

INFORMATION REPORT

March 27, 2007

SECY-07-0057

For: The Commissioners
From: Michael R. Johnson, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 16, 2007

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
New Reactors	B*
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	C*
Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs	D
Nuclear Regulatory Research	E
Nuclear Security and Incident Response	F
Administration	G*
Information Services	H
Chief Financial Officer	I*
Human Resources	J
Small Business and Civil Rights	K*
Enforcement	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Secretary	O
Region I	P*
Region II	P*
Region III	P*
Region IV	P*
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Meeting on Issues related to Wolf Creek Pressurizer Nozzle Inspection Results

On March 6, 2007, the staff met with the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels and presented a summary of the NRC staff fracture mechanics analyses, leakage analyses, the regulatory status and interactions with industry related to its advanced fracture mechanics analyses currently underway. A representative from the Materials Reliability Program Nuclear Energy Institute provided a summary of industry activities and the industry perspective on the issue. On March 8, 2007, the staff met with the ACRS Full Committee and presented a summary of the information that was presented to the ACRS Subcommittee.

Meeting with the Industry on Advanced Analyses Related to Wolf Creek Pressurizer Nozzle Weld Flaws

On March 7, 2007, the staff held a public meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the Materials Reliability Program (MRP). The meeting was held to discuss the industry's advanced finite element fracture mechanics analyses that are currently underway. These analyses are first of a kind and will involve significant software development, software bench marking, validation against operating experience or laboratory data, and a large number of sensitivity studies. During the meeting industry and NRR staff held detailed discussions on each of the critical steps of the project. The current plan is to hold public meetings or teleconferences approximately every two weeks until the project is completed in July 2007.

Generic Safety Issue-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance"

On March 8 - 9, 2007, the staff visited the Fauske and Associates and the Alion Science and Technology Laboratories to observe ongoing chemical effects testing in support of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191. The Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group sponsored testing at Fauske is intended to provide a basis for re-evaluating conservative assumptions in the WCAP-16530-NP chemical model. NRR staff discussed the test program with representatives from Westinghouse and Fauske & Associates. NRR staff also observed a large scale (four top-hat) head loss test for Three Mile Island at the Alion Hydraulics Laboratory. This test simulated the amount of debris produced by a large break loss of coolant accident, including chemical effects, after steam generator replacement in 2009. The test was still in progress at the time of staff departure. A conference call will be conducted with the licensee to discuss the final test results.

Power Reactor Security Public Meeting

On March 9, 2007, the staff conducted a public meeting on the proposed power reactor security rule (currently out for public comment with the comment period set to close on March 26). The purpose of the meeting was to provide interested stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the proposed requirements with the NRC staff in order to facilitate a greater stakeholder

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE A

understanding of the proposed rule. The meeting was well attended including participation by stakeholders on a phone bridge. The staff received extensive feedback on the proposed requirements.

Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2007-04, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Submitted to the NRC

On March 9, 2007, the staff issued the subject RIS. The purpose of this RIS is to inform addressees that they should clearly identify documents submitted to NRC as sensitive if they contain any PII.

Confirmatory Action Letters (CALs) on Dissimilar Metal Welds

On March 12, 2007, staff began issuing CALs to licensees of pressurized water reactor plants that have dissimilar metal welds in pressurizer piping and that have not completed inspection or mitigation activities to address concerns identified at the Wolf Creek plant in October 2006. A total of 30 plants (40 units) will receive CALs by the end of March. In general, the CALs document commitments by licensees to complete inspection or mitigation activities by December 31, 2007, provide enhanced reactor coolant system leakage monitoring until the inspection is completed, and report the results of inspection and mitigation activities. Nine plants may be allowed to defer the inspections until scheduled outages in the spring of 2008 if an industry-sponsored analysis to be completed this summer provides the NRC staff with reasonable assurance that the extension is acceptable.

Meeting with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regarding Reactivation of Watts Bar Nuclear (WBN) Plant Unit 2

On March 12, 2007, staff held a public meeting with representatives of TVA to discuss the possible resumption of construction and licensing of the WBN Unit 2. TVA and its contractors are conducting a study of the feasibility of completing WBN Unit 2 to determine whether it is practical to complete construction and licensing of this reactor by 2013. Results of this study will be presented to the TVA Board of Directors in August 2007.

TVA stated that WBN Unit 2 will be completed using the same licensing basis and design criteria as WBN Unit 1. However, TVA staff acknowledged that there will be some differences between the units due to changes in regulatory requirements and criteria. The scope of work will include upgrades to Unit 1 since its startup, five-year plan capital projects, and corrective actions associated with the Nuclear Performance Plan developed to address significant performance issues identified in response to NRC's September 17, 1985, 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter.

Meeting participants also discussed the timing and content of submittals planned by TVA, particularly a "120 day" letter which will be submitted in accordance with the Commission Policy Statement on Deferred Plants if the TVA Board of Directors decides to resume construction. Additional meetings to discuss the regulatory framework and site activities are tentatively planned for Spring 2007.

Palo Verde Safety Culture Meeting

On March 14-15, 2007, the staff held a meeting with representatives from Palo Verde and Synergy to discuss the staff expectations for the licensee's safety culture assessment and the licensee's plans for conducting their near-term third-party safety culture assessment to support NRC's future supplemental inspection activity at the site.

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Meeting of the Therapy Physics Committee of the American Association of Physicists in
Medicine

On March 6-7, 2007, staff attended the spring meeting of the Therapy Physics Committee of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), held in Houston, Texas. Information was provided to the Committee on a variety of topics through a brief presentation and accompanying question and answer session. Current information was provided on the following topics: NRC's upcoming regulation of accelerator-produced and naturally-occurring radioactive materials, and its relationship to the NRC/Agreement State National Materials Program; the review/approval status of the new model Gamma-Knife® from Electa, and plans for NRC guidance to applicants for licensure; and the status of AAPM's petition for rulemaking to modify 10 CFR 35.57 (re: "grandfathering" of practicing certified medical physicists).

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Technical Interchange Meeting with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on Software Reliability to Support Safety and Risk Analysis

On March 6-8, 2007, the staff participated in the subject meeting during which technical experts in the software assurance disciplines identified the best practices of software safety and reliability assessment methods and established a path forward for developing and implementing a NASA policy in this area. RES presented draft methods under development for assessing digital system risk and reliability. Several draft methods were identified for potential short-term implementation. RES will maintain communications with NASA to optimize opportunities for further technical exchanges in the future as both organizations establish software reliability risk analysis programs

Staff Presentation to the Greater Atlanta Society of Fire Protection Engineers Annual Meeting

On March 6, 2007, the staff made the subject presentation as part of RES's effort to reach out to professional societies and inform them of the work that the NRC is performing. The presentation focused on the fire modeling advances made by RES. The presentation was very well received with over 25 of the attendees requesting to be placed on the RES stakeholders distribution list for fire research products.

Public Meeting of Task Working Group (TWG) to Address Digital System Communications that Involve Equipment Assigned to Different Safety Divisions

On March 9, 2007, the staff and industry representatives met to discuss issues related to licensing digital instrumentation and control (I&C) systems in new and operating nuclear power plants and fuel facilities. Meeting participants finalized the TWG Project Plan for developing guidance for designers and reviewers of provisions for cross-channel interactions (such as exchanges of information and of actuation requests) in nuclear safety systems (including interactions with non-safety systems). The TWG identified the regulatory requirements applicable to its scope of work, and discussed a process by which industry representatives will compile and prioritize a listing of the types of communications that are of greatest interest to the industry.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed by the NRC and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

On March 14, 2007, the RES Director and the Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer of EPRI signed a MOU on cooperative nuclear safety research. This MOU (reference ADAMS accession number ML070740114) describes the parameters within which cooperative research programs between the NRC and EPRI will be considered and conducted, provides for the avoidance of unnecessary duplication of research efforts, and allows for the conservation of resources. Individual cooperative research programs are described in addenda to the MOU. This MOU supersedes and replaces the NRC-EPRI MOU dated November 25, 1997, and expires on September 30, 2016.

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE E

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-07-004A, Kewaunee-Dominion Energy, KEWAUNEE REACTOR SHUTDOWN (UPDATE)
2. PNO-II-07-002, Southern Nuclear Company, Vogtle Unit 2, VOGTLE UNIT 2 NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT (NOUE) DUE TO REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (RCS) LEAKAGE IN EXCESS OF 10 GALLONS PER MINUTE (GPM)

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 9 through March 15, 2007:

New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED), all industrial radiography-related event reports, Jan. 1, 1990 - present	FOIA/PA-2007-0142
Office of Investigation (OI) Report 3-2005-010, redacted copy	FOIA/PA-2007-0143
Briefings/presentations by NRC's FOIA Officer, 2006 to present	FOIA/PA-2007-0144
Office of Inspector General (OIG) special inquiry report: NRC's Oversight of the Force-on-Force Program dated May 2006; memo from OIG to Chairman detailing the results of investigation re: adequacy of NRC's Oversight of Research Test Reactors	FOIA/PA-2007-0145
General Services Administration (GSA) Advantage listings for NRC, Referral by GSA	FOIA/PA-2007-0146
NUREG/BR-0150, Response Technical Manual, TRM-93	FOIA/PA-2007-0147
New Jersey licensees currently licensed to possess tritium	FOIA/PA-2007-0148
Office of the Secretary (SECY) papers re: discussions/recommendations of deputization of OI personnel, 2004-2006; OI peer reviews, 2004-2006	FOIA/PA-2007-0149
Louisiana Energy Sources (LES) license application, National Enrichment Facility, named documents	FOIA/PA-2007-0150

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 16, 2007

Arrivals		
BIGGINS, JAMES	ATTORNEY	OGC
COATES, PATRICIA	LICENSING ASSISTANT	NRR
COMPTON, MAKEEKA	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
COURET, IVONNE	PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER	OPA
DAVIDSON, EVAN	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
ECK, TIMOTHY	PHYSICAL SECURITY INSPECTOR	RIII
DAVIS, CHON	SECRETARY (OA)	FSME
ELLMERS, GLENN	SPEECHWRITER	OCM
FRANKL, ISTVAN	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGR (THERM-HYD)	RES
GARLAND, STEPHANIE	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
HSU, YEN	SYSTEMS ACCT/SYSTEMS ANALYST	CFO
JONES, GINA	CHIEF, ACCOUNT RECEIVABLES TEAM	CFO
JONES, LARRY	REACTOR ENGINEER (NSPDP)	RIII
MCLELLAN, JUDITH	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
MOBLEY, HELEN	SENIOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	OIS
RUSSELL, REGINA	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTOR	RIII
SANTIAGO-NEGRON, DAMARIS	MANAGEMENT ANALYST (TERM)	RES
STEEN, AMY	SECURITY SPECIALIST TRAINEE (CO-OP)	NSIR
WAGGONER, LAURA	SECRETARY (OA)	CFO
WHORRAL, MATTHEW	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
YOUNG, DANIELLE	STUDENT CLERK	NRR
Retirement		
IRISH, RUSSELL	SR. LEVEL ASST. FOR AUDIT OPERATION	OIG
Departure		
THORNSBURY, ERIC	SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER	ACRS

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

OPA received significant media inquiries on the following:

NRC's preparations for new reactor applications and design certifications.

NRC's confirmatory action letter regarding weld issues.

The Office of Investigations (OI) and its blanket deputation for OI agents by the US Marshals Service.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted at the NRC's annual Regulatory Information Conference, including presentations by the Director and the Special Assistant to the Director.

Commissioner Merrifield was interviewed by the Las Vegas Sun regarding Yucca Mountain, by the Nuclear Energy Institute regarding his speech at the RIC, and by MSNBC.com regarding the Office of Investigations.

OPA provided support for the signing of the Clinton Early Site Permit.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
07-034	NRC Issues Confirmatory Action Letters on Welds to Group of PWR Nuclear Power Plants (3/12)
07-035	NRC Issues First-Ever Early Site Permit for Clinton Site in Illinois (3/15)
07-036	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request a Hearing on Operating License for MOX Fuel Plant in South Carolina (3/15)
Regions:	
I-07-007	NRC to Discuss 2006 Assessment for Millstone Nuclear Plant at Two Public Meetings Scheduled for March 22 (3/15)
II-07-003	NRC Schedules Public Meeting March 21 on Honeywell Uranium Processing Plant Performance (3/12)
II-07-004	NRC to Discuss 2006 Performance at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant (3/13)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 16, 2007

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-07-0039	02/27/07	Semiannual Update of the Status of New Reactor Licensing Activities and Future Planning for New Reactors
2. SECY-07-0048	03/09/07	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 2, 2007
Memoranda		
1. M070228	03/12/07	Periodic Briefing on New Reactor Issues
2. M070305	03/12/07	Meeting with DOE on New Reactor Issues
3. M070315	03/15/07	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-07-0041 - Motion for Reconsideration of <i>Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC</i> , & <i>Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.</i> (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station); <i>Entergy Nuclear Generation Company & Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.</i> (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station), CLI-07-3 (Jan. 22, 2007).

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated March 9, 2007, responds to letter to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) regarding NRC's review of license renewal application for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.
2. Letter to Jon Corzine, Governor of New Jersey, dated March 9, 2007, responds to letter inviting the ACRS to tour the Oyster Creek Generating Station and to hold a public meeting regarding the license renewal application in New Jersey.
3. Letter to Paul Schmidt, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, dated March 6, 2007, responding to letter that discussed concerns about including data for sources that meet or exceed the International Atomic Energy Agency Category 3 radioactive source thresholds in the National Source Tracking System.
4. Letter to Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York, dated March 6, 2007, requesting that a State Liaison Office be appointed to act as the primary liaison to the NRC.

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE O

5. Letter to Congress, dated March 5, 2007, submitting NRC's proposed legislation which authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2008.
6. Letter to Nicholas Owens, Small Business Administration, dated March 2, 2007, responds to letter concerning the size standards used by NRC to determine small entity status.
7. Letter to Andre-Claude Lacoste, dated March 2, 2007, expresses appreciation for letter concerning cooperation between NRC, and ASN, as part of Stage 1 of the Multinational Design Evaluation Program (MDEP).
8. Letter to Governors, dated February 21, 2007, requesting that a State Liaison Office be appointed to act as the primary liaison to the NRC.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Request to Amend a License to Export Radioactive Waste (AREVA NP, Inc.).
2. Application for a License to Export Major Components of a Nuclear Utilization Facility (Westinghouse Electric Company).
3. Final rule. 10 CFR Part 73, RIN 3150-AH60, Design Basis Threat.
4. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (4/3/2007).
5. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (4/4/2007).
6. ACRS, notice of 541st meeting (4/5-7/2007).

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 16, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 8					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Decker	03/13/2007 342 Dirksen	2:30	Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia (Senators Akaka / Voinovich)	International Efforts to Secure Radiological Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Richard Stratford - Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Safety, and Security , U.S. Department of State ▶ Andrew Bieniawski - Associate Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration , DOE ▶ Janice Dunn Lee - Director, OIP, NRC ▶ Eugene Aloise - Director, Nuclear & Nonproliferation Issues, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO ▶ Dr. Brian Dodd - President , Health Physics Society ▶ Dr. Charles Ferguson - Fellow for Science and Technology , Council on Foreign Relations ▶ Joel Lubenau - Certified Health Physicist

March 16, 2007

ENCLOSURE R

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 8

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	WITNESSES
Sahm	03/14/2007 226 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Judiciary Committee (Senators Leahy / Specter)	"Open Government: Reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Tom Curley - President and CEO, Associated Press, representing Sunshine in Government Initiative ▶ Meredith Fuchs - General Counsel of the National Security Archive ▶ Sabina Haskell - Editor of the Brattleboro Reformer (Brattleboro, VT) ▶ Katherine Cary - General Counsel for the Texas Office of the Attorney General
Decker	03/14/2007 1539 Longworth	2:00	House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology (Representatives Langevin / McCaul)	"Countering the Nuclear Threat to the Homeland: Evaluating the Procurement of Radiation Detection Technologies"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vayl Oxford - Director (domestic), Nuclear Detection Office, DHS ▶ Gene Aloise - Director, Natural Resources and Environment Issues, GAO
Decker	03/28/2007 2362B Rayburn	10:00	House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (Representatives Visclosky / Hobson)	FY 2008 Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chairman Dale Klein - NRC ▶ Dennis Spurgeon - Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy DOE ▶ Ward Sproat - Director, DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)