

INFORMATION REPORT

March 23, 2017

SECY-17-0039

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: Robert J. Lewis
Assistant for Operations
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT – WEEK ENDING
MARCH 10, 2017

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/RA/

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT – WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 2017, DATED
March 23, 2017

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| DATE | 03/23/17 | 03/23/17 |

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**Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2017**

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests and Appeals Received
During the Period of March 6, 2017 – March 10, 2017, as submitted by requester**

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Copy of records of the Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2018 | FOIA/PA-2017-0397 |
| Copy of records of the Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2018 | FOIA/PA-2017-0398 |
| Any and all reports made concerning any miscalibration of any equipment and/or radiation overdoses at Mercy Hospital, Chub O'Reilly Cancer Center, and/or the Radiation/Physics department in Springfield, Missouri | FOIA/PA-2017-0399 |
| Copy of the home page of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Intranet Site, and copy of each page connected to the Intranet home page by one click | FOIA/PA-2017-0400 |
| All administrative leave letters that NRC has sent/issued to current or former staff since 2015 to current date (FOIA/PA-2017-0254) | FOIA/PA-2017-0401 |
| Any documents related to use of radioactive sources or associated equipment, radiation compliance, or any other environmental records related to the Property from 1917 to the present | FOIA/PA-2017-0402 |
| Copy of records of all "budget passbacks" received from OMB since January 1, 2017 | FOIA/PA-2017-0403 |
| A listing of Locations of Uranium Recovery Facilities for the entire United States | FOIA/PA-2017-0404 |
| Copy of the NRC report #1168850 | FOIA/PA-2017-0405 |
| Digital copies of all records associated with closed allegation RIV-2013-A-0128 | FOIA/PA-2017-0406 |
| The full text of document YA-16-0134, titled "Senior Management Changes in the Office of Administration and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards" (ML16348A358) | FOIA/PA-2017-0407 |
| Records with the title, number, issuance date, and classification/sensitivity level of each audit, inspection, and evaluation report produced by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Inspector General (OIG) and *not* posted on the OIG's public-facing web page, calendar years 2012 through 2016 | FOIA/PA-2017-0408 |
| Appeal the search performed of all internal and external communication related to FOIA 2016-0138A, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0126 | FOIA/PA-2017-0127A |
| Appeal the zero findings of all administrative leave letters that NRC has sent/issued to current or former staff since 2015 to current date, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0254 | FOIA/PA-2017-0128A |
| Appeal the zero results of a copy of NRC Public Affairs statement in 2010, in response to a Seattle Times editorial, and copy of same editorial, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0246 | FOIA/PA-2017-0129A |
| Appeal the full denial of the requested new search of all records related to Earth Liberation Front, that was previously requested in 2015-0119 (FOIA/PA-2017-0283) | FOIA/PA-2017-0130A |
| Appeal the large number of redactions made in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0288 | FOIA/PA-2017-0131A |
| Appeal the redactions made to the released log in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0252 | FOIA/PA-2017-0132A |

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ENCLOSURE A

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| Appeal the redactions made in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0099 | FOIA/PA-2017-0133A |
| Appeal the zero findings of the organization chart, job duties/purpose, salary/pay scale and cell number assigned to William Wells and Daniel Esmond, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0286 | FOIA/PA-2017-0134A |
| Appeal the locating of just one record in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0253 | FOIA/PA-2017-0135A |
| Appeal the full denial to records in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0251 | FOIA/PA-2017-0136A |
| Appeal the final response to FOIA/PA-2017-0365 | FOIA/PA-2017-0137A |
| Appeal the zero records found of all agreements/contracts/Memorandum of Understanding/Memorandum of Agreement with DEA, 2015-current, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0091 | FOIA/PA-2017-0138A |
| Appeal the zero findings of all communication between NRC and Office of the Governor of Washington State @ email suffix @gov.wa.gov, 2016 only, in response to FOIA/PA-2017-0176 | FOIA/PA-2017-0139A |

Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2017

Decision issued on a Differing Professional Opinion

On February 28, 2017, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) issued a decision on a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) concerning the evaluation and communication of Boral degradation effects in deployed spent fuel casks, submitted on June 29, 2016. The DPO raised concerns that (1) spent fuel storage/transportation cask stakeholders have not been adequately informed by the NRC of safety and operational problems, such as erosion of subcritical safety margins, hydrogen generation, and maintaining radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable if fuel assemblies are bound, that could result from Boral degradation; and that (2) Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-196, "Boral Degradation," follow-up action was not performed involving investigative research to determine if degradation of "older" Boral sheets (BORAL-1) would result in erosion of criticality safety margins.

On September 14, 2016, an Ad Hoc DPO Review Panel (Panel) provided the NMSS Director with the results of its independent review of the DPO submittal. The Panel concluded that Boral degradation in dry spent fuel storage systems does not appear to represent a significant safety concern. Criticality margins in dry spent fuel storage and transport casks with Boral are not sufficiently eroded by the Boral degradation observed to date to constitute a significant safety concern. However the Panel also concluded that uncertainty exists with older Boral due to lack of data and a unique opportunity currently exists for some limited testing of older Boral to close this knowledge gap. The Panel concluded that retrievability of spent fuel and increased radiation exposure resulting from bound fuel assemblies are adequately addressed in the current staff guidance. The Panel concluded that communications to spent fuel cask users on precautions for hydrogen generation and combustion in storage systems are adequate to inform stakeholders of the potential hazards. The Panel concluded that NRC can improve its communication to spent fuel cask stakeholders of industry recommended limitations on refueling cycles for dry spent fuel casks which use Boral as a neutron absorber. The Panel recommended that the NRC (1) communicate to stakeholders the results of Boral testing in dry spent fuel cask applications; (2) conduct an investigation of older Boral material, as was recommended in the closure of GSI-196, since there is a knowledge gap with respect to the potential degradation mechanisms of this material in a dry storage system; and (3) consider testing Boral material obtained from the Zion spent fuel pool under dry storage conditions.

The NMSS Director agreed with the Panel's conclusions and endorsed its first and third recommendations. Regarding the Panel's second recommendation, the NMSS Director proposed that the NRC staff conduct an assessment of spent fuel storage and transport cask systems that incorporated BORAL-1 materials, in order to determine whether any indications of potential significant Boral degradation exist. This assessment should consist of the compilation of operating experience from inspection activities, loading/unloading operations, and annual maintenance checks involving storage and transport systems that used BORAL-1. In addition, the NMSS Director proposed that the staff document the results of its operating experience information assessment and its evaluation of the potential feasibility for testing Zion spent fuel pool materials in a position paper, with a recommendation for a path forward. The DPO case file can be found at ML17069A437.

**Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2017**

| Document Released to Public | Date of Document | Subject |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Decision Documents | | |
| 1. Staff Requirements Memorandum- SECY-16-0068 | 03/09/2017 | Interim Enforcement Policy for Open Phase Conditions in Electric Policy for Phase Condition in Electric Power Systems for Operating Reactors |
| 2. Commission Voting Record SECY-16-0068 | 03/09/2017 | Interim Enforcement Policy for Open Phase Conditions in Electric Policy for Phase Condition in Electric Power Systems for Operating Reactors |
| Information Papers | | |
| 1. SECY-17-0024 | 02/17/2017 | Annual Report on the Lessons-Learned Program |
| 1. SECY-17-0025 | 02/17/2017 | Update on Source Security and Accountability Activities |
| 2. SECY-17-0028 | 02/23/2017 | Status of Power Reactor Decommissioning Rulemaking Activities and Licensing Review Efficiencies |
| 3. SECY-17-0036 | 03/07/2017 | Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 24, 2017 |
| 4. SECY-17-0038 | 03/08/2017 | Weekly Information Report – Week Ending March 3, 2017 |
| Memoranda | | |
| 1. Staff Requirements Memorandum M170216B | 03/06/2017 | Briefing on the Status of Lessons Learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident |
| 2. Staff Requirements Memorandum M170302 | 03/09/2017 | Commission Meeting on Strategic Programmatic Overview of The Fuel Facilities and the Nuclear Materials Users Business Line |

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, et al., provides a summary of actions taken by the NRC in response to recommendations contained in various GAO reports that address NRC activities, dated March 3, 2017.
2. Letter to the Honorable Susan Cange responds to her letter expressing reservations with some of the provisions in the draft final rule on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (10 CFR 61) dated March 6, 2017.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on NuScale – Notice of Meeting – March 24, 2017