

# INFORMATION REPORT

September 17, 2009

SECY-09-0131

For: The Commissioners

From: Vonna L. Ordaz  
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Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

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\*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Degradation of Materials in Nuclear Power Systems

On August 23-27, 2009, staff participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Degradation of Materials in Nuclear Power Systems, which was sponsored in part by the NRC. Commissioner Klein delivered the keynote address. Over 100 papers were presented on stress corrosion cracking, radiation damage to vessels and internals, among other subjects. NRR organized and chaired a session on life beyond 60 materials issues.

Dominion Energy Kewaunee License Amendment Request

On August 24, 2009, Dominion Energy Kewaunee submitted a License Amendment Request to convert the plant's current Technical Specifications (TS) to the Improved Standard Technical Specifications. The acceptance review is ongoing. A noteworthy element of this TS conversion is that it includes the first adoption of a setpoint control program, which is one of the options that the staff is providing for resolving the limiting safety systems setting (LSSS) issue in the review of TS Task Force Traveler 493 "Clarify Application of Setpoint Methodology for LSSS Functions."

Nondestructive Examination (NDE) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting

On August 25-26, 2009, staff participated in the NDE TAG meeting in Region III. NDE TAG meetings are typically held every other year to provide an opportunity for the staff to focus attention on and increase awareness of NDE and inspection-related issues. Presentations and discussions covered a broad range of NDE-related topics, including: the issues involved in buried pipe examinations and assessments, phased array ultrasonic examination of high density polyethylene piping joints, dissimilar metal weld and cast austenitic stainless steel inspection research, and broadening American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII, qualifications beyond ultrasonic examinations.

Issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) Related to the License Renewal of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2

By letter dated August 27, 2009, the NRC staff issued the final SER related to the license renewal of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2. The Report addressed the license renewal application submitted by PPL Susquehanna, LLC by letter dated September 13, 2006, as supplemented by letters dated September 12, 2007, September 26, 2008, and May 28, 2009, in accordance with Title 10, Part 54, of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants," to request renewal of Susquehanna's operating licenses for an additional 20 years. The current licenses expire at midnight on July 17, 2022, for Unit 1, and at midnight on March 23, 2024, for Unit 2. The staff is scheduled to meet with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in a public meeting to be held on October 8, 2009, to discuss the SER.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Environmental Management Quality Assurance  
Corporate Board Meeting

From August 27-28, 2009, NRC staff attended a DOE, Office of Environmental Quality Assurance Corporate Board meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. Topics covered during NRC presentations included commercial-grade dedication and NRC's progress on developing a program to deal with counterfeit, fraudulent, and substandard items. The staff also addressed the DOE's extensive questions related to NRC rules and regulations regarding procurement of commercial-grade components and services.

Public Meeting with Duke Energy Regarding Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance

On September 1, 2009, the NRR staff held a public telephone conference with Duke Energy to discuss the licensee's planned actions to address remaining issues associated with Generic Letter 2004-02, Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance. The licensee has made substantial progress, though some issues remain open for which additional discussions are planned.

Annual Assessment Letters

On September 1, 2009, the Reactor Oversight Process annual assessment letters were signed by regional management and courtesy copies were electronically sent to all operating reactor licensees. On September 3, 2009, the staff made the letters publicly available on the NRC website, and the Office of Public Affairs issued a press release summarizing the 2009 mid-cycle assessments.

Cancellation of NRC Morning Report

On September 1, 2009, the Division of Inspection and Regional staff discontinued the NRC Morning Reports as a communication tool on the public webpage. Archived Morning Reports will remain available to the public for a period of one year. The staff has posted a Communications Plan on the internal website to explain the process that went into this decision and to answer any potential questions from stakeholders. The NRR staff, with input from all four regions and all program offices determined that most Morning Reports were merely providing redundant communication of licensee management changes which can be obtained via other means such as utility press releases and that discontinuing Morning reports would have no adverse impact on the NRC's organizational value of openness with its stakeholders.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

RES Supports Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Workshop on Fire Modeling

On August 24-28, 2009, the RES staff and contractors supported an EPRI-sponsored workshop on fire modeling in nuclear power plant applications at the DC Cook nuclear plant. This workshop, which included practical examples and a plant tour, is responsive to stakeholder requests for training to support implementation of the risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule, 10 CFR 50.48.c. Other countries represented at the workshop included Canada, Japan, and South Korea.

RES and Region III Host Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) Task Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting

On August 25-26, 2009, RES and Region III hosted a meeting of the NDE TAG in Lisle, Illinois. Staff from RES, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of New Reactors, Regions I, II, III, IV, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Structural Integrity Associates, Inc., participated in the meeting. Presentations focused on issues related to the effectiveness of NDE and in-service inspections (ISI) of nuclear power plant components (e.g., buried piping, dissimilar metal butt welds, piping, etc.). Significant research results, regulatory perspectives, and inspector oversight issues were also discussed. Regional personnel noted the efficacy of RES products and reports regarding NDE and ISI. Staff is developing a summary document for the meeting. The NDE TAG meets about every two years and rotates between the regions and national laboratories. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Summer 2011.

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

Medical Use of Byproduct Material—Authorized User Clarification; Direct Final Rule, Confirmation of Effective Date (10 CFR Part 35) (RIN 3150-AI59, NRC-2009-0098)

On August 27, 2009, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* confirming the effective date of September 28, 2009, for a direct final rule that was published on July 14, 2009 (74 FR 33901). The direct final rule amended the NRC's regulations to clarify that individuals who do not need to comply with the training and experience requirements as described in the applicable regulations for the medical use of byproduct material (i.e., are "grandfathered") may serve as preceptors and work experience supervisors for individuals seeking recognition on NRC licenses for the same medical uses of byproduct material. The NRC did not receive any comments that warranted withdrawal of the direct final rule.

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

Recent 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling pertaining to Indian Point 3 nuclear power plant in New York.

The impact that Westinghouse's delay in providing NRC some information on the AP1000 design amendments could have on the planned construction of additional nuclear units at the Vogtle site in Georgia.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA was interviewed by a German public radio reporter to talk about the state of nuclear power in the United States.

OPA conducted an interview with The Nation regarding uprates and license renewal of Vermont Yankee, Indian Point and Davis-Besse plants.

OPA orchestrated a background briefing on the NRC enforcement process where it interacts with the Justice Department for a Philadelphia Inquirer law enforcement reporter based in Washington.

OPA set up an interview with NRC's Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko by a freelance reporter for the New York Times Magazine who asked him about the National Source Tracking System.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
09-144	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Applications for Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plants
09-145	NRC to Host Open House September 16 to Discuss Review Status of West Valley Demonstration Project Decommissioning Plan
09-146	NRC Chairman Tasks Staff to Evaluate Agency Activities on Buried Piping at Nuclear Reactors
09-147	NRC Issues Mid-Cycle Assessments for Nation's Nuclear Plants

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-09-0120	08/28/09	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending August 21, 2009
2. SECY-09-0113	08/14/09	Update on the Development of Construction Assessment Process Policy Options and the Construction Inspection Program Information Management System
3. SECY-09-0116	08/21/09	Periodic Assessment of the Activities of the Committee to Review Generic Requirements from June 1, 2008, through May 31, 2009

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing, License Renewal Application from the University of Texas at Austin and order Imposing Procedures of Access to Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information and Safeguards information for Contention Preparation.

Region II (RII)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 4, 2009

Regional Administrator Attends Open Global Nuclear Fuels – Americas Licensee Performance Meeting

On September 1, 2009, the Regional Administrator attended an open Category 1 management meeting at the Global Nuclear Fuels – Americas in North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the results of the Licensee Performance Review.

September 4, 2009

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