

INFORMATION REPORT

August 18, 2009

SECY-09-0112

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 7, 2009

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 7, 2009

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste

From July 27-31, 2009, staff participated in an IAEA Consultants' Meeting in Vienna, Austria. Staff helped the IAEA revise the "Safety Guide for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste." The safety guide will provide information useful to regulators and developers of facilities to dispose of radioactive waste in geologic environments. The guide was revised to be consistent with the new safety requirements of DS354 – "Draft Safety Requirements for Disposal of Radioactive Waste" and also to include the disposal of intermediate level waste.

Conference and Working Session on Increasing Public Participation in Government

From August 2-4, 2009, staff attended the "Strengthening Our Nation's Democracy" conference held in Washington, DC. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Harvard School of Government, America Speaks and other democracy reform organizations. The purpose of the conference was to understand current Administration's plans for making government more open, transparent and participatory, and to develop specific short- and long-term recommendations for achieving those objectives. Also participating in the conference were the Director and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, the Director of the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation, the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Open Government, and the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 7, 2009

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 5034 (DG-5034) "Protection of Safeguards Information"

On July 31, 2009, RES staff issued DG-5034 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is a proposed new Regulatory Guide that describes a method that the NRC staff considers acceptable to implement the general performance requirements specified in 10 CFR 73.21(a)(i) and (ii) to establish, implement, and maintain an information protection system that includes the applicable measures for safeguards information specified in 10 CFR 73.22, "Protection of Safeguards Information: Specific Requirements," or 10 CFR 73.23, "Protection of Safeguards Information-Modified Handling: Specific Requirements." DG-5034 is available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/protection/draft-index.html>.

Publication of DG-1236 "Initial Startup Test Program to Demonstrate Remote Shutdown Capability for Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants"

On August 5, 2009, RES staff issued DG-1236 to provide an opportunity for public comments. The draft guide is proposed Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.68.2 that describes an initial startup test program acceptable to the NRC staff for demonstrating hot shutdown capability and the potential for cold shutdown from outside the control room. This guide is applicable to water-cooled nuclear power plants. DG-1236 is available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>.

Public Meeting to Discuss Research on Mitigation of Primary Piping Dissimilar Metal Butt Weld Issues

On August 5–6, 2009, RES staff held a Category 2 public meeting to discuss the ongoing research being conducted regarding the mitigation of primary piping dissimilar metal butt welds susceptible to primary water stress corrosion cracking. A variety of presentations were given by both the NRC staff and industry on topics such as full structural weld overlays, optimized weld overlays, mechanical stress improvement techniques, inlays, chemical mitigation, and surface stress modification methods. In addition, topics on underwater welding and high deposition welding processes were also discussed.

RES Withdraws Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.135, "Normal Water Level and Discharge at Nuclear Power Plants"

On August 6, 2009, RES staff published a *Federal Register* Notice announcing the withdrawal of RG 1.135 titled, "Normal Water Level and Discharge at Nuclear Power Plants." RG 1.135 was intended to provide guidance on estimating the normal ground and surface water elevations at a nuclear power plant site. RG 1.135 is being withdrawn because it is outdated. RES staff is unaware of its use by any current licensee or applicant, and better guidance is provided in ANSI/ANS-2.8-1992.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 7, 2009

Revisions to Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses; Proposed Rule (10 CFR Part 51) (RIN 3150-AI42, NRC-2008-0608)

On July 31, 2009, the NRC published a proposed rule (74 FR 38117) in the *Federal Register* to amend its environmental protection regulations by updating the Commission's 1996 findings on the environmental impacts related to the renewal of a nuclear power plant's operating license. The Commission stated that it intends to review the assessment of impacts and update it on a 10-year cycle, if necessary. The proposed rule redefines the number and scope of the environmental impact issues which must be addressed by the Commission in conjunction with the review of applications for license renewal. As part of this 10-year update, the NRC revised the 1996 Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants. Concurrent with the amendments described in this proposed rule, the NRC is publishing for comment the revised GEIS, a revised Regulatory Guide 4.2, Supplement 1, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Applications," and a revised Environmental Standard Review Plan, "Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants, Supplement 1: Operating License Renewal." The comment period for this action closes on October 14, 2009.

Fitness for Duty Programs; Final Rule, Correcting Amendment (10 CFR Part 26) RIN 3150-AF12 [NRC-2002-0002]

On August 3, 2009, the NRC published a document (74 FR 38326) in the *Federal Register* correcting a final rule that appeared in the *Federal Register* on March 31, 2008 (73 FR 16965). That rule amended the NRC's regulations that govern fitness for duty programs. The document corrected erroneous language in the preamble and codified language of the final rule. The corrections include fixing typographical errors and cross-references, revising language in the preamble to clarify unintended discrepancies with the codified rule text, and making non-substantive changes to the rule text that do not modify any requirements in the final rule. The correction is effective August 3, 2009, and is retroactively applicable to March 31, 2008.

