

# INFORMATION REPORT

June 27, 2006

SECY-06-0145

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
JUNE 16, 2006

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\*No input this week.

**/RA/**

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
L. Rakovan, OEDO

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## WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 16, 2006

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

Contact: L. Rakovan, OEDO by E-mail: [LJR2@nrc.gov](mailto:LJR2@nrc.gov).

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\*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

Audit of Pilgrim License Renewal Application

During June 6-9, 2006, the staff conducted a scoping and screening (S&S) methodology audit at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim). A detailed review of the S&S methodology and implementation of that methodology for the evaluation of plant mechanical, electrical, and structural systems was performed to support the staff's review of the Pilgrim license renewal application. Several areas were identified where additional information will be required to complete the staff's final safety determination.

Configuration Management Benchmarking Group Presentation

On June 13, 2006, staff provided a presentation to the Configuration Management Benchmarking Group in Richmond, Virginia. The presentation covered component design bases inspections and how they differ from other types of inspections, as well as plans for future use of component design bases inspections.

Monthly Reactor Oversight Process Public Meeting

On June 14, 2006, the DIRS staff hosted the monthly Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) public meeting at NRC Headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed Mitigating Systems Performance Index implementation, safety culture integration into the ROP, security ROP topics of interest, performance indicator issues and open and new frequently asked questions.

Significance Determination Process Workshop

On June 15, 2006, staff held a workshop with participants from each of the regions to develop guidance for a management review process to risk-inform inspection findings which do not fit any of the existing Significance Determination Process models. Once approved, the guidance will be an attachment to Inspection Manual Chapter 0609 "Significance Determination Process."

Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2, Issuance of Final Safety Evaluation Report

By letter dated May 26, 2004, as amended by letter dated July 14, 2005, Constellation Energy Group, LLC, submitted an application pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54, to renew the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (NMPNS), Units 1 and 2, operating licenses for an additional 20 years. On June 1, 2006, staff issued the final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the NMPNS license renewal application. Two open items that were previously identified in the draft SER have been resolved. The schedule for the full Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards review of the NMPNS SER has been set for July 12, 2006.

Staff Audits ESBWR Seismic Design, Analysis, and RAI Responses at General Electric

During the week of June 5, 2006, staff and contractors from Brookhaven National Laboratory conducted an audit of the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) seismic design

and analysis at the General Electric (GE) Nuclear Energy facility in San Jose, CA. Discussions were also held on GE's responses to requests for additional information (RAIs) in the seismic area. The audit was in support of the seismic design review of GE's application for design certification of the ESBWR. A public exit meeting for the audit was held on June 8, 2006. GE agreed to provide revised responses to the RAIs.

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

NRC and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Staff Visit the Salmon River Decommissioning Site

From June 5-7, 2006, NMSS staff, along with staff from EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, conducted a visit at the Salmon River Uranium Development Mill Site in North Fork, ID. The site was licensed from 1958 through 1959 for uranium and thorium processing, but the site is currently inactive. The site has both radiological and hazardous material contamination and the site owner possesses insufficient resources to decommission the site. The purpose of the site visit was to allow EPA to obtain information about the site and to collect samples to determine the extent of contamination. EPA will use this information to determine whether the site qualifies for any EPA clean-up programs. The results of EPA's evaluation are expected in several months.

NRC and Department of Energy (DOE) Public Meeting to Discuss Draft Waste Determination

On June 8, 2006, staff and management met with representatives of DOE at the Aiken Municipal Building in Aiken, SC. The purpose of this open meeting was to discuss NRC's Request for Additional Information regarding DOE's incidental waste determination for Tanks 18 and 19 at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The meeting was attended by representatives of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, EPA, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and the offices of United States Senators Isakson and Chambliss (GA).

2006 American Nuclear Society (ANS) Annual Meeting - A Special Session on Regulatory Issues in Decommissioning

From June 4-8, 2006, in Reno, NV, staff and management from NMSS participated in the subject session, which was sponsored by the ANS Division on Decommissioning, Decontamination, and Reutilization. NMSS participants delivered presentations on: (1) "Incidental Waste Determination;" (2) "Status of Decommissioning Program Rulemaking and Guidance;" (3) "Update on Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and EPA on Decommissioning Sites;" and (4) "Complex Dose Modeling Analysis for Decommissioning."

2006 International GoldSim User Conference

From June 5-7, 2006, staff attended the subject conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. Staff provided a presentation on the reviewers' perspective of simulation modeling, focusing on the need to develop transparent and traceable analysis with a level of complexity commensurate with the available supporting information. The presentation is available in ADAMS, under ML061220644. Staff attended a variety of training sessions on advanced features of the software and shared experiences with international GoldSim users.

Seventh Annual Meeting of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) in Paris, France

From June 7-9, 2006, NRC staff participated in and chaired a session at the subject meeting, sponsored by the Radioactive Waste Management Committee of the Nuclear Energy Agency. The meeting took place in Paris, France. Of particular note were three topical sessions: (1) "Tools and Processes to help Society Prepare and Manage Radioactive Waste Decisions" (chaired by NRC staff); (2) a joint session held with a delegation of the association of Swedish municipalities with nuclear facilities, "Forming a Sustainable Relationship to a Local Waste Management Facility: the Value-Added Project initiative of the FSC;" and (3) "Experience with Electronic, Web and Internet Platforms for Communicating on Radioactive Waste Management." Staff also contributed to planning discussions for the next FSC country workshop, in Hungary, to be held the week of November 23, 2006.

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

Annual Program Review Meeting Related to Fuel Cladding Research at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)

On June 8-9, 2006, NRC staff, U.S. industry research partners, and representatives from ten cooperating international organizations participated in the subject meeting to review research related to 10 CFR 50.46 criteria for loss-of-coolant accidents. Significant new data were presented by ANL staff on ductility as measured by ring compression, on the effect of cooling rate, and on breakaway oxidation. Very recent data on cooling rate effects, presented by participants from the French Atomic Energy Commission's laboratory at Saclay, and the ANL data provided a basis for modifying test conditions for the final measurements at ANL. Also, recent results from the Halden reactor were presented regarding axial fuel relocation following a transient.

American Nuclear Society (ANS) 2006 Annual Meeting and 2006 International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP'06)

From June 4-8, 2006, the staff attended the subject meetings and chaired sessions on safety analysis and accident management. ICAPP'06 was an embedded topical meeting within the ANS 2006 Annual Meeting with particular focus on advances in nuclear power plant and fuel cycle design, operation, and safety. Technical sessions in both ANS and ICAPP'06 meetings highlighted next generation nuclear plants (NGNP) with regard to design and safety issues, technology and licensing infrastructure needs, and economic viability. Information disseminated at these meetings will be useful for NRC in developing infrastructure to support licensing.

Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) Site Visit

On June 8, 2006, the staff met with SNL researchers to view the calibration tests for the small scale radiant flux cable fire tests and tour the facilities for the intermediate testing. The majority of test cables are on site and the special electrical instrumentation to determine cable functionality has been assembled and tested.

Public Meeting on Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on "Approaches to Risk-informed and Performance-based Requirements for Nuclear Power Reactors"

On June 15, 2006, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and RES held a public meeting to discuss the Commission's ANPR regarding the potential development of a risk-informed and performance-based alternative to 10 CFR Part 50 (referred to as Part 53). The purposes of the meeting were to: (1) clarify the questions in the ANPR; (2) describe the differences between the January 2005 and April 2006 working versions of the framework, and the working version to be made available in July 2006; and (3) solicit input from stakeholders on content, format and organization of a 3-day workshop planned in late August 2006. The meeting was well attended and included representatives from NEI, vendors, licensees, Department of Energy, and Department of Homeland Security as well as different consultants.

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE C



Two issues were raised by the attendees: (1) include a discussion at the workshop on the implementation of the framework to better understand how the approach would be applied on a technology-specific basis, and (2) most comments would not be provided until the end of the ANPR period in December 2006. The staff plans to continually interact with both internal and external stakeholders to receive their input.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

Relief from Fingerprinting and Criminal History Record Checks for Designated Categories of Individuals (AH94 - Part 73)

On June 13, 2006, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 33989) that relieves certain categories of individuals who have been approved by the Commission for access to Safeguards Information from the fingerprinting and criminal history records check requirements of Section 149 of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended. The final rule became effective June 13, 2006.

National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources (AH48 - Parts 20 & 32)

On June 13, 2006, the NRC published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (71 FR 34024) that amends its regulation that would establish a National Source Tracking System for certain sealed sources. The NRC is proposing to change the basis for the rule from its authority to promote the common defense and security to protection of public health and safety. The comment period for this action closes July 3, 2006.

William Stein III, M.D.; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-35-19)

On June 14, 2006, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (71 FR 34285) that announces the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by William Stein III, MD. (PRM-35-19). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its regulations for the medical use of byproduct material concerning training for the parenteral administration of certain radioactive drugs used to treat cancer. The petitioner requests that the regulations be clarified to codify an 80-hour training and experience requirement as appropriate and sufficient for medical oncologists and hematologists to qualify as an authorized user for these unsealed byproduct materials. The comment period on this action closes August 28, 2006.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of June 08 through June 15, 2006:

Credit Card holders at NRC	FOIA/PA-2006-0222
Paper presented to the NRC by Martha Dibblee, Oregon Health Division's Radiation Control Section, re: Precision Castparts dumping radioactive material, 1989	FOIA/PA-2006-0223
Yucca Mountain, independent analyses by NRC which indicate that the current repository design will meet regulatory compliance goals by NRC & EPA	FOIA/PA-2006-0224
License, radioactive material use, for named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0225

Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

<b>Arrival</b>		
BICKEL, JOHN H.	CONSULTANT	ACRS
BOZGA, JOHN V.	REACTOR INSPECTOR (CIV/STRUCT ENGR)	R-III
HARRIS, BRIANA A.	STUDENT SCIENTIST	NRR
LEARN, MATTHEW C.	STUDENT ENGINEER (CO-OP)	R-III
MARTIN, DEAN A.	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ANALYST	OIS
PRUETT, TIMOTHY D.	IT SPECIALIST (INET)	OIS
RIVERA TORRES, JOSE M.	STUDENT SCIENTIST	RES
ROIG-SILVA, CORAL M.	STUDENT ENGINEER	NRR
PAUL, DOREEN E.	SUMMER HIRE (WASHINGTON INTERNSHIPS FOR NATIVE STUDENT PROGRAM (WINS))	NSIR
SEAY, JAYE E.	CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (NSPDP)	ADM
WOODYATT, DIANA	GENERAL ENGINEER (NSPDP)	NRR
YU, DEANNA	STUDENT CLERK	ADM
<b>Retirements</b>		
BRITZ, WAYNE L.	FUEL FACILITIES INSPECTOR	R-II
<b>Departures</b>		
MANN, JULIAN A.	STUDENT TRAINEE	NRR

Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

NRC Hosts Small Business Awards Ceremony

On June 13, 2006, the SBCR hosted a Small Business Awards Ceremony at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the ceremony was to recognize those offices that made significant, notable, or participatory contributions to NRC's Fiscal Year 2005 accomplishments in contracting with small, disadvantaged, and woman-owned businesses. The Executive Director for Operations gave out three separate categories of awards to 23 NRC offices. Ten of these offices received the Gold Star award and were recognized as the key contributors to the agency's success.

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

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

The draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Oyster Creek license renewal.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit's ruling on terrorism in environmental reviews and its potential impact on other NRC licensing actions.

Limerick's plans to begin dry cask storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted Chairman Diaz in a press conference sponsored by *Energy Daily*.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
06-080	Heather Astwood Named as NRC Nuclear Safety Attaché (6/14)
06-081	Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko Takes Oath of Office at NRC Ceremony (6/16)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-06-037	NRC Seeks Public Input on Draft Environmental Report for Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant License Renewal; Meetings July 12 (6/12)
III-06-025	NRC to Discuss 2005 Performance Assessment for Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant (6/12)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending June 16, 2006

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SRM-SECY-06-0094	06/09/06	Tracking or Providing Enhanced Controls for Category 3 Sources
Commission Voting Record on 06-0094	06/09/06	(same)
2. SECY-06-0124	05/26/06	Rulemaking Plan to Amend Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock Events (10 CFR 50.61)
3. COMSECY-06-0028	05/31/06	Status Update on Feasibility of Developing Fuel Facility Performance Indicators
SRM on COMSECY-06-0028	06/16/06	(same)
Voting Record on COMSECY-06-0028	06/14/06	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-06-0135	06/09/06	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 2, 2006
2. SECY-06-0087	04/17/06	Annual Report to the Commission on Licensee Performance in the Materials and Waste Programs - Fiscal Year 2005
3. SECY-06-0128	05/31/06	Annual Report on Activities Associated with Evaluating Scientific Information and Radiation Protection Recommendations
<b>Memoranda</b>		
M060516B	06/14/06	Briefing on Results of the Agency Action Review Meeting - Reactors/Materials

### Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Senator Joseph Lieberman, dated June 7, 2006, responds to letter forwarding a letter from Connecticut Attorney General Blumenthal requesting legislation directing the NRC to conduct an ISA of the Indian Point Energy Center.

### Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (7/11/06).
2. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (7/11/06).
3. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Plant Operations, notice of meeting (7/26/06).

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE O



Region IV (RIV)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

Energy Northwest Public Meeting

On June 12, 2006, the Regional Administrator and staff held a public meeting at the Region IV office with representatives of Energy Northwest. The purpose was to discuss the licensee's actions to address a Columbia Generating Station substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution.

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending June 16, 2006

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 23**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Decker	06/12/06 SD-366	2:30	DOE	Next Generation of Nuclear Plant Project within the Department of Energy	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Shane	06/13/06 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	H.R. 4859 - Information Technology and Federal Employee Health Program	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Decker	06/14/06 SD-342	10:00	Markup	S. 2145, enhance security at chemical facilities	Senators Collins/Lieberman Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Shane	06/19/06 2123 RHOB	4:00	NRC, GAO	GAO Report on the Reactor Oversight Process	Reps. Whitfield/Stupak Oversight and Investigations Energy and Commerce
Shane	06/22/06 SD-628	9:30	NRC, GAO, NEI, UCS	GAO Report on Reactor Oversight Process and other topics	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/  
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending June 16, 2006

<b>As a result of its 533<sup>rd</sup> meeting (May 31-June 1, 2006), the ACRS issued letters and reports on the following subjects.</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
June 15, 2006	Draft Final Generic Letter 2006-XX, "Inaccessible or Underground Cable Failures That Disable Accident Mitigation Systems"
June 16, 2006	Draft Final Generic Letter 2006-XX: "Post-Fire Safe-Shutdown Circuit Analysis Spurious Actuations"

June 16, 2006

ENCLOSURE S