

# INFORMATION REPORT

February 17, 2009

SECY-09-0026

For: The Commissioners

From: Vonna L. Ordaz  
Assistant for Operations  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2009

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\*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Snubber Users Group (SNUG) Meeting

From January 26 to 28, 2009, the staff attended the SNUG meeting. The SNUG meeting was attended by representatives of various nuclear industry owners and snubber suppliers. The group discussed current issues related to inservice examination and testing of snubbers and areas for potential changes while transitioning from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, to the ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) for snubber inspection and testing.

Generic Safety Issue 191 Testing at Alion Science and Technology

From January 27 to 30, 2009, the staff observed chemical effects head loss testing at the Alion Science and Technology's Hydraulics Laboratory in Warrenville, Illinois. These tests were conducted to assess sump strainer performance in support of licensee submittals to address Generic Letter 2004-02. The staff observed plant specific head loss testing for a representative segment of Indian Point's strainer array. In addition, the staff observed baseline testing for Alion's chemical effects vertical head loss loop. The intent of the vertical loop is to provide plant specific data on the solubility of chemical species.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Fourth-Quarter Plant Assessment Results for CY 2008

On February 4, 2009, the ROP fourth-quarter plant assessment results for calendar year 2008 were posted on the NRC external web. The number of plants in the regulatory response (Column 2), degraded cornerstone (Column 3) and multiple/repetitive degraded cornerstone (Column 4) columns of the ROP action matrix changed from 5/3/1 at the end of the third-quarter 2008 to 13/3/1 at the end of the fourth-quarter 2008. Byron 1&2, Comanche Peak 1, Farley 1 and Hatch 2 remained in Column 2. Grand Gulf, Kewaunee, McGuire 1&2, Nine Mile Point 2, Palisades, Prairie Island 1, and San Onofre 2 are new entries into Column 2. Palo Verde Units 1&2, and Cooper remained in Column 3, and Palo Verde Unit 3 remained in Column 4.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Vogtle Early Site Permit (ESP) and Limited Work Authorization (LWA) FSER Issuance

On February 5, 2009, NRC staff issued its final safety evaluation report for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Early Site Permit (ESP) application and LWA request. The application for an ESP was submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company on August 14, 2006, followed by an LWA request on August 16, 2007.

Public Scoping Meetings to Discuss Environmental Issues Pertaining to the Combined License (COL) Application for Virgil C. (VC) Summer Nuclear Station, Units 2 and 3

On January 27 and 28, 2009, NRC staff participated in public meetings related to the COL application for the VC Summer Nuclear Power Station in Jenkinsville, South Carolina. The staff conducted the meetings to solicit comments from the public to help identify significant environmental issues related to the COL, and to provide the opportunity for interested members of the public to submit comments or suggestions on these environmental issues and the proposed scope of the staff's environmental review.

Public Scoping Meeting to Discuss Environmental Issues Pertaining to the COL Application for Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant

On January 29, 2009, NRC staff conducted an environmental scoping meeting related to the review of the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant COL application submitted by PPL Bell Bend, LLC. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process by providing comments on environmental issues related to the project. The public meeting was held at the Berwick Area Senior High School in Berwick, Pennsylvania.

Public Meeting to Discuss the Recently Issued Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the COL Application for the North Anna Power Station (NAPS), Unit 3

On February 3, 2009, NRC staff conducted a public meeting to present the preliminary results of the environmental review of the NAPS Unit 3 COL application submitted by Dominion. The purpose of the meeting was to give members of the public an opportunity to provide their comments on the draft SEIS for NAPS Unit 3. The meeting was held at the Louisa County High School in Louisa County, Virginia.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Meeting with Nevada Affected Units of Local Government (AULG)

In response to a request by the Nevada AULG, on January 29, 2009, NRC staff met with members of the Nevada AULG, and discussed the status of the NRC technical review of the Department of Energy High Level Waste Repository license application. The AULG provided positive feedback and appreciation on NRC's openness and inclusiveness of interested stakeholders in the technical review process, particularly with respect to the open Request for Additional Information clarification calls, and the bi-weekly licensing status calls. Inyo County's representatives (California) participated through teleconference connection.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

DOE's Performance Assessment (PA) for the F-Tank Farm at the Savannah River Site

On January 30, 2009, the staff provided comments to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on DOE's "Performance Assessment for the F-Tank Farm at the Savannah River Site." In August 2008, DOE requested the staff to review the PA, which DOE will use to support the eventual closure of the F-Tank Farm underground radioactive waste tanks and ancillary equipment. The PA will support DOE's preparation of the draft waste determination basis document for the F-Tank Farm, which the staff expects to review in 2010.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

RES Meeting with University of Pittsburgh Faculty to Discuss Research Activities

On February 3, 2009, the RES Deputy Director and staff met with faculty from the University of Pittsburgh to discuss research activities at the University. Primary topics included materials in harsh environments and the development of reliable transmission grids from today's variety of power sources. Also of interest was research into nanofluids that has the potential to alter a reactor's critical heat flux, the use of nanowires for nuclear fuel leak detection, and the process for hydrogen production using a high-temperature reactor.

