

INFORMATION REPORT

March 30, 2009

SECY-09-0049

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 20, 2009

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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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Bagley, OEDO

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OEDO	AO/OEDO
SBagley	VLOrdaz
03/30/09	03/30/09

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 20, 2009

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: Susan Bagley, OEDO by E-mail: Susan.Bagley@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	OE	*
NRO	*	OPA	17
NMSS	4	OIP	*
FSME	6	SECY	19
RES	*	Region I	20
NSIR	10	Region II	21
ADM	11	Region III	22
OIS	12	Region IV	23
CFO	*	EDO	*
HR	16	OCA	24
SBCR	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

Visit to the Electric Power and Research Institute's (EPRI) Non-Destructive Examination Center

On March 11 and 12, 2009, the NRC staff and representatives of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory held discussions with EPRI representatives at the EPRI Non-Destructive Examination Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. The purpose of the discussions was to understand the approach being used by industry to qualify ultrasonic examination of welds mitigated by optimized weld overlays. EPRI has made substantial progress on this issue and expects to work with ultrasonic examination vendors in the near future on qualification of procedures and personnel. EPRI is also planning to work with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers on Code changes that are needed.

DSS Met with Power Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG)

On March 18, 2009, the staff met with the PWR Owners Group to discuss the Boric Acid Precipitation Analysis Methodology Program. The PWROG Analysis Sub-Committee briefed the staff on their long-term plan to address the industry need for a post loss-of-coolant-accident (LOCA) boric acid precipitation evaluation model. The PWROG discussed their proposed analysis methodology, submittal schedule, and communication plans with the staff responsible for the Boric Acid Precipitation and Generic Safety Issue-191 programs.

Meeting with LaSalle Licensee

On March 18, 2009, the staff held a public meeting with the LaSalle licensee for a pre-submittal meeting regarding their proposal to use NETCO-SNAP-IN® inserts in the Unit 2 spent fuel storage rack cells as neutron absorbing hardware. The licensee currently has a spent fuel pool criticality amendment request under review with the NRC. This proposed change is necessary to allow recovery of several hundred spent fuel pool storage rack cells that are currently unusable due to Boraflex (neutron absorber) degradation. The inserts provide an alternative method of providing neutron absorption in the Unit 2 spent fuel racks to meet K-eff criticality requirements without reliance on Boraflex.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

Public Phone Call Meeting on Yucca Mountain Project

On March 17 and 18, 2009, NRC staff held public teleconferenced phone calls with the U.S. Department of Energy staff on Requests for Additional Information on the Yucca Mountain License Application.

March 20, 2009

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

Coordination on Environmental Reviews of Uranium Recovery Applications

On March 16, 2009, NRC staff held a conference call with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management regarding the environmental review of the Dewey Burdock in-situ recovery Project Source Material License Application received at the end of February. The call was to coordinate with other Federal agencies that have a role in the environmental review process. NRC staff provided the other agencies with an understanding of the concurrent safety and environmental reviews conducted for these sites and NRC's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act.

March 20, 2009

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

Publication of Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.73, "Fatigue Management for Nuclear Power Plant Personnel"

On March 13, 2009, RES staff published a RG that describes a method the NRC staff considers acceptable for complying with the Commission's regulations for managing personnel fatigue at nuclear power plants. RG 5.73 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/protection/active/>.

Publication of RG 1.125, Revision 2, "Physical Models for Design and Operation of Hydraulic Structures and Systems for Nuclear Power Plants"

On March 18, 2009, RES staff published a RG that describes the detail and documentation of data and studies that an applicant should include in the preliminary and/or final safety analysis report to support the use of physical hydraulic model testing for predicting the performance of hydraulic structures and systems for nuclear power plants that are important to safety. RG 1.125 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/active/>.

Publication of Draft RG 1218 (DG-1218) "Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants"

On March 19, 2009, the RES staff issued DG-1218 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is a proposed Revision 1 to RG 1.205, which provides guidance for use in complying with the requirements for risk-informed, performance-based fire protection programs for Light-Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants. DG-1218 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

10 CFR Part 63 Implementation of a Dose Standard After 10,000 Years, Final Rule
(RIN 3150-AH68)

On March 13, 2009, the NRC published a document (74 FR 10811) in the *Federal Register* proposing to amend its regulations governing the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in a proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This final rule implements the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) revised standards for doses that could occur after 10,000 years, but within the period of geologic stability. The final rule also specifies a range of values for the deep percolation rate to be used to represent climate change after 10,000 years, as called for by EPA, and specifies that calculations of radiation doses for workers use the same weighting factors that EPA is using for calculating individual doses to members of the public. The final rule will become effective on April 13, 2009.

March 20, 2009

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 13, 2009 through March 19, 2009:

Material License Tracking System, active and retired facilities	FOIA/PA-2009-0112
Allegation number and Office of Investigations case number, if relevant of 14 discrimination allegations mentioned on page 18 of the Allegation Program's 2007 Annual trends Report	FOIA/PA-2009-0113
NRC Job Announcement ADM/DAS-2009-0005, Technical Writer-Editor, releasable information and selection made, resume of selected applicant, "certs," noted or referenced relative to the non-selected applicants and selected applicant	FOIA/PA-2009-0114
Law Engineering or MACTEC's NQA-1 and/or 10 CFR 50 Appendix B quality manual	REF-2009-0003

REF = Referral requests from other agencies: a new DOJ requirement to track referrals separately from FOIA/PA requests.

