

INFORMATION REPORT

November 10, 2005

SECY-05-0209

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
NOVEMBER 4, 2005

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

NRC Information Notice 2005-29: Steam Generator Tube and Support Configuration

On October 27, 2005, the subject information notice was issued. It provided recent experiences in which the configuration of steam generator tube supports or expansions was different than expected.

Draft Generic Letter "Post-Fire Safe-Shutdown Circuit Analysis Spurious Actuations" Issued for Public Comment

On October 19, 2005, the subject draft generic letter was published in the Federal Register for public comment (70 FR 60859). The public comment period will end on December 18, 2005.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Meeting on the Food and Drug Administration's Radiological Health Program

On October 31-November 1, 2005, staff from the Medical Radiation Safety Team in NMSS attended a Stakeholder Meeting sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Gaithersburg, MD. This meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholder organizations to discuss how they can assist FDA in implementing FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health program and in addressing important public health problems. The topics of discussion included standards, monitoring the use of radiation, monitoring the industry, and education and training.

Meetings with Stakeholders in Inyo County, CA, on NRC High-level Waste Program

In response to a request from Inyo County, CA, officials, NRC staff briefed the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on the NRC high-level waste program. The briefing was held at a regularly scheduled, public board meeting on October 25, 2005, in Independence, CA. The next day, NRC staff met with the Park Superintendent and other National Park Service staff of Death Valley National Park, in Death Valley, CA. Later that afternoon, NRC staff held a public meeting with residents of Inyo County in Tecopa, CA. At each meeting, NRC staff members provided an overview of NRC's role in the potential licensing of the geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, and its role in the safe transportation of spent fuel to the potential repository. Inyo County, CA, along with nine other counties in Nevada, are designated as "Affected Units of Local Government," by the Department of Energy, as provided under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. NRC speakers and support were provided by staff from NMSS, NRC's On-site Representative's Office in Las Vegas, NV, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Office of Public Affairs.

Staff Attends Yucca Mountain Site Visit and Field Orientation

From October 25-27, 2005, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) conducted a site visit and field orientation to Yucca Mountain and vicinity for CNWRA and NRC staff new to the NRC high-level waste program. The site visit introduced new staff to the scale of the underground operations; geology; hydrology; geophysics; volcanic history; erosion processes; deposition processes; local environment; land uses; and the cultural setting.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Summary of 8th Semiannual Organization for Economic Cooperation and Developments (OECD) Piping Failure Data Exchange (OPDE) Meeting

On October 25 and 26, 2005, staff attended the subject meeting to present the status of recent U.S. efforts, which were developed jointly by the NRC and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Representatives from Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland also participated, and presented examples of piping failure events in their respective countries. The purpose of the project is to assemble a database of the relatively rare light water reactor (LWR) piping failures and precursor events, which are provided by the OPDE member countries. This operating experience data is used develop pipe failure estimates, which can be utilized by the OPDE members to improve the safety of their LWRs.

National Academy of Science Study on Engineered Barriers

On October 27, 2005, staff made a presentation, "Assessing the Performance of Engineered Barriers," at the inaugural meeting conducted by the National Academy of Science's Committee on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering. This committee will evaluate engineered barrier systems used for surface and subsurface waste containment; describe how performance is defined, predicted, measured and monitored; evaluate field performance of barriers; and identify information gaps and research needs. This information will be used by NRC in developing regulatory guidance documents for low-level waste licensees, decommissioned sites, uranium tailing management sites, and proposed assured isolation facilities.

OECD-MCCI Program Review Group and Management Board Meetings

On October 27 and 28, 2005, staff conducted the 8th OECD Melt Coolability and Concrete Interaction (MCCI) meeting at the Argonne National Laboratory. This meeting, which had participation of 13 OECD countries, focused on core-concrete interaction tests for analysis in severe accident codes. The expected outcome of the program is to determine the effectiveness of the severe accident management strategy of flooding the reactor cavity in the event of a postulated severe core damage accident leading to vessel failure.

Publication of NUREG-1837, "Regulatory Effectiveness Assessment of Generic Issue 43 and Generic Letter 88-14"

On October 31, 2005, the subject report, regarding contamination of instrument air systems and the effect on safety-related equipment, was issued and posted to the RES website (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1837/>). On the basis of its assessment, the staff concluded that licensee and agency activities, such as the Maintenance Rule, Generic Letter 88-14, design-basis reconstitution, and others, have significantly improved air system and component performance and resulted in improved reactor safety. As a result of these activities, major losses of instrument air are now infrequent, and prompt recovery from such losses is common.

