

INFORMATION REPORT

March 7, 2008

SECY-08-0032

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 29, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Meeting at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

On February 20, 2008, Division of Engineering and Office of New Reactors staff met at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD, with representatives of the five domestic laboratory accreditation bodies. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the calibration and testing laboratory accreditation process through the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

Meeting with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Materials Reliability Program

On February 21, 2008, the Division of Component Integrity staff met with representatives from EPRI Materials Reliability Program (MRP) to discuss (1) implementation of MRP-139, "Materials Reliability Program: Primary System Piping Butt Weld Inspection and Evaluation Guideline," (2) the response to the NRC's request for additional information on MRP-169, "Technical Basis for Preemptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in PWRs," (3) MRP's status on developing inspection guidelines for pressurized water reactor vessel lower head penetrations, and (4) the status of activities of the MRP Inspection Task Group. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss materials issues of high interest to the staff.

Issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report for the License Renewal of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

On February 25, 2008, the NRC issued the final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) related to the license renewal of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The SER documents the staff's final safety determination based on its review of the Vermont Yankee license renewal application submitted on January 25, 2006.

Power Plant Simulator 2008 Conference

On February 27, 2008, Division of Inspection and Regional Support staff attended the Power Plant Simulator 2008 Conference in Austin, Texas, to discuss the NRC's review and comments on the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) recommendations regarding the methodology for implementation of simulator Scenario Based Testing.

Vogtle, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Measurement Uncertainty Recapture (MUR) Power Uprate Approval

On February 27, 2008, the NRC issued license amendments that approved an increase in the licensed core thermal power level for Vogtle, Units 1 and 2, by 1.7% to 3625.6 megawatts thermal for each unit. The power increase will be achieved by the implementation of the Caldon Leading Edge Flowmeter CheckPlus™ ultrasonic flow measurement system, which allows for more accurate measurement of feedwater flow. The license amendments will be implemented at the completion of spring 2008 refueling outage for Unit 1, and the completion of fall 2008 refueling outage for Unit 2.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Completion of Acceptance Review for the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor

The staff has completed its acceptance review of the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (U.S. EPR) design certification application, and issued an acceptance letter to AREVA on February 25, 2008.

Completion of the Acceptance Review for the Lee Station Combined License Application

The staff has completed its acceptance review of the Lee Station Combined License Application (COLA), and issued an acceptance letter to Duke Energy on February 25, 2008. Lee Station is the fifth COLA accepted by the staff for review.

Entergy's Submittal of a COLA for the Grand Gulf Site

On February 27, 2008, Entergy submitted a combined license application (COLA) for one Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) reactor at the Grand Gulf site. This is the second COLA to reference the ESBWR design. The estimated completion date of the acceptance review is April 30, 2008.

Health Physics Public Meeting

On February 28, 2008, a public meeting on new reactor health physics issues was held between the staff and industry representatives. During the meeting, industry and NRC staff discussed the status of the four Radiation Protection program templates being developed by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to support COLAs. The NRC expects to complete the safety evaluations of the templates by the end of April 2008. Also discussed was the industry role in updating radiation effluent computer codes, such as the GALE code. NEI will review this issue, discuss with industry executives at an upcoming meeting, and be prepared to discuss industry involvement in code development at the next monthly public meeting, which will be held during the first week of April, 2008.

Completion of Acceptance Review for the U.S. Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor

The staff has completed its acceptance review of the U.S. Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor design certification application, and issued an acceptance letter to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries on February 29, 2008.

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Second Session of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program Team Member Training Was Held

On February 26-27, 2008, FSME conducted a second session of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Team Member Training, which was hosted by Region IV. The training was well attended by staff from the Office of the Inspector General, Region III, Region IV, the State of New Mexico, and the State of Texas.

Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council President meets with Chairman, Commissioners and Staff of NRC

On February 27, 2008, the Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Council President met with the Chairman and Commissioners, as well as with staff from the Office of the Executive Director for Operations, FSME, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of the General Counsel and Office of Small Business and Civil Rights. Topics discussed included: the Community's desire to participate in the environmental review of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generation Plant license renewal, power uprates, high level waste storage and disposal, emergency preparedness, NRC's Waste Confidence Decision, licensee communications, and NRC Tribal college and university outreach. The Tribal Council President stated the Community is not opposed to license renewal, but would rather contribute information about cultural, socioeconomic and environmental resources which would enhance the associated Environmental Impact Statement.

Fifth Regional Fingerprinting Workshop Held for Licensees

On February 27, 2008, staff conducted the fifth regional fingerprinting workshop for licensees, implementing NRC Order EA-07-305, "Order Imposing Fingerprinting and Criminal History Records Check Requirements for Unescorted Access to Certain Radioactive Material" issued on December 5, 2007. Workshops were held in: Lisle, Illinois; Arlington, Texas; Rockville, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts and Oakland, California. Additional workshops will be considered when Agreement States implement their compatible requirements.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Categorization Of Radioactive Materials

On February 26, 2008, NRC staff hosted a meeting with National Nuclear Security Administration and Department of State staff to discuss a number of issues regarding categorization of materials and NRC rulemaking activities. These issues included: planned, on-going and recently completed NRC and U.S. Department of Energy studies regarding the categorization of radioactive and nuclear materials; planned NRC rulemakings; and other interagency activities in the area of source security.

