

INFORMATION REPORT

March 28, 2011

SECY-11-0041

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 18, 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 18, 2011

Saint Lucie 1 Extended Power Uprate Application (EPU)

By application dated November 22, 2010, the licensee submitted a request for an 11.9% EPU for St. Lucie Unit 1. The EPU application includes a 1.7% measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate. By letter dated March 9, 2011, the NRC informed the licensee that the application provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to proceed with the detailed technical review.

Turkey Point 3 and 4 EPU Acceptance

By application dated October 21, 2010, as supplemented by letter dated December 14, 2010, the licensee requested a 15% EPU for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. The application includes a 1.7% measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate. By letter dated March 11, 2011, the NRC informed the licensee that the application provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to proceed with the detailed technical review.

Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI)

On March 15, 2011, representatives of the EOI and staff met at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the licensee's proposed license amendment to modify technical specification completion times for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, to allow for operation with one inoperable reactor coolant system cooling loop during Modes 4, 5, and 6 (Hot Shutdown, Cold Shutdown, and Refueling).

Pre-licensing Meeting with EOI

On March 15, 2011, representatives of the EOI and staff met at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the licensee's plans to submit a license amendment for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, to modify technical specification associated with service water system requirements when room/area cooling subsystems may be degraded or inoperable.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 18, 2011

Meeting with NAC International, Inc.

On March 16, 2011, the staff met with NAC International, Inc., to discuss the new application submitted for the Model No. MAGNATRAN transport cask. Discussions at the meeting focused on: the structural, thermal, shielding, and criticality analyses and methodology presented in the application; and issues associated with staff's acceptance review of the application. External stakeholders (including print media) participated in the meeting. No regulatory commitments were made.

Public Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Fuel Cycle Licensees (FCL), and Certificate Holders (CH)

On March 17, 2011, NMSS led a public meeting with representatives of the NEI, FCL, and CH. Staff from Region II and the Office of Enforcement also participated. The staff discussed: the plan to develop cornerstones that could be applied to the fuel cycle oversight process (FCOP) and give credit to licensees and certificate holders for an effective corrective action program (CAP); the conceptual enhancement to the FCOP and how the cornerstones and the credit for an effective CAP would fit into the enhanced FCOP; the proposed oversight framework; the proposed objectives of the safety cornerstones; and the basic attributes for an effective CAP. Cornerstones are the most important elements in each of the strategic goals (i.e., safety and security) that form the foundation for meeting the overall NRC mission.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 18, 2011

RES Hosts Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Meetings on High Energy Arcing Faults (HEAFs) and International Fire Events Database Project

From March 9-11, 2011, RES hosted OECD meetings on HEAFs and the international fire events database project. Representatives from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the Electric Power and Research Institute (EPRI) participated. RES discussed the creation of a testing program to better understand HEAFs and suggested testing in the United States with each member country contributing electrical equipment. The OECD representative believed the arrangement is viable and several countries indicated interest in participating. EPRI will solicit interest from U.S. licensees. In the international database project, the representatives agreed on a list of components to attribute fire ignition frequencies, taking the first step to enable more refined fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment scenarios. Also, good progress was made on a topical report on HEAF events in the database. The next meeting is planned for September 7-9, 2011, at OECD headquarters in Paris, France.

Publication of Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.34, "Control of Electroslag Weld Properties," Revision 1 of RG 1.43, "Control of Stainless Steel Weld Cladding of Low-Alloy Steel Components," and Revision 1 of RG 1.50, "Control of Preheat Temperature for Welding of Low-Alloy Steel"

On March 15, 2011, the staff published revision 1 of RG 1.34, "Control of Electroslag Weld Properties," revision 1 of RG 1.43, "Control of Stainless Steel Weld Cladding of Low-Alloy Steel Components," and revision 1 of RG 1.50, "Control of Preheat Temperature for Welding of Low-Alloy Steel." RG 1.34 describes methods that the NRC staff considers acceptable for implementation requirements concerning the control of weld properties when fabricating electroslag welds for nuclear components made of ferritic or austenitic materials. RG 1.43 describes methods for the selection and control of welding processes used for cladding ferritic steel components with austenitic stainless steel to restrict practices that could result in underclad cracking. RG 1.50 describes methods for implementing regulatory requirements related to the control of welding for low-alloy steel components during initial fabrication. The staff is addressing comments from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on RG 1.44, "Control of the Use of Sensitized Stainless Steel," about intergranular stress corrosion cracking and irradiation assisted stress corrosion cracking on pressurized-water reactors. RG 1.34, 1.43, and 1.50 are available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/rg/>.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 18, 2011

Technical Assistance – Rulemaking to Streamline Non-Power Reactor License Renewal Process

On March 9, 2011, as a result of a competitive negotiated acquisition, a firm fixed price Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) (NRC-HQ-11-A-03-0007) was awarded to ICF, Incorporated, LLC, in Fairfax, Virginia. This BPA will provide technical assistance for the development of rulemaking to streamline the non-power reactor license renewal process. The period of performance is March 9, 2011, through March 1, 2014, with no option periods. The total value of the BPA is \$1,199,633.

