

INFORMATION REPORT

March 14, 2011

SECY-11-0036

For: The Commissioners

From: Mary C. Muessle */RA/*
Acting Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 4, 2011

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

St. Lucie 2 Extended Power Uprate (EPU) Application

By application dated February 25, 2011, the licensee requested an 11.9% EPU for St. Lucie Unit 2. The EPU application includes a 1.7% measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate. The licensee says that application is consistent with the format and content in the St. Lucie 1 application for an EPU dated November 22, 2010. The February 25, 2011, application requests NRC approval by May 1, 2012, to allow implementation of the EPU following the 2012 Unit 2 refueling outage. NRC's standard review time for an EPU is 12 months after NRC's acceptance of the application. The NRC staff will be conducting an acceptance review of the application.

Closed Pre-licensing Meeting with Omaha Public Power District (OPPD)

On March 2, 2011, representatives of the OPPD and staff held a pre-licensing meeting via telephone conference call to discuss the licensee's plans to submit a request for extended power uprate for Fort Calhoun Station, Unit 1, in early 2011. OPPD representatives discussed issues related to control rod withdrawal at power. The licensee meeting was closed in its entirety to discuss the licensee's proposed use of an AREVA proprietary topical report.

Electronic Distribution in Region IV

On March 3, 2011, Region IV began sending out publicly available outgoing correspondence by email. Staff traveled to Region IV in the fall of 2010 to provide training and support in transitioning the region to electronic distribution of their documents. Previously, Region IV sent out their documents by U.S. mail. Staff continues to receive positive feedback from the public and stakeholders on the transition to electronic mailings.

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Schedule for Comanche Peak Units 3 and 4 Combined License Application (COLA) Review Extended

On March 2, 2011, the NRC staff issued a letter that revised the review schedule for the Comanche Peak Units 3 and 4 COLA. The completion date for Phase 6, Final Safety Evaluation Report is now extended by 18 months. The Comanche Peak COLA is the reference COLA for the US-Advanced Pressurized-Water Reactor (APWR) design center. In a separate letter dated March 2, the staff revised the review schedule for the North Anna, Unit 3, COLA to incorporate the new technology decision made by Dominion Virginia Power in May 2010. The North Anna COLA is a subsequent COLA in the US-APWR design center. On February 24, the staff revised the review schedule for the US-APWR Design Certification (DC) due to increased scope of work. With the issuance of these letters, all the reviews in the US-APWR design center are now aligned.

Schedule for Calvert Cliffs Unit 3 Extended

On March 4, 2011, the NRC staff issued a revised safety review schedule for UniStar's Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3 COLA. The revised schedule is a result of cascading effects from the recent revision to AREVA's US Evolutionary Power Reactor DC review schedule and the request for additional information response schedule UniStar provided through February 15. The revised overall review schedule is extended by 6 months to January 2013.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Annual Report of Exports of Alternative Nuclear Materials

In accordance with 10 CFR 110.54(b), information related to the export of Neptunium and Americium is required to be reported to the U.S. NRC. Under a 1998 agreement between the United States and the governments of France, Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom, the U.S. is obligated to provide information to these governments on exports of Neptunium and Americium to non-nuclear weapon states.

On March 3, 2011, for further inter-Agency approval and process NMSS staff reviewed and consolidated the information received for calendar year 2010 and prepared the draft transmittal cable for the Department of State. There were nineteen reports of exports of Americium by U.S. companies this year. No exports of Neptunium were reported.

March 4, 2011

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 1254 (DG-1254) “Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants”

On February 28, 2011, the RES staff issued DG-1254, “Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants,” to provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed revision 1 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.156 dated November 1987. This RG describes a method that NRC considers acceptable for complying with the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.49, “Environmental Qualification of Electric Equipment Important to Safety for Nuclear Power Plants,” on the environmental qualification of connection assemblies and environmental seals in combination with cables or wires as assemblies for service in nuclear power plants. The environmental qualification helps ensure that connection assemblies can perform their safety functions during and after a design-basis event. DG-1254 is available on the NRC public Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>.

Publication of DG-7008, “Leakage Tests on Packages for Shipment of Radioactive Materials”

On March 1, 2011, the RES staff issued DG-7008, “Leakage Tests on Packages for Shipment of Radioactive Materials,” to provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed revision 1 to RG 7.4 dated June 1975. This RG describes an approach that NRC considers acceptable for meeting the containment criteria for Type B packages in 10 CFR 71.51. The regulations in 10 CFR 71.51 require licensees to ensure that Type B packages meet the containment criteria to minimize radioactive contamination and dose rates to the public. This RG endorses the methods and procedures in ANSI N14.5-1997, “Radioactive Materials—Leakage Tests on Packages for Shipment,” issued in 1997 as a process that the NRC staff considers acceptable for meeting the regulatory requirements. The DG is on the NRC public Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/transportation/draft-index.html>.

Meeting Between RES, TWI Ltd., and RES Contractors Concerning the Investigation of High-Density Polyethylene Piping (HDPE)

On March 3, 2011, RES conducted a meeting between TWI Ltd, Cambridge, United Kingdom and staff from Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and New Reactors, and RES along with RES contractors from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Emc². TWI is the project manager for a consortium of 14 European organizations in 5 countries investigating the use of HDPE piping. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (UK regulator) and British Energy are partners in this consortium because the scope of the project includes nuclear applications. U.S. utilities are interested in using HDPE for potential new reactor applications and HDPE has been installed in portions of service water systems at Sizewell, Catawba, and Callaway. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is developing code provisions for the design, construction, and inservice inspection of HDPE. During the meeting with TWI, staff found that members of the consortium have many of the same concerns that NRC expressed to the ASME code members. Further discussions are planned on potential research cooperation between the consortium and NRC.

