

INFORMATION REPORT

February 3, 2005

SECY-05-0027

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-05-0027 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 21, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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02/03/05

02/03/05

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 21, 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
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Meeting with Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) on Analysis of Safety Benefit of Redefinition of Large-Break Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) under 10 CFR 50.46a

On January 13, 2005, staff members from the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) met with representatives of the WOG Large-Break LOCA Redefinition Subcommittee to discuss proposed analyses to demonstrate the safety benefit of the redefined LOCA under the proposed 10 CFR 50.46a rule. WOG agreed to a set of calculations that would investigate the effects of varying emergency core cooling operating characteristics, such as the start time for the emergency diesel generators, and thus help quantify the safety benefits to be gained by the proposed changes in the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46. WOG indicated that the results of the calculations will be reported to the NRC in May 2005.

Breakup of Dominion/Atomic Energy of Canada Limited Alliance

On January 14, 2005, Dominion announced that it had terminated its alliance with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), regarding the possible construction of an ACR-700 reactor design, opting instead for a General Electric (GE) design. Dominion stated that the GE design will most likely be the Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR). Dominion also stated that although it is only just starting the design certification process, the ESBWR uses light water reactor technology which is familiar to the NRC, and so is expected to be easier to license.

AECL stated that it would begin focusing on developing its 1200-MWt ACR design, while continuing to pursue licensing the 750-MWt ACR-700. AECL will continue to work on licensing its designs in Canada, and still hopes to find a market for its larger reactor in markets such as Canada, United States, China, and United Kingdom. AECL stated that it would continue to pursue pre-application review activities for ACR-700. Pre-application reviews are normally conducted in preparation for submittal of a design certification application. AECL is currently scheduled to submit a design certification application for the ACR-700 in December 2005.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Task Group on Long-Term Safety Criteria