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 20, 2009

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

Commission's vote on classification of depleted uranium as a Class A waste

Status of NRC's review of the Yucca Mountain application

Status of the license renewal application and the release of the NRC's annual assessment letter for Indian Point nuclear power plant located near New York City, New York

License renewal applications for Salem/Hope Creek near Wilmington, Delaware

Assessment of the New York State Oversight Panel's report on the Reliability Assessment and the Federal Register notice on the revision approval to a fire protection exemption for the Vermont Yankee power plant near Battleboro, Vermont

Impact of the accident at Three Mile Island-2 on the nuclear industry, as part of media coverage of the 30-year anniversary

Press release announcing the Palo Verde end-of-cycle meeting

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA provided information to USA Today regarding the new reactor licensing process and facilitated an interview between the Office of New Reactors and a freelancer working on several projects related to new reactors.

OPA staff an interview of Jim McDermott, Director, Human Resources, with Federal Computer Week on facilitated performance management.

OPA conducted phone interviews with WGST/GA Radio and the Associated Press in Atlanta on the Atomic Safety Licensing Board Vogtle Early Site Permit hearing in Augusta, Georgia.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
09-048	NRC Issues Final Environmental Assessment and Draft Safety Evaluation for Susquehanna Nuclear Plant License Renewal (3/16)
09-049	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards To Meet April 2-4 In Rockville, Maryland (3/16)
09-050	NRC Meeting in Blair, South Carolina, March 28 To Discuss Environmental Review of Summer New Reactor Application (3/18)

09-051	NRC Announces Opportunity To Participate in Hearing To New Reactor Application for Bell Bend Site (3/18)
09-052	NRC Directs Staff To Initiate Rulemaking on Depleted Uranium Disposal (03/18)
09-053	Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards to Hold Yucca Mountain Pre-Hearing Sessions in Las Vegas, Nevada March 31 – April 2 (3/13) (3/19)
09-054	NRC Meeting March 31 in Rockville, Maryland, on Proposal To Produce Radioisotopes at Clinton Nuclear Plant (03/20)
Regions:	
I-09-012	NRC To Provide Update On Decommissioning Work at Windsor, Connecticut, Site (3/19)
I-09-013	NRC To Hold Meeting on March 26 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, To Discuss Annual Assessment of Performance for Pilgrim Nuclear Plant (3/19)
I-09-014	NRC To Conduct Open House on March 25 Regarding Annual Assessment of Performance for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Plant (3/19)
II-09-012	NRC Schedules Open House To Answer Questions on 2008 Performance of Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant (3/17)
II-09-013	NRC To Begin Special Inspection at Nuclear Fuel Services (3/19)
IV-09-005	NRC To Discuss 2008 Performance Assessment for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (3/17)
IV-09-006	NRC To Discuss 2008 Performance Assessment for Cooper Nuclear Plant (3/17)
IV-09-007	NRC To Discuss 2008 Performance Assessment for Waterford 3 Nuclear Plant

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 20, 2009

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-08-0147	03/18/09	Response to Commission Order CLI-05-20 Regarding Depleted Uranium
Commission Voting Record on SECY-08-0147	03/18/09	(same)
2. SECY-09-0035	02/26/09	Proposed Rule: Requirements for Distribution of Byproduct Material, Parts 30, 31, 32, 40, and 70 (RIN 3150-AH91)
3. SECY-09-0034	03/03/09	Proposed Rulemaking – Environmental Protection Regarding the Update of the 1996 Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal
Information Papers		
1. SECY-09-0039	03/13/09	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending March 6, 2009
Memoranda		
1. M090306	03/16/09	Staff Requirements – Briefing on Guidance for Implementation of Security Rulemaking

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Mario Horvatic, State Office for Nuclear Safety, Croatia, offers congratulations on appointment as Director General.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final rule. 10 CFR Parts 50, 52, 72, and 73, Power Reactor Security Requirements.
2. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Detroit Edison Company (Fermi Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3).

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 20, 2009

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 3					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	03/17/09 309-H Capitol Bldg.	10:00	House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Committee on Appropriations Representatives Mollohan / Wolf	Status of Climate Change Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Solomon – Earth System Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Powell	03/17/09 2318 RHOB	10:00	House Science and Technology Committee Representatives Gordon / Hall	Energy Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Chu – Secretary of Energy
Decker	03/17/09 2362-B RHOB	1:00	House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee Committee on Appropriations Representatives Visclosky / Frelinghuysen	Nuclear Weapons Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas D'Agostino – Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration • David Overskei – Former Chairman, Nuclear Weapons Complex, Infrastructure Task Force, Energy Department • Philip Coyle – Former Associate Director, Livermore Laboratory • Everet Beckner – Former Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration
Shane	03/18/09 366 DSOB	9:30	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senators Bingaman / Murkowski	Nuclear Energy Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRC Chairman Dale Klein
Decker	03/19/09 253 RSOB	10:00	Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Senators Rockefeller / Hutchison	Improving Cybersecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Dacus	03/24/09 406 DSOB	10:30	Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee Senators Carper / Vitter	Three Mile Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRC Commission