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ENCLOSURE E

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Amendments to Adjudicatory Process Rules and Related Requirements (RIN 3150-AI43; NRC-2008-0415)

On February 28, 2011, NRC published a proposed rule (76 FR 10781) to amend its adjudicatory rules of practice. This proposed rule would make changes to the NRC's adjudicatory process to promote fairness, efficiency, and openness in the NRC's adjudicatory proceedings. This proposed rule would also correct errors and omissions that have been identified since the major revisions to the NRC's Rules of Practice in early 2004. The public comment period for this proposed rule closes on May 16, 2011.

Dan Kane; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-51-13; NRC-2010-0088)

On February 28, 2011 (76 FR 10805), NRC (or the Commission) published a denial of a petition for rulemaking (PRM) submitted by Mr. Dan Kane. Mr. Kane requested that the NRC rescind the Waste Confidence Rule, suspend all ongoing reactor licensing proceedings, and phase out operations at all operating nuclear power plants. The NRC is denying the petition because, contrary to the assertions made in the PRM, the Commission's Waste Confidence Decision and Rule consider the political uncertainty discussed in the petition and do not depend on the availability of a repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Tsunami Hazard Assessments and NUREG Guide

On March 2, 2011, a cost reimbursement (no fee) sole source contract, NRC-HQ-11-C-04-0020, was awarded to the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. This contract will increase the in-house capabilities of the NRC staff to perform tsunami hazard assessments and to develop a NUREG that will be used as the technical basis on modeling requirements for a new regulatory guide on tsunami. The period of performance is March 2, 2011, to March 1, 2014, with no option periods. The total estimated cost is \$530,672.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of February 25, 2011 through March 3, 2011:

Legal Expenses involving Congressional Testimony 2000-Current	FOIA/PA-2011-0094
NRC preparations for a Government shutdown	FOIA/PA-2011-0095
ML110420293 be made publically available	FOIA/PA-2011-0096
Allegation NRR-2005-A-0018, all records	FOIA/PA-2011-0097
ML110420293 be made publically available	FOIA/PA-2011-0098
NRC Change-of-Station Relocation Allowance For Transferring Employees, updated April 2009	FOIA/PA-2011-0099
ML110420293 be made publically available	FOIA/PA-2011-0100
ML110420293 be made publically available	FOIA/PA-2011-0101

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ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Arrivals		
None		
Retirements		
Forrest, Jr., Edwin	REACTOR SYSTEM ENGINEER	NRO
Bonnett, Fredrick	SENIOR REACTOR ANALYST	NRR
Reyes, Luis	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	R-II
Departures		
Fields, Joyce	ASSISTANT FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS PROG	SBCR
Tifft, Jennifer	REACTOR INSPECTOR	R-I

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ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) hearing on the standing of four groups that petitioned to intervene in the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant (Ohio) license renewal review.

Recent comments by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and the state's congressional delegation opposing the use of the decommissioning option SAFSTOR at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant (Vermont).

A loss of off-site power at Indian Point nuclear power plant unit 2 (New York), due to a sensed fault in the plant's switchyard.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA participated in interviews with WXJM Public Radio station (Ohio) and Toledo Channel 24 (Ohio) discussing the ASLB hearing of oral arguments from intervenor groups in the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant (Ohio) license renewal review.

OPA participated in a brief interview with WJMA-FM, a local radio station out of Culpeper, Virginia, regarding the ASLB's hearing of arguments on two contentions related to Dominion's application to build an additional unit at the North Anna nuclear power plant site in Virginia.

Chairman Jaczko gave prepared remarks on "The Regulator's Role in Nuclear Security" at the State Department Workshop on Nonproliferation.

Press Releases Issued	
Headquarters:	
11-032	Opening Remarks of Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko at Today's Briefing on Reactor Materials Aging Management Issues (3/1)
11-033	NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for South Texas Project New Reactors Application (3/2)
11-034	NRC Proposes FY 2012 Budget to Congress; Detailed Budget Justification Report Available (3/2)
11-035	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet March 10-12 in Rockville, Maryland (3/3)
Regions:	
II-11-006	NRC Schedules Meeting to Discuss Crystal River Restart (3/4)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 4, 2011

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. Chairman Jaczko vote and comments on SECY-11-0006	02/14/11	Proposed Rule—Economic Simplified Boiling-Water Reactor Design Certification
2. SECY-11-0023	02/16/11	Jurisdiction for Military Operational Radium-226
3. SRM-SECY-10-0121	03/02/11	Modifying the Risk-Informed Regulatory Guidance for New Reactors
Commission Voting Record on SECY-10-0121	03/02/11	(same)
4. COMGEA-11-0001	01/19/11	Utilization of Expert Judgment in Regulatory Decision Making
5. SECY-11-0024	02/18/11	Use of Risk Insights to Enhance the Safety Focus of Small Modular Reactor Reviews
6. SECY-11-0028	02/28/11	Options for Implementing an Alternative Interim Regulatory Approach to the Minimum Days Off Provisions of 10 CFR Part 26, Subpart I, “Managing Fatigue”
Information Papers		
1. SECY-11-0025	03/01/11	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 18, 2011
2. SECY-11-0032	03/02/11	Consideration of the Cumulative Effects of Regulation in the Rulemaking Process
Memoranda		
1. M110224	03/02/11	Staff Requirements – Briefing on Groundwater Task Force
2. M110301	03/03/11	Staff Requirements – Briefing on Reactor Materials Aging Management Issues

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Petition for rulemaking; Denial, James Luehman, 10 CFR Part 50, PRM-50-92.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Revision (cancellation) to the 03/24/2011 Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment.