

INFORMATION REPORT

April 19, 2005

SECY-05-0063

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0063 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Information Notice 2005-07, Results of Hemyc Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System Full Scale Fire Testing

On April 1, 2005, the NRC issued the subject information notice to inform addressees of the results of recent Hemyc electrical raceway fire barrier system (ERFBS) full-scale fire tests. The Hemyc ERFBS did not perform for one hour as designed because shrinkage of the Hemyc ERFBS occurred during the testing.

National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program

Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) staff observed an accreditation assessment, conducted under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), at the Ruska Instrument Corporation (Houston, Texas) from March 29-30, 2005. NVLAP is a service of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The observation was part of the staff's evaluation of a proposal by Arizona Public Service Company to allow this accreditation as an acceptable alternative for qualifying suppliers of commercial-grade calibration services.

Public Meeting on Simulator Testing and Fidelity

On April 5, 2005, DIPM staff and Regional Operator Licensing Branch Chiefs met with representatives from the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the ANS 3.5 simulator working group, and various nuclear power plant facility licensees in a public meeting at the NEI offices to discuss simulator performance testing and fidelity. The meeting provided an opportunity for staff and industry to review their perspectives on simulator negative training, the control of simulator modifications, core model replication, test acceptance criteria, and simulator scenario-based-testing. The attendees agreed to continue the dialogue on simulator performance testing and work to resolve concerns related to fidelity and negative training.

Nine Mile Point License Renewal Management Meeting

In a March 30, 2005, public meeting in Rockville, MD, Constellation Energy Group (CEG) management discussed their recovery effort for the Nine Mile Point (NMP) license renewal activities. This meeting was requested by CEG as a followup to their March 3, 2005, letter regarding a 90-day grace period for quality recovery of its license renewal application. The applicant discussed its recovery activities that include a direct involvement of CEG senior management in the project; an increase in resources to the project; a change in the culture of minimum compliance with enhanced accountability; continuous quality assessment; and communications improvement. CEG plans to update the NMP license renewal application by mid-July 2005.

Probabilistic Risk-Assessment (PRA) Steering Committee Public Meeting

The PRA Steering Committee held a public meeting on April 7, 2005, with the industry Risk-Informed Regulation working group to discuss items of mutual interest. Topics covered during the meeting included industry representative presentations on the quantification of safety benefits associated with the proposed 50.46a rulemaking, coordination of risk-informed activities, and the longer term industry direction for risk-informed applications. Topics covered by NRC staff included the use of configuration risk management tools for the Risk-Informed Technical Specification Initiative 4b (risk-informed completion times for Limiting Conditions for Operations (LCOs)), the use of generic PRA analyses in topical reports and PRA quality issues associated with the implementation of the mitigating system performance indicator.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Publication of NUREG/CR-6869, "A Reliability Physics Model for Aging of Cable Insulation Materials"

On March 30, 2005, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research published the subject NUREG. This work was initiated to support research efforts associated with the aging of instrument and control (I&C) cables located inside containment. The report presents a method for predicting the probability that the insulation of an aged instrumentation or control cable inside of containment will reach a critical level of embrittlement. The critical level of embrittlement can be used to support an assessment of the probability that the cable will fail to perform its function if exposed to a loss of coolant accident (LOCA). This effort may support future staff activities associated with the effects of component aging on plant risk.

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements Meeting

On March 30-31, 2005, NRC staff attended the Forty-First annual meeting of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. The major theme for the meeting was "Managing the Disposition of Low-Activity Radioactive Materials." Principle speakers included the Director of RES, current and past members of the NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, national and international regulators responsible for radioactive waste management, and industry stakeholders.

Fire Dynamics Seminar for the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

On March 31 through April 1, 2005, RES staff presented a two-day fire protection professional seminar to members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE). The seminar focused on the NRC's Fire Dynamic's tools and methods presented in NUREG-1805 "Fire Dynamics Tools." The training was attended by approximately 50 fire protection professionals, including representatives from nuclear plant licensees, the Department of Energy (DOE), the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), nuclear industry consultant firms and state and local fire officials. The NUREG-1805 fire dynamics tools support the Reactor Oversight Process by providing NRC inspectors with simplified tools to perform fire hazard analyses using state-of-the-art principles of fire dynamics.

NRC Staff Meeting with FERC

On April 1, 2005, the staff met with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C. to provide an update on the NRC staff collaborative effort with the North America Electric Reliability Council (NERC). The discussion focused on the NRC/NERC tasks to better understand the relevancy of electrical grid congestion and reliability data. The FERC staff is interested in working with the NRC staff on this initiative and offered resources.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

PNO-I-05-15A, PSEG Nuclear, LLC - SUPPLEMENT - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS TO REPAIR A LEAK FROM A CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION PIPE ON THE 'B' REACTOR RECIRCULATION LOOP.

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Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of April 1 through April 7, 2005:

Atlantic Research Corp., 5945 Wellington Road, Gainesville, VA, records re: use, removal & disposal of radioactive materials (Cobalt-90, Strontium-90), permit no. 45-02808-02	FOIA/PA-2005-0188
Regulatory Guide, "Criteria for Use of Computers in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," updates; & affiliation with "24" & security procedures	FOIA/PA-2005-0189
Yucca Mountain, U. S. Geological Survey correspondence re: review process of scientific studies 1998-2000; communications with ASLB prior to March 2005	FOIA/PA-2005-0190
South Texas Safety Evaluation Report (SER) discussed in letter dated 3-7-05, ML050260254	FOIA/PA-2005-0191
Trace Technologies Inc., 10 Radel Ave., Bridgewater, NJ, permit no. 29-23535-01, re: handling of materials, spills or releases	FOIA/PA-2005-0192
Rep. James A. Gibbons (NV 1996-present) all agency correspondence	FOIA/PA-2005-0193
Allegation RI-2003-A-0010, transcripts, notes, e-mails, correspondence, telephone calls involving Commission & EDO, & correspondence with licensee	FOIA/PA-2005-0194

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Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Arrivals		
Lawrence Ellershaw	Consultant	R-IV
Daphene Floyd	Secretary (OA)	OIS
Tonna S. Weaver	Secretary (OA)	OHR
Retirements		
Michael Kaltman	Sr. Program Analyst	NRR
Departures		
Patricia A. Nielsen	Secretary (OA)	RES

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Media Interest

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

The National Academy of Sciences report on spent fuel safety and security.

Security concerns surrounding Duke Power's proposed use of mixed-oxide fuel at Catawba.

ASLB hearing on Private Fuel Storage facility in Skull Valley, Utah.

Other Public Affairs Items:

Regional OPA staff assisted at several end-of-cycle meetings for the annual assessments of nuclear plant performance.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-059	NRC Renews License for Dry-Cask Nuclear Spent Fuel Storage Installation at H.B. Robinson Plant (4/4)
05-060	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Palisades (4/5)
05-061	NRC-NAS Agreement on Spent Fuel Public Report (4/6)
05-062	NRC Invites Public to Attend Decommissioning Workshop April 20-21 in Rockville, MD (4/6)
05-063	NRC Issues Draft SE for Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Application (4/7)
05-064	NRC to Hold Public Meeting April 29 on Issues Associated with HEMYC Fire Protection Material (4/7)
Regions:	
I-05-017	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Three Mile Island 1 Nuclear Power Plant (4/6)
II-05-013	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant (4/6)
II-05-014	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Hatch Nuclear Power Plant (4/6)
II-05-015	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant (4/6)
II-05-016	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant (4/6)

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II-05-017	NRC to Meet with Westinghouse Nuclear Fuel Plant Officials April 12 to Discuss Facility Safety Performance (4/7)
III-05-012	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance Assessment for Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant (4/8)
IV-05-011	NRC to Discuss 2004 Performance at Cooper Nuclear Power Plant (4/8)

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0055	4/4/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 25, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050316B	4/5/05	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Price, dated April 1, 2005, responds to request that NRC outline the progress it has made in approving the unclassified summary of the NAS study.
2. Letter to Congress, dated March 30, 2005, provides an NRC draft bill that would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and in one instance the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.
3. Letter to Congress, dated March 30, 2005, provides an NRC draft bill that would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to add several new sections that would contribute to maintaining the necessary regulatory expertise required by the NRC.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 159th meeting (4/18-19/05).
2. Application for a License to Export Radioactive Waste.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Carolina Power and Light Company - Shearon B. Harris Plume Phase Emergency Exercise

On April 5, 2005, Region II participated in the Harris Emergency Exercise. The region participated with a full Base Team and Site Team. There was no participation by NRC Headquarters. The Director, Division of Reactor Safety participated as the Site Team Leader/Director of Site Operations and the Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects participated as the Base Team Manager. The exercise was a plume phase exercise only.

On April 4-7, 2005, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Shearon Harris exercise, involving officials of the State of North Carolina and the applicable local governments.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 8, 2005

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Site Visit

On April 1, 2005, Commissioner Lyons and the Region IV Regional Administrator visited Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station to tour the site with the Resident Inspectors, discuss site security enhancements, meet with licensee management, and conduct an all-hands meeting. Before visiting the site, the Commissioner and the Regional Administrator met with Aubrey Godwin, Director of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency.

Arizona Public Service Company Public Meeting

On April 5, 2005, the Regional Administrator and members of the Region IV and Headquarters staffs conducted a public meeting with Arizona Public Service Company (APS) representatives in the Region IV office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss corrective actions for performance issues associated with inspection findings and plant events at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station. Arizona Public Service Company senior management acknowledged that aspects of their performance have declined. Among the items discussed were actions taken or planned in the areas of equipment, problem identification and resolution program implementation, and human performance. Additionally, APS representatives discussed other Palo Verde business plan initiatives to address station performance.

Columbia Generating Station End-of-Cycle Meeting

On April 6, 2005, the NRC met with the licensee to discuss the annual assessment results for the Columbia Generating Station for 2004. The meeting was held in Richland, Washington. In addition to licensee employees, the meeting was attended by State officials, members of the public, and the local media.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 8, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 14

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	April 12 2123 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Markup of Draft Bill -- Energy Policy Act of 2005	Reps Barton/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Combs	April 13 2247 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Shane	April 13 1100 LHOB	10:30	TBD	Markup of Draft Bill - Energy Policy Act of 2005 (House)	Reps Thomas/Rangel Ways and Means
Combs	April 13 SD-366	11:30	DOE	Markup of Pending Legislation - Legislation TBA/Garman Nomination	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	Tentative for April 26	TBA	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
Combs	TBA SD-366	TBA	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 14

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	TBA 2359 RHOB	TBA	TBD	FY 2006 Homeland Security Budget, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness	Reps Rogers/Sabo Homeland Security Appropriations

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