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ENCLOSURE C

Publication of "Integrated Chemical Effects Test # 3 Data Report"

On October 31, 2005, the subject report was made publicly available through ADAMS (ML053040533). This test supports the NRC's efforts to resolve Generic Safety Issue 191 on the potential loss of emergency-core-cooling system (ECCS) pumping capability due to clogging of sump screens during a postulated loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) in a pressurized water reactor. The test monitored the system for an extended time to identify the presence, composition, and physical characteristics of chemical products that formed. This report describes the experimental investigation of chemical effects that may exacerbate sump-screen clogging by simulating the environment present inside a containment water pool after a LOCA.

Transmittal of TRACE Code to NRR

On October 31, 2005, RES transmitted to NRR a revised version of the TRACE thermal-hydraulic code for analyzing General Electric's Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) design. The code will be used to predict reactor system response during postulated loss-of-coolant accidents and anticipated transients.

National Academy of Science's Workshop on Geoengineering

On November 1, 2005, the staff, by invitation, participated in a workshop organized by the National Academy of Science's Board on Earth Sciences and Resources. The goals of the workshop were to provide technical input for determining the future technical agenda and to recommend new study topics for the Committee on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering. The workshop included participants from the committee, professional societies, academia, industry, and State and Federal agencies. Participants made suggestions on specific topical workshops relevant to hazard assessment and mitigation. These results signal an evolution towards consideration of risk assessment, uncertainty analysis, and performance-based goals and methods for geoengineering problems. These NAS activities will influence the way NRC assesses long-term performance of geoengineering structures for any licensing actions.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-05-028, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company, Haddam Neck Plant - HADDAM NECK REPORT OF SPENT FUEL POOL LEAK.
2. PNO-II-05-010, Southern Nuclear Company, Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 - HATCH UNIT 1 MAIN TRANSFORMER FIRE.
3. PNO-II-05-011, Florida Power & Light Co., Turkey Point, Unit 4 - TURKEY POINT UNIT 4 LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER DUE TO LOSS OF STARTUP TRANSFORMER.
4. PNO-III-05-014, MISTRAS Holding Group d/b/a Conam Inspection and Engineering Services, Inc. - POTENTIAL RADIATION OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Acquisition Training for Project Managers

The five mandatory acquisition courses for Project Managers were completed on November 3, 2005. The Division of Contracts conducted the introductory "Overview" acquisition course. Guest presenters included staff from the Office of Administration, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of the Inspector General. The Office of the General Counsel conducted the Organizational Conflict of Interest course. The remaining three courses held were Preparing Statements of Work, Contract Administration, and Developing an Independent Government Cost Estimate. As a result of this week long training session, 22 Project Managers obtained their certification.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

High-Level Waste (HLW) Document Submission Training

On November 2, 2005, staff posted the meeting notice and agenda on the NRC public web site announcing two additional training sessions for prospective parties who plan to submit documents to the HLW Licensing Proceeding. Prospective HLW Proceeding participants include lawyers, para-legals, clerks, secretaries, and information technology specialists who are expected to prepare documents for submission. The training will be held on November 16 and 17, 2005 in the Professional Development Center at Two White Flint North, Rockville, MD. Staff will present material related to document submittal requirements and the guidance attached to the last revision of *10 CFR, Part 2, Subpart J*, the desk reference guidance on converting files to Portable Document Format (PDF), the types of user support NRC will provide, and any problems encountered to date.

File Center Support of the E-Library Project

As of November 1, 2005, 69 of the 104 Technical Specifications (Tech Specs) for power plants have been processed into ADAMS for operating nuclear power facilities. The software that will allow electronic updating of the Tech Specs has been installed, and the staff is awaiting training.

Forms Conversion Kickoff Meeting

On October 24, 2005, Adobe representatives met with staff to kick off the project to convert NRC InForms to Adobe PDF forms. The project contract calls for Adobe to convert current InForms to PDF fillable forms, set up an agency web page, develop an on-line agency training module, and train agency staff to maintain the forms. The effort is expected to be completed by late January of 2006.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of October 28 through November 3, 2005:

Security clearance & personnel information on named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0016
Clarification of alternate decay heat removal requirement, response to memo from E. G. Greenman, Region III, to G. H. Holahan, NRR	FOIA/PA-2006-0017
DeLeuw, Cather & Co., 525 West Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60606, all records including material spills, storage or use of toxic substances	FOIA/PA-2006-0018
Indian Point 2 spent fuel pool, correspondence between Entergy Nuclear Northeast & NRC, 09-29-05 and 10-28-05	FOIA/PA-2006-0019
Indian Point Energy Center, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) onsite, correspondence between Entergy Nuclear Northeast LLC & NRC, between 01-01-04 & 10-28-05, re: construction, such as modifications to the IP2 fuel storage building	FOIA/PA-2006-0020

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ENCLOSURE G

Westinghouse Electric Co., 1801 Bluff Rd., Columbia, SC, copy of facilities current license, decommissioning plan & funding plan	FOIA/PA-2006-0021
Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Graduate School, copy of original agreement, modifications, task orders, billings or payment requests	FOIA/PA-2006-0022
Universe Tankships or National Bulk Carriers, companies owner by Daniel Keith Ludwig, deceased, shipping tycoon	FOIA/PA-2006-0023
OIG records from 01-01-04 to 11-01-05 on named individual	FOIA/PA-2006-0024
Stauffer Metals Co. (aka Stauffer Chemicals), Richmond, CA, all records	FOIA/PA-2006-0025

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Arrival		
BARNES, VALERIE E.	SENIOR HUMAN FACTORS ANALYST	RES
DELLA GRECA, ANIELLO L.	CONSULTANT	OEDO
Retirements		
GOULD, CHAUNCEY L	NUCLEAR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NSIR
IGNATONIS, ALGIS J.	SR. ALLEGATIONS COORDINATOR	R-II
MARSH, LEDYARD B.	DIR, DIV OF LICENSING PROJECT MGMT	NRR
VAN SANTEN, LILLIAN	SR. INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS SPECIALIST	HR
Departures		
TERRELL, JOSEPH B.	MATERIALS ENGINEER	RES

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 4, 2005

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

The safety evaluation of the proposed Vermont Yankee power increase.

The discovery of leaks from the spent fuel pool at Connecticut Yankee (Haddam Neck).

Sen. Hatch's letter to the Chairman regarding Private Fuel Storage.

Progress Energy's announcement that it plans to apply for licenses for two new nuclear plants.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA in Region II facilitated the Chairman's interview with CNN Spanish.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-145	NRC to Hold Public Meetings November 7 and 9 to Discuss Proposed Changes To Worker Fatigue, Drug-Testing Rules (10/31)
05-146	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Nov. 9 on Rulemaking Concerning New Authority Over Radioactive Material (11/1)
05-147	NRC Proposes Using Risk Information for Refining Emergency Reactor Cooling Requirements (11/1)
05-148	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Nov. 10 in Gaithersburg, Maryland, On Standard Review Plan for Nuclear Waste Determinations (11/3)
05-149	NRC Publishes Redacted Safety Evaluation for Proposed Vermont Yankee Power Increase (11/3)
05-150	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, Nov. 14-16 (11/4)
Regions:	
I-05-055	NRC Announces Enhanced Oversight of Indian Point (10/31)
I-05-056	Public Comments on Potential Environmental Impacts Are Key Part of Oyster Creek License Renewal Review (11/1)
I-05-057	NRC Proposes \$3,250 Civil Penalty for N.J. Firm Over Loss of Small Amount of Radioactive Material (11/2)
I-05-058	NRC Assigns New Sr. Resident Inspector to Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant (11/4)

III-05-042	NRC Staff to Meet with Dominion Generation Co. Officials to Discuss Possible Equipment Flooding Issues at Kewaunee Plant (11/3)
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Office of International Programs (OIP)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Canadian/NSIR Meeting on Emergency Preparedness

On November 1-2, 2005, two staff representatives from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) – Bernie Beaudin and Andre Regimbald – met with staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR). The meeting, which was held at the NRC's Operations Center, was a follow-up to the larger emergency preparedness meeting that took place earlier this fall, in which the CNSC was unable to participate. Topics discussed included U.S. response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; Canadian response to the Pickering event; updates on both agencies' emergency management and response plans; and opportunities for future cooperation and information exchange.

Visit by Swedish Young Professionals

A group of young professionals sponsored by the Swedish Young Generation Program visited NRC on October 31 to become familiar with the NRC regulatory program. The visit was one of a number of visits to various entities in the U.S. involved with the U.S. nuclear power industry. The five visitors have master of science degrees in engineering and physics.

Responding to their expressed interests, NRC staff made brief presentations on NRC legislation and regulatory authority, licensing new reactors, the effects of power uprates and the reactor oversight process. The professionals showed particular interest in public attitudes in the U.S. toward nuclear power and NRC plans to license new reactors. In addition, the group received a briefing on and a tour of the Operations Center.

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-05-0046	09/29/05	Incorporation of Energy Policy Act Provisions into 10 CFR 73.55 Proposed Rule Package and Request for a Three Month Extension
SRM on COMSECY-05-0046	11/01/05	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0046	11/01/05	(same)
2. SECY-05-0197	10/28/05	Review of Operational Programs in a Combined License Application and Generic Emergency Planning Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria
3. SRM-SECY-05-0172	11/02/05	Duke Power Company's Request to Incorporate the Oconee Emergency Operations Facility into the EOF Shared by Catawba and McGuire Nuclear Stations
Commission Voting Record on 05-0172	11/02/05	(same)
4. SRM-SECY-05-0151	11/3/05	Proposed Rule: 10 CFR Parts 30, 31, 32, and 150 - Exemptions from Licensing, General Licenses, and Distribution of Byproduct Material: Licensing and Reporting Requirements (RIN 3150-AH41)
Commission Voting Record on 05-0151	11/3/05	(same)
5. SECY-05-0187	10/19/05	Status of Safety Culture Initiatives and Schedule for Near-Term Deliverables
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0196	10/27/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 21, 2005

Memoranda		
1. M051018	11/01/05	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Decommissioning Activities and Status

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Senator Harry Reid, dated October 31, 2005, responds to request for an extension of the public comment period for the proposed rule that would amend NRC's regulations governing the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in a proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.
2. Letter to Michael Chertoff, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, dated October 29, 2005, notes DHS efforts to work cooperatively with the NRC staff to evaluate the status of offsite emergency preparedness surrounding St Lucie and Turkey Point.
3. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated October 26, 2005, responds to concerns about recently reported leakage from the spent fuel pool at Indian Point Unit 2.
4. Letter to Senator Charles Schumer, dated October 26, 2006, responds to concerns about recently reported leakage from the spent fuel pool at Indian Point Unit 2.
5. Letter to Congresswoman Sue Kelly, dated October 26, 2005, responds to concerns about recently reported leakage from the spent fuel pool at Indian Point Unit 2.

Federal Register Notices

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 165th meeting (11/14-16/05).
2. Proposed rule: 10 CFR Part 50, RIN 3150-AH29, Risk-Informed Changes to Loss-of-Coolant Accident Technical Requirements.
3. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, U.S. Army (Jefferson Proving Ground Site), Docket No. 40-8838-MLA, ASLBP No. 00-776-04-MLA.
4. Proposed rule: 10 CFR Part 73, RIN 3150-AH60, Design Basis Threat.
5. Notice of a Proposed Agreement with the State of Minnesota - State of Minnesota: NRC Draft Staff Assessment of a Proposed Agreement Between the NRC and the State of Minnesota.

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Entergy Nuclear Northeast Meeting at Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC)

On November 3, 2005, Entergy hosted a meeting at IPEC with several representatives of New York State government agencies, local and state elected officials, and interested congressional representatives. Entergy provided current information on the nature of conditions involving Indian Point's Unit 2 spent fuel pool and on-site tritium contamination, as well as its plans for evaluation and resolution of these conditions. The meeting included a tour of the affected areas. NRC representatives participated.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Chairman Diaz Attends Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Conference and Visits Region II Offices

On November 2, 2005, Chairman Diaz, accompanied by the Executive Director for Operations, and Regional Administrators, attended the 26th Annual INPO CEO Conference in Atlanta. On the following day, the Chairman visited the Region II offices and met with the Regional staff and discussed Agency issues and priorities.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending November 4, 2005

Special Inspection at Mistras Holding Company/Conam on Potential Radiographer
Overexposure

On October 27, 2005, an industrial radiographer employed by a Region III licensee, Mistras Holding Group/Conam, failed to conduct a required radiation survey and failed to ensure that an iridium-192 source was in the shielded position before entering a radiation area while working at the Sunoco Refinery in Philadelphia, PA. As a result, the radiographer failed to note that the source was not in the shielded position when entering a high radiation area. From October 28-31, two Region I inspectors conducted a special inspection to review the circumstances of the event. The radiographer's whole body dosimeter badge was processed and the result was 248 millirem deep dose equivalent to the whole body. The licensee's preliminary dose estimate of exposure to the radiographer's hand was 225 rem shallow dose equivalent. The NRC inspectors are in the process of independently assessing the radiation doses received by the radiographer.

NRC Management Visits to Perry

On October 31, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations and the Regional Administrator visited Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The visit consisted of an extensive tour of the facility, a review of security modifications, a working lunch and a meeting with senior licensee management.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending November 4, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 38

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Schmidt/ Keeling	11/07/05 TBA	5:30	Conference	FY 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	House/Senate Appropriations Committee conferees
Keeling	11/08/05 311 CHOB	2:00	John Russack, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Lee Hamilton, 9/11 Public Discourse Project and others	Role of the Information Sharing Program Manager in Homeland Security	Reps. Simmons/Lofgren Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subc Homeland Security
Shane	11/09/05 2247 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Federal Employee Appeals Court	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subc Government Reform
Combs	TBA SD-366 Postponed	TBA	Edward F. Sproat, III	Confirmation hearing for Edward F. Sproat, III to be Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, DOE	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

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ENCLOSURE R

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)/
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
Items of Interest
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As a result of its 164th meeting (October 18-20, 2005), the ACNW issued letters and reports on the following subjects.

Date	Subject
October 27, 2005	Letter to the Chairman on the Project Plan for the Yucca Mountain License Application Review by NRC Staff

November 4, 2005

ENCLOSURE S