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011; Proposed Rule (RIN 3150-AI93, NRC-2011-0016)

On March 17, 2011, the NRC published a proposed rule (76 FR 14748) to amend the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to its applicants and licensees. The proposed amendments are necessary to implement the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA-90), as amended, which requires the NRC to recover through fees approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in FY 2011, not including amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund, amounts appropriated for Waste Incidental to Reprocessing, and amounts appropriated for generic homeland security activities. Based on the FY 2011 budget submitted to Congress, the NRCs required fee recovery amount for the FY 2011 budget is approximately \$915,300,000. After accounting for billing adjustments, the total amount to be billed as fees is approximately \$915,700,000. The public comment period closes on April 18, 2011. Because OBRA-90 requires that the NRC collect the FY 2011 fees by September 30, 2011, requests for extensions of the comment period will not be granted.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending Month 18, 2011

American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) Fourth Annual National Training Program (NTP)

From March 7-9, 2011, OIS staff attended the ASAPs Fourth Annual NTP. ASAP is a professional forum dedicated to bringing government Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) professionals in touch with the requester community. Staff attended many breakout sessions including: Recent FOIA Decisions; Litigants' Cases; and Controlled Unclassified Information.

Fourth Annual Freedom of Information Day Celebration

On March 14, 2011, OIS staff attended the Fourth Annual Freedom of Information Day Celebration sponsored by the American University Washington College of Law. Discussions centered on major issues of current importance to the openness in government community, especially in light of expectations for concrete success in implementation of the Obama Administration's transparency policies. The conference included sessions on Legislative Outlook; FOIA Privacy Issues; FOIA Exemption 3 and the Securities and Exchange Commission; and FOIA in the Trenches. There was an impromptu discussion of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision which overturned 30 years of Executive Branch and Judicial Branch interpretation of FOIA Exemption 2 (High). This decision was praised by the FOIA requesters while Federal government representatives felt a legislative remedy is necessary to protect information formerly protected by Exemption 2 (High) that does not fall under another exemption.

Department of Justice Sunshine Week Celebration

On March 14, 2011, OIS staff attended the Department of Justice, Office of Information Policy (OIP) Sunshine Week Celebration to commemorate the second anniversary of Attorney General Holder's FOIA guidelines designed to usher in a new era of open government. The celebration spotlighted four Federal agencies' successes in implementing the new FOIA guidelines and increasing transparency overall. Those Federal agencies sharing their success stories were the Department of Treasury, Department of Agriculture, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. OIP announced the launch of [FOIA.Gov](#), a comprehensive public resource for government-wide FOIA information and data. FOIA.Gov displays graphically a wealth of data on agency FOIA compliance, and contains educational material about how the FOIA works and contact information for all government agencies.

Controlled Unclassified Information Working Group (CUIWG) Meeting

On March 17, 2011, Office of Information Services staff attended the third meeting of the CUIWG at the National Archives and Records Administration. The Director, CUI Office, discussed comments about the second version of the draft CUI implementing directive (ID) received from the CUIWG agencies. He reiterated that the ID must apply to all agencies and will be intentionally generic. The initial ID will not drill down into details that may affect only a limited number of agencies. Additional IDs will do that at a later time. A copy of the third draft of the ID was provided. The next meeting of the CUIWG will be April 13, 2011.

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 18, 2011

Arrivals		
Wilson, Gerald	SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER	R-II
Retirements		
None		
Departures		
Fowler, Samuel Wren	CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR	R-II

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 18, 2011

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following:

The Japanese earthquake and tsunami disaster.

A special inspection into an event at Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The cancellation of the Crystal River nuclear power plant (Florida) restart meeting.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA did a radio interview with Texas Public Radio on the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's hearing on the Victoria County site (Texas).

OPA coordinated an interview regarding past Honeywell violations between the Huffington Post and an NRC branch chief.

OPA developed a specific link on its website for NRC's response to the Japan emergency and related information.

OPA coordinated media inquiries surrounding Chairman Jaczko's testimony at hearings for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Energy and Power and Environment and the Economy, and the Senate Environment Committee on the Japan nuclear crisis.

Press Releases Issued	
Headquarters:	
11-044	NRC in Communication with Japanese Regulators (3/12)
11-045	NRC Experts Deploy to Japan as Part of U.S. Government Response (3/12)
11-046	(Revised) NRC Sees No Radiation at Harmful Levels Reaching U.S. From Damaged Japanese Nuclear Power Plants (3/13)
11-047	Japanese Government Asks for Assistance with Reactor Events; U.S. Government and NRC Preparing Response (3/14)
11-048	(Revised) NRC Sends Additional Experts to Assist Japan (3/15)
11-049	NRC Analysis Continues to Support Japan's Protective Actions (3/15)
11-050	NRC Provides Protective Action Recommendations Based on U.S. Guidelines (3/16)

11-051	NRC Proposes to Amend Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees Rule (3/18)
11-052	NRC Informs U.S. Nuclear Power Plants on Japan Earthquake's Effects (3/18)
Regions:	
II-0-007	NRC Sends Special Inspection Team to Global Nuclear Fuel Plant (3/14)
II-11-008	NRC Schedules Meeting to Discuss 2010 Performance of Robinson Nuclear Power Plant (3/17)
II-11-009	NRC Cancels Crystal River Plant Restart Meeting (3/17)

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