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ENCLOSURE E

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Public Outreach

On February 3, 2009, staff hosted a special session at the Health Physics Society Mid-year Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The topic of the session was recent advances in planning and response to radiation emergencies. The staff also presented updates on emergency preparedness issues. The presentation materials can be located in ADAMS accession numbers: ML090370853: State of the Art Reactor Consequence Analysis; ML090370830: Assessment of Emergency Response Planning and Implementation for Large Scale Evacuations; ML090330430: Reviewing EP in New Reactor Applications; and ML090330417: Protective Action Recommendation Study.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Mr. Eric Epstein, Chairman, Three Mile Island Alert, Inc; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-85; NRC-2007-0014)

On January 29, 2009, the NRC published a document (74 FR 5187) in the *Federal Register* denying a petition for rulemaking (PRM-50-85) submitted by Eric Epstein. The petitioner requested that the NRC amend its emergency preparedness regulations to require that all host school pick-up centers be located at least 5 to 10 miles beyond the radiation plume exposure boundary zone to ensure that all school children are protected in the event of a radiological emergency. After reviewing the petition and comments received, the NRC has determined that, in the event of a nuclear power plant incident, current NRC regulations and NRC and Federal Emergency Management Agency regulatory guidance provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of all members of the public, including school children. Because the petition for rulemaking is prescriptive in nature and existing regulations and guidance already cover the petitioner's request, PRM-50-85 was denied.

Notification of Impending Waiver Termination (10 CFR Chapter I, NRC-2006-0011, RIN 3150-AH84)

On February 2, 2009, the NRC published a document (74 FR 5797) in the *Federal Register* concerning the time-limited waiver which allowed the continuing use and possession of naturally-occurring and accelerator-produced radioactive materials while the Commission developed a regulatory framework for regulation of the new byproduct material. The Commission has been terminating the time-limited waiver in phases in accordance with the plan issued by the Commission on October 19, 2007. The first phase of waiver terminations occurred on November 30, 2007, and the second phase occurred on September 30, 2008. This document provided advance notification that on August 7, 2009, the Commission will terminate the time-limited waivers for all non-Agreement States and Canadian licenses that are under NRC jurisdiction.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of January 30, 2009 through February 5, 2009:

Subsurface or groundwater contamination and/or surface water contamination, all communications between NRC and EPA, January 1, 2004, to October 31, 2008	FOIA/PA-2009-0077
Biographical information on NRC Commissioners from 1977 to 2005, resumes, profiles, etc.	FOIA/PA-2009-0078

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

<b>Arrivals</b>		
Dodd, Brian	Administrative Judge (Technical)	ASLBP
<b>Departures</b>		
Arthur, Andre	Clerk	FSME

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

Oyster Creek nuclear power plant's recent transformer fire/replacement and the delay of Commission affirmation of the New Jersey plant's license renewal.

Draft environmental review process for a new reactor at the North Anna nuclear plant in Louisa, Virginia.

Unusual event at the Ginna nuclear plant, located near Rochester, New York, that involved inoperable alarm panels.

<b>Press Releases:</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
09-021	NRC Meeting February 25 in Oswego, New York, on Environmental Issues for Nine Mile Point New Reactor Application (2/2)
09-022	NRC Staff to Seek Comments on Draft Environmental Report for Indian Point License Renewal Application at February 12th Meetings (2/5)
09-023	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate In Hearing On New Reactor Application For Comanche Peak Site in Texas (2/5)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-09-007	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate in Hearing on New Reactor Application for Callaway Site (2/4)
I-09-008	NRC Announces Opportunity to Participate in Hearing on New Reactor Application for Comanche Peak Site in Texas (2/5)
II-09-005	NRC Reschedules Postponed Enforcement Conference with USEC on Ohio Gaseous Diffusion Plant (2/3)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending February 6, 2009

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-08-0182	11/20/08	Denial of a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-85) Submitted by Mr. Eric Epstein on Behalf of Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.
SRM-SECY-08-0182	12/23/08	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-08-0182	12/23/08	(same)
2. SECY-09-0011	01/15/09	Deferral of Rulemaking: Expansion of National Source Tracking System (RIN 3150-AI29)
3. SRM-SECY-08-0059	02/05/09	Rulemaking Plan: Part 74 – Material Control and Accounting of Special Nuclear Material
Commission Voting Record on SECY-08-0059	02/05/09	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-09-0009	01/14/09	2008 Annual Report on Commission Adjudication
2. SECY-09-0016	01/30/09	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending January 23, 2009
3. SECY-09-0012	01/15/09	Status of Reactivation of Construction and Licensing Activities for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M090204A	02/04/09	Staff Requirements – Affirmation Session: I. SECY-08-0123 – Shaw Areva MOX Services (Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility: Possession and Use License), LBP-08-11 (June 27, 2008)

### Commission Correspondence

1. Letters to Congress, dated January 28, 2009, expresses congratulations to the newly elected and appointment Congressional members.
2. Letter to Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, dated January 14, 2009, provides NRC's FY 2009 Annual Federal Plan on Executive Agency Actions to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

### Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Request to Renew Source Materials License SUA-1341, COGEMA Mining, Inc., Christensen and Irigaray Ranch Facilities, Johnson and Campbell Counties, Wyoming, and Opportunity to Request a Hearing, Docket No. 040-08502.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (02/27/2009).
3. ACRS, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems, notice of meeting (02/26-27/2009).
4. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (03/04/2009).
5. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy & Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (03/04/2009).
6. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy & Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (03/03/09).

Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending February 6, 2009

Management Changes at Comanche Peak

On February 4, 2009, Luminant announced the following Comanche Peak management changes, effective approximately February 18. Mike Blevins, currently the Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, will become Luminant's acting Chief Operating Officer. Rafael Flores, the current Site Vice President, will become Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer. Mitch Lucas, has been named Site Vice President.

Entergy Management Changes

On February 5, 2009, Entergy announced that Tim Mitchell, Site Vice President of Arkansas Nuclear One, was taking a position at the corporate office in Jackson, Mississippi. He will be replaced by Kevin Walsh, currently the Site Vice President at the Waterford 3 Steam Electric Plant. Joe Kowalewski, currently the General Manager of Plant Operation at Waterford 3, will replace Kevin Walsh.