Hostile Action-Based Incident Response (IR) Drill

On February 27, 2008, NRC IR staff participated in a "hostile action-based" IR drill with the Byron Nuclear Station and in coordination with State, local, and other Federal response organizations. The drill was used as a learning opportunity to improve coordination and communication capabilities. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency/NRC Joint Scenario Task Force conducted observations at Byron and surrounding emergency response facilities.

PNO-II-08-002 – Florida Power & Light Company

On February 27, 2008, a grid disturbance caused by equipment malfunction in a substation near Miami initiated a dual-unit trip at Turkey Point. Both power reactors were returned to normal operation.

Power Reactor Security Requirements Rulemaking

On February 28, 2008, NRC staff added additional draft final rule language on the "regulations.gov" website for Power Reactor Security Requirements rulemaking. The addition included: Personnel Access Authorization Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants and Draft Final Rule Text, Part 73, Appendix B. The draft final rule is provided for the public to assist in commenting on draft regulatory guides in support of the final draft rule.

PNO-IV-2008-002 – Sabia, Inc.

On February 29, 2008, Sabia, Incorporated reported that a worker had become contaminated after a 57 millicurie (approximately) Strontium-90 (Sr-90) source was breached (EN #44023). Industrial gauges were being disassembled at a Sabia facility near Idaho Falls, Idaho. The worker was contaminated on his hands, face, and clothing, and inhaled some of the material. He was taken to a local health care facility where medical officials consulted with the Oak Ridge Radiation Emergency Assistance Center (REAC) regarding his radiation exposure. He was released later the same day. The licensee stated that REAC estimated that the dose received by the worker was below regulatory limits.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Geologic Repository Operations Area Security and Material Control and Accounting Requirements: Extension of Comment Period (AI06 – Parts 60, 63, 73, and 74)

On February 26, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 10187), extending the comment period for the proposed rule that would revise the security and material control and accounting requirements for a geologic repository operations area (GROA). The proposed rule is intended to ensure that effective security measures are in place for the protection of high-level radioactive waste at a GROA given the current threat environment. The comment period for this action now closes May 5, 2008.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 22, 2008 through February 28, 2008:

Amendments to Indemnity Agreement B31, So. Cal. Edison, formerly in the Public Document Room	FOIA/PA-2008-0131
2007 FOIA Annual Report	FOIA/PA-2008-0132
NUREG/CR-6847, "Cyber Security Self-Assessment Method for U.S. Nuclear Power Plants"	FOIA/PA-2008-0133
Nuclear propulsion program, past and present	FOIA/PA-2008-0134
Contract OIS-08-301, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Replacement Configuration Support Services	FOIA/PA-2008-0135
Contract 33-03-341, ADAMS Document Processing Services	FOIA/PA-2008-0136
Contract 33-05-405, Records Management Policy and Compliance	FOIA/PA-2008-0137

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

ARRIVALS		
ALEMU, BEZAKULA	IT SPECIALIST (SYSANALYSIS)	NRO
BUCHANAN, THERESA	PROJECT ENGINEER	RIV
BURROWS, RONALD	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
CLEMENT, RICHARD	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NRO
CRESPO, GUILLERMO	SENIOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR	RII
FITZGERALD, JAMES	CONSULTANT	OI
FROEHLICH, WILLIAM	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE (LEGAL)	ASLBP
HIRONS, THOMAS	MEMBER	ASLBP
HOSKINS, RITA	SENIOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT	OIP
JONES, CARL	SENIOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR	RII
LINDSAY, HAILE	THERMAL ENGINEER	NMSS
MACDOUGALL, ROBERT	PROJECT MANAGER	FSME
MONTAGUE, MICHAEL	PLAN&SCHEDULING ANLYST	NRO
MULLINS, KIA	SECRETARY	OGC
PIERCE, ALLEN	CONSULTANT	ACRS
QUAYLE, LISA	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
RADER, ROBERT	SENIOR ATTORNEY	OGC
SCHAUP, WILLIAM	PROJECT ENGINEER	RIV
SOM, SWAGATA	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	NRO
STAAB, CHRISTOPHER	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
STERLING, GWIN	SECRETARY	NRR
STRONG, DIANA	SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM MANAGER	SBCR
TAI, TOM MANCHING	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NRO
TRUONG, TUNG HUU	ELECTRONICS ENG (DIGITAL I&C)	NRO
WATSON, MADONNA	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
WRAY, BARRY	SENIOR SECURITY SPECIALIST	NSIR
DEPARTURES		
BYRDSOONG, ADRIA	ADMINISTRATIVE & LITIGATION ANALYST	SECY
CHENG, CARMEN	IT SPECIALIST (SYSANALYSIS)	FSME
DANIELS, TYRA	SECRETARY (OA)	FSME
DOLLECK, ALAN	IT SPECIALIST (CUSTSPT)	OIS
FISCHER, DAVID	SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER	ACRS
FORD, RHONDA	HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	HR
IMBRO, EUGENE	DEP DIR, DIV OF CONSTR INSP & OPER PRG	NRO
JOHNSON, ROBERT	BRANCH CHIEF	NSIR
KING, MARY	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	NRR
KUPERSANIN, WILLIAM	IT SPECIALIST (INFOSEC)	OIS
SPAGNOLI, CONNIE	SECRETARY (OA)	RIV

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMGBJ-08-0001	01/02/08	A Commission Policy Statement on Safety Culture
SRM-COMGBJ-08-0001	02/25/08	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMGBJ-08-0001	02/25/08	(same)
2. COMSECY-07-0032 (without enclosure)	09/24/07	Staff Considering Two Additional Revisions in The Current 10 CFR Part 72 Rulemaking Effort
SRM-COMSECY-07-0032	12/12/07	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMSECY-07-0032	12/12/07	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0005 (REDACTED)	01/08/08	Results of Material Control and Accounting Baseline Inspections Conducted at Nuclear Power Reactors and Wet Storage Sites
2. SECY-08-0023	02/22/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 15, 2008

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Whitfield, dated February 21, 2008, responds to letter regarding security measures at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
2. Letter to Senators Thomas Carper and George Voinovich, dated February 21, 2008, responds to letter regarding inattentive security officers at Peach Bottom.
3. Letter to Nancy Jo Nicholas, Institute of Nuclear Materials Management (INMM), dated February 20, 2008, expresses congratulations on INMM's 50th anniversary.
4. Letter to Congress, dated February 19, 2008, provides the National Academies report entitled, "Radiation Source Use and Replacement."
5. Letter to Bobby Jindal, Governor Louisiana, dated February 19, 2008, requesting appointment of a State Liaison Officer.

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ENCLOSURE O

6. Letter to Jim Nussle, OMB, dated February 15, 2008, provides NRC's Strategic Plant for Fiscal Year 2008-2013.
7. Letter to Congress, dated February 15, 2008, provides NRC's Strategic Plant for Fiscal Year 2008-2013.
8. Message to ALL NRC Employees, dated February 15, 2008, provides NRC's Strategic Plant for Fiscal Year 2008-2013.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials - Notice of Meeting (March 18-20, 2008).
2. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Notice of Hearing - Entergy Nuclear Generation Company (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Materials Security Roundtable Meeting

On February 29, 2008, RI participated in an all day forum on Materials Security, sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the Health Physics Society. The NRC presentations discussed the Increased Controls and the Fingerprinting Orders. Other presenters included representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 29, 2008

Management Changes at Diablo Canyon Power Plant

On February 21, 2008, Pacific Gas and Electric Company announced the permanent appointment of Mr. John Conway as Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, and Mr. Jim Becker as Site Vice President, effective March 1, 2008.

Management Changes at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

On February 26, 2008, Entergy Nuclear Operations announced that Mr. Russ Brian, Vice President of Operations at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, will transition to fill the role of Vice President, Operations Support for Entergy Nuclear in Jackson, Mississippi. Entergy also announced that Mr. Randy Douet will take on the role of Site Vice President at Grand Gulf. Mr. Douet is currently Vice President of Nuclear Support for Tennessee Valley Authority, and previously served as Site Vice President at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. The new appointments become effective April 1, 2008.

Meeting with Omaha Public Power District

On February 28, 2008, the staff met with representatives of Omaha Public Power District in the Region IV office to discuss performance at Fort Calhoun Station and the status of the station's performance improvement plan. The public meeting was held at the request of the licensee. Omaha Public Power District announced their readiness for the NRC supplemental inspection to be conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95002. The supplemental inspection will begin the week of March 10, 2008.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 29, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 5					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	02/28/08 406 Dirksen	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Senators Carper / Voinovich)	Oversight Hearing on Security Related Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) ○ Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA) • Panel 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairman Dale Klein, NRC ○ Commissioner Gregory Jaczko, NRC ○ Commissioner Peter Lyons, NRC • Panel 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christopher Crane – COO, Exelon ○ Eric Wilson – CEO, G4S Regulated Security Solutions ○ David Lochbaum – Director, Nuclear Safety Project, Union of Concerned Scientists ○ Marvin Fertel – Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute

Sahm	02/29/08 2154 Rayburn	2:00	House Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia (Representatives Davis / Marchant)	Markup of HR 4106 – The Telework Improvements Act of 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Powell	03/12/08 SD-366	2:15	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Domenici)	Efforts to reform Federal Hard Rock Mining Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie Miller – Director of FSME, NRC • Others TBD
Sahm / Kron	03/13/08 342 Dirksen	2:30	Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security (Senators Carper / Coburn)	“Agencies in Peril: Are We Doing Enough to Protect Federal IT and Secure Sensitive Information?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OMB ○ GAO • Panel 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darren Ash – CIO, NRC ○ Veterans’ Affairs ○ State Department ○ USAID
Powell	Spring 08 TBD	TBD	House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Inattentive Guards at Peach Bottom and other Security Related Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD