

INFORMATION REPORT

March 28, 2005

SECY-05-0049

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-05-0049 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 11, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Contact:
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/RA/
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03/25/05

03/28/05

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 11, 2005

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

Contact: T. Kim, OEDO by E-mail: tjk3@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Point Beach Nuclear Plant - Public Meetings to Discuss Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal

On March 3, 2005, NRR staff and its contractors, supported by staff members from the Office of General Counsel, Office of Public Affairs, and Region III, conducted two public meetings (two identical sessions held at 1:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m., respectively) at the Fox Hills Convention Center in Mishicot, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) related to the license renewal application for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The draft SEIS was issued on January 13, 2005. Attendees at the meetings included members of the public, representatives of the State and local governments, and the local news media. The public comment period for the draft SEIS ends on April 13, 2005. Upon conclusion of the comment period, the staff will evaluate the comments received, revise the draft SEIS as appropriate, and will issue the final SEIS.

March 11, 2005

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Staff Participates in Waste Management '05 Symposium

On February 27-March 3, 2005, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection participated in the Waste Management '05 Symposium held in Tucson, Arizona. The symposium was well attended, with several thousand participants from the U.S. and abroad. NRC involvement in the symposium included: (a) participation on an international panel on dismantlement and decommissioning; (b) participation in Program Advisory Committee meetings; (c) participation in planning committee meetings for the September 2005 International Conference on Environmental Remediation and Radioactive Waste Management; (d) participation in a meeting with Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, Spain's commission for nuclear safety, on topics of mutual interest; and (e) presentation of several technical papers dealing with the status of the decommissioning program, the status of the Package Performance Study, and the recent revision to 10 CFR Part 71, to ensure alignment with the International Atomic Energy Agency transportation standard.

March 11, 2005

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Agreement Between the NRC and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)

On March 4, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations signed the international Agreement extending the Technical Exchange and Cooperation Arrangement between the NRC and EURATOM. This Arrangement defines the terms and conditions that will enable the NRC and EURATOM (represented by the Commission of the European Communities) to engage in a broad exchange of technical information and to develop specific implementing agreements for cooperation in the field of nuclear safety research on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. This Agreement will become effective upon signature of both parties and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

NRC's Internal Risk Communication Guidelines - NUREG/BR-0318

On March 11, 2005, the staff published the second set of agency-wide risk communication guidelines, NUREG/BR-0318, "Effective Risk Communication - Guidelines for Internal Risk Communication." The first set of guidelines, NUREG/BR-0308, "Effective Risk Communication: The NRC's Guidelines for External Risk Communication," which focused on risk communication to external stakeholders, was issued in March 2004. The second set of guidelines is intended to improve the staff's ability to communicate risk insights and information within the agency.

Meeting with OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

During the week of March 7, 2005, RES staff met with the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development], NEA's ad hoc Expert Group on Digital Instrumentation and Controls (EGDIC). The purpose of the meeting was to draft a proposal to present research recommendations that could decrease the gap between the needs for new research knowledge and/or improved regulatory practices and current NEA activities. The proposal would also recommend practical actions to be considered by the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations and the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA). Activities outside the NEA program of work also were taken into account to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The EGDIC will submit its draft proposal to the OECD/NEA by the end of March.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Preliminary Notifications:

PNO-III-05-004, Clinton Power Station - SHUTDOWN FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR DAMAGED FEEDWATER EXTRACTION STEAM LINE.

New Reactor Licensing - Emergency Planning

On March 3-4, 2005, Division of Preparedness and Response/Emergency Preparedness Directorate staff participated in Category 2 public meetings with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other stakeholders, regarding NRC consideration of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) document NEI 04-01, "Draft Industry Guidelines for Combined License Applications Under 10 CFR Part 52." The document is currently under development, and various Emergency Preparedness related issues among other new reactor licensing issues will be addressed prior to its endorsement by the staff.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Proposed Rule and Draft Regulatory Guide - Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions

On March 7, 2005, NRC published a proposed rule (AH54- Part 50) and the supporting draft regulatory guide in the Federal Register (70 FR 10901) that would amend its fire protection regulations for nuclear power facilities. The proposed amendment would allow nuclear plant licensees to use manual actions by plant operators as an alternative method to achieve hot shutdown conditions in the event of fires in certain plant areas. The public comment period on the proposed rule and the draft regulatory guide ends on May 23, 2005.

March 11, 2005

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 11, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
 March 4 through March 10, 2005:

Bear Creek Uranium Co., 2515 Foothill Blvd., Rock Springs, WY, any records	FOIA/PA-2005-0167
Oct. 21, 2004 letter from Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) to NRC re: safety conscious work environment (SCWE), Nov. 16, 2004 teleconference, NRC's review of Sept. 30, 2004 long-term SCWE, NRC's deliberations of ADOT&PF's violation of Confirmatory Order; & Inspection Report 030-07710/2004-002, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0168
NRC Contract 3397182, Sylvest Management System, basic contract & statement of work	FOIA/PA-2005-0169
List of facilities with RAM in CT, MA, NY, full address, contact, RSO, & type of license	FOIA/PA-2005-0170
NRC's FY2006 Information Technology (IT) Budget submission, Exhibit 52, long-term IT plans	FOIA/PA-2005-0171
Decommissioning plans - specific sites (non-reactor), post-shutdown decommissioning activities reports - Rancho Seco, San Onofre, & Humboldt Bay	FOIA/PA-2005-0172
Waterford license amendment request dated 6-20-04 to modify Tech. Spec. 5.3.1 Fuel Assemblies & Tech. Spec. 6.9.1.11.1 Core Operating Limits (W3F1-2004-0036)	FOIA/PA-2005-0173
Macromedia Flash, use within NRC through 3-8-05	FOIA/PA-2005-0174
Records on named individual after April 1973	FOIA/PA-2005-0175

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Arrivals		
Iris Cutler	Secretary (OA)	OIS
Karen E. Pinkston	Environmental Engineer (NSPDP)	NMSS
Ayanna Rice	IT Specialist	OIS
Retirement		
Judith K. Muszkiewicz	Licensing Assistant	NMSS

March 11, 2005

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

Duke Power's plan to use MOX [mixed oxide] fuel assemblies at the Catawba plant.

Claims that emissions from Millstone have contributed to cancer.

Annual assessments of nuclear power plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA staff participated in panel discussions and provided other support for the 17th annual Regulatory Information Conference.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-044	NRC Seeks Public Input on Clinton Early Site Permit Application; Meeting to be Held April 19 (3/8)
05-045	NRC Extends Review Schedule for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Request (3/8)
05-046	NRC to Hold Public Meeting March 14 on Possible Combined License Application (3/8)
05-047	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet March 15-17 in Rockville, Maryland (3/11)
Regions:	
I-05-010	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant (3/9)
I-05-011	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant (3/9)
II-05-007	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Catawba Nuclear Power Plant (3/11)

Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Visit of Ukrainian Delegation to Discuss Assistance Program

A delegation from the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine (SNRCU), led by Chairman Vadym Gryschenko, visited the NRC headquarters offices during the week of February 28 to discuss progress in and plans for the NRC assistance program. NRC technical staff and the Ukrainian delegation held discussions in the technical areas of particular interest to the SNRCU. While in the U.S., the delegation met with representatives of the Departments of State and Energy as well as with vendor representatives. At the end of the week, Mr. Gryschenko and Mr. Luis Reyes, the Executive Director for Operations, signed the Memorandum of Meeting which documented the plans for the assistance program over the next two years.

JAERI Representatives Visit to NRC to Discuss Emergency Preparedness & Response

On March 7, 2005, Mr. Toshimitsu Homma and Mr. Sohei Sato of JAERI [Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute] visited the NRC headquarters offices and met with staff from the Emergency Operations Center to discuss issues related to emergency preparedness and response. The Japanese government is evaluating their emergency preparedness capabilities and are surveying other similar programs for lessons learned.

Taiwan AEC Visit to NRC to Discuss Reactor Regulation Issues

On March 7, 2005, Mr. Hsiao-Chung Niu of Taiwan Atomic Energy Council (AEC), accompanied by Mr. Shih-Kuei Chen of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative (TERCO), visited the NRC headquarters and met with NRC staff to discuss various reactor safety issues including fire protection requirements, ultrasonic flow measurement accuracies, quality controls for commercial grade items, and containment sump performance.

Dr. Keiji Kanda, Director of Japan Energy Policy Institute Visits NRC

On March 7, 2005, Dr. Kanda, accompanied by Mr. Masaaki Nishijo of the Japanese Embassy, visited the NRC headquarters offices and met with Commissioner Lyons and the Director of the Office of International Programs, to discuss matters related to NRC's reactor design review and licensing process.

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 11, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Document		
1. Commission Voting Record - SECY-05-0020	3/7/05	Final Rule: Medical Use of Byproduct Material - Recognition of Specialty Boards (RIN 3150-AH19)
Information Paper		
1. SECY-05-0042	3/8/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 25, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050307A	3/7/05	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0020 - Final Rule: Medical Use of Byproduct Material - Recognition of Specialty Boards (RIN 3150-AH19)
2. M050307A (Revised)	3/7/05	(same)

Federal Register Notices Issued:

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 158th meeting (3/15-17/05).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (4/6/05).
3. Policy statement: NUREG-1600, NRC Enforcement Policy.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

Oconee Nuclear Plant - Senior NRC Management Visit

On March 10-11, 2005, NRC's Deputy Executive Director for Homeland Protection and Preparedness, accompanied by the Deputy Director - Division of Reactor Safety in Region II, visited the Oconee Nuclear Plant for a site tour and met with licensee management.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 11, 2005

River Bend Station - Management Change

The licensee announced that, effective April 4, 2005, Mr. Don Vinci, currently the Vice President for Risk Management in Entergy's New Orleans corporate office, will assume the duties of General Manager, Plant Operations, at the River Bend Station. Mr. Tom Trepanier, the current General Manager, Plant Operations, will assume the duties of Director, Entergy Continuous Improvement.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 11, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 10</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	03/15/05 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget; Science, Nuclear Energy and Renewable Energy	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Shane	03/15/05 SD-226	10:00	State of Texas Associated Press Heritage Foundation George Washington University	S 394 - Freedom of Information Act Revisions	Sen. Cornyn/Feingold Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Judiciary
Keeling	03/15/05 2360 RHOB	10:00	Robert Bonner, Commissioner U.S. Customs and Border Protection	FY 2006 Budget, Department of Homeland Security	Reps. Rogers/Sabo Homeland Security Appropriations
Keeling	03/15/05 210 CHOB	1:00	TBA	Nuclear Terrorism: Protecting the Homeland	Reps. Linder/Langevin Nuclear and Biological Attack Homeland Security
Madden	03/15/05 SD-124	2:00	DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office of Science	FY2006 Budget for Energy and Water Development	Sen. Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/16/05 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY 2006 Energy Budget; Nuclear Waste Disposal & Environmental Management	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations

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ENCLOSURE R

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 10

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	03/16/05 SD-342	11:00	TBA	Markup S 494 - Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act	Sen. Collins/Lieberman Homeland Security and Government Affairs
Keeling	TBD	TBD	TBA	National Response Plan	Reps. King/Pascrell Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology Homeland Security and Economic Development AND Rep. Shuster/Holmes Norton Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Transportation and Infrastructure
Shane	03/16/05 2203 RHOB	2:00	Jim Wells, GAO Guy Caruso, DOE Paul Portney, Resources for the Future	Meeting the Challenge of the Demand for Energy	Reps. Issa/Watson Energy and Resources Government Reform
Keeling	03/18/05 2123 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Review security initiatives at Department of Energy	Reps. Whitfield/Stupak Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Combs	Tentative for April 7	TBD	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April/May	TBD	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Exelon CEO, IBEW rep, City Council rep near Grand Gulf	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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ENCLOSURE R