Limiting the Quantity of Byproduct Material in a Generally Licensed Device; Proposed Rule (10 CFR Part 31) RIN 3150-AI33 [NRC-2008-0272]

On August 3, 2009, the NRC published a proposed rule (74 FR 38372) in the *Federal Register* to amend its regulations to limit the quantity of byproduct material contained in a generally licensed device to below one-tenth (1/10) of the International Atomic Energy Agency Category 3 thresholds. As a result of this amendment, individuals possessing devices with byproduct material meeting or exceeding these thresholds would be required to apply for and obtain a specific license. The NRC is also proposing to further clarify the requirements that apply when a device authorized to be used under the general license is instead held under a specific license. The proposed amendments would also modify the Compatibility Categories contained in the current regulations. The comment period for this action closes on October 19, 2009.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 7, 2009

NRC Teleconference with the National Archives and Records Administration

On July 30, 2009, staff from the Information and Records Services Division (IRSD) and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) met via teleconference with the Director, Litigation Division, OGC, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the NARA Appraisal Archivist who supports the NRC to discuss policy considerations in the interpretation of records, non-records, and personal papers as defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations. This teleconference was the first step in the initiative to update NRC records and information management policies and procedures to address that all information assets (both record and non-record) serve business needs and should be treated in a consistent manner across the agency. Follow up activities will include continued discussion with NARA on the interpretations of the Federal Records Act versus records defined under the Freedom of Information Act, as well as IRSD drafting policy on staff records determinations, which will be reviewed and approved by OGC.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of July 31, 2009 through August 6, 2009:

NUREG-1493, "Performance-Based Containment Leak-Test Program, Draft Report for Comment"	FOIA/PA-2009-0240
Contracts DR-33-08-351 and DR-33-05-393, sections A – J, modifications, sections L and M, requesters for these contracts, delivery orders/task orders, invoices	FOIA/PA-2009-0241
Design Certification Application Review for U.S. EPR, docket 52-020, regarding Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report, all requests for additional Information (RAIs), December 1, 2008, to present, all responses to the RAIs	FOIA/PA-2009-0242
Directives pertaining to Information Technology Portfolio Management guidance under mandate from Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130	FOIA/PA-2009-0243
Records on named individual's complaint filed in 2006	FOIA/PA-2009-0244
Nuclear Material Events Database for specific events, 2003-2007	FOIA/PA-2009-0245
NRC Safety Evaluation Report of Harriman Dam, 1984 (Yankee Rowe)	FOIA/PA-2009-0246
MELCOR computer code manuals	FOIA/PA-2009-0247
Rohm & Haas's Springhouse Pennsylvania facility, all communications between NRC and Rohm & Haas regarding employee radiation exposure	FOIA/PA-2009-0248
Office of Investigations Report 4-2009-032	FOIA/PA-2009-0249

Office of Human Resources (HR)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 7, 2009

Arrivals		
Loyd, Susan	Director of Communications	COMM
Departures		
Boykin, Jonathan	Student Engineer	RII
Branley, Justin	Student Engineer	RII
Carrington, Kenya	Student Engineer	RIII
Collins, Travis	Student Engineer	RES
D'Agostino, Thomas	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	ACRS
Harper, Richard	Student Law Clerk	OGC
Hixon, Amy	IT Specialist (Co-Op)	FSME
Jenkins, Kevin	Student Financial Analyst (Co-Op)	CFO
Miller, Douglas	Student Engineer	RES
Molinar, Daniel	Student Engineer	NRR
Otero-Gonzalez, Laura	Student Program Assistant (Law Clerk)	SBCR
Riley, Marcus	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	RII
Rivera-Sanchez, Aixamar	Secretary (OA)	FSME
Rutledge, Nicholas	Student Engineer	HR
Silver, Jeremy	Student Engineer	NRR
Skaggs Ryan, Teresa	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	RIV
Tarner, Dennis	Branch Chief	ADM
Thoman, Raymond	Student Program Assistant	CFO
Wellinghoff, Claire	Student Scientist	FSME
Wolfsheimer, Amy	Student Law Clerk	OGC

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 7, 2009

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

The Atomic Safety Licensing Board's decision to approve a hearing request from interveners on Fermi Nuclear Plant Unit 3's combined license (Newport, Michigan), resulting in four out of 14 contentions.

Honeywell's Uranium Hexafluoride (UF6) cylinder involved in a traffic accident in West Virginia.

Columbia Generating Station's (Richland, Washington) shutdown.

Braidwood Station's (Braceville, Illinois) recent find of tritium in the plant steam release.

Proposed rule to revise the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for license renewals.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
09-131	NRC Proposes Stronger Oversight of Radioactive Materials (8/05)
Regions:	
I-09-036	NRC Board Issues Order Approving Settlement of Enforcement Proceeding Involving a Thorofare, New Jersey, Company (8/04)
II-09-044	NRC to Discuss Results of License Renewal Inspection for Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant (8/05)
II-09-045	Westinghouse's Columbia Plant Agrees to Improvements Through NRC Alternative Dispute Resolution (8/07)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 7, 2009

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-09-0105	07/29/2009	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending July 17, 2009
2. SECY-09-0109	08/03/2009	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending July 24, 2009

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ENCLOSURE O

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 20

OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Riley	08/04/09 366 DSOB	2:45	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Murkowski)	Hearings to consider the following nominations: - James J. Markowsky to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy - Warren F. Miller Jr. to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy, and Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste - Anthony M. Babauta to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas - Jonathan B. Jarvis to be Director, National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

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ENCLOSURE R

Decker	08/06/09 496 DSOB	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works (Senators Boxer / Inhofe)	Climate Change and Ensuring that America Leads the Clean Energy Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Salazar - Secretary of the Interior • Jon Wellinghoff – Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission • David B. Sandalow - Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs • Fred Krupp – President, - Environmental Defense Fund • Bill Fehrman - President and CEO, MidAmerican Energy Co.
Riley	08/06/09 366 DSOB	10:00	Senate Energy and Natural Resources (Senators Bingaman / Murkowski)	<p>Hearings to consider the following nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John R. Norris to be a Member, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - Jose Antonio Garcia to be Director, Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy - Joseph G. Pizarchik to be Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

NOTE: The House is in recess until Tuesday, September 8, 2009.