, dated August 31, 2006, responds to letter regarding NRC's policy of redacting information on the quantities of HEU requested in export license applications.
2. Letter to Rep. John M. Spratt, Jr, dated August 31, 2006, responds to concerns regarding the NRC and DOE interactions on implementation of Section 3116 of the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

### Federal Register Notices

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (9/21/06).
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW), Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (9/18/06).
3. ACNW, notice of 173<sup>rd</sup> meeting (9/18-21/06).

Region I (RI)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Heritage Minerals, Inc. Public Meeting

On September 8, 2006, staff held an informational public meeting in Manchester Township, N.J., to discuss NRC termination of the Heritage Minerals license and release of the site for unrestricted use. Representatives from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Heritage Minerals attended the meeting, as well as one local reporter, a representative from a local congressional office, the township administrator and mayor. No members of the public attended the meeting. The staff answered the reporter's questions, and provided a brief overview of the site cleanup and staff evaluation. The mayor expressed gratitude to the NRC for completing this action, and for keeping his office informed of site progress. The staff plans to terminate the HMI license by the end of September.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 8, 2006

Meeting with Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

On September 7, 2006, the Regional Administrator and other regional and headquarters staff held a meeting with representatives of the Palo Verde Nuclear Station. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's actions taken to address performance issues in the areas of human performance and problem identification that were identified as substantive cross-cutting issues in the mid-cycle performance review letter issued on August 31, 2006. The meeting was attended by other Palo Verde owner groups and the media.

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ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 32**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Xie	09/13/06 TBA	TBA	Dennis Spurgeon, DOE, former NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz, Ernest Moniz, MIT, Skip Bowman, NEI, Patrick Moore, formerly of Greenpeace, State PUC representative TBD	Future of Nuclear Power and Possible Impediments	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	09/14/06 SD406	9:30	DOE, NRC's EDO, NEI, EDF	NRC Oversight focusing on NRC's capability for the long- and short-term spent fuel storage programs	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Shane	September SD-406	9:30	Markup	S. 2348, Nuclear Release Notice Act of 2006	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works

The Senate and House of Representatives are in recess until September 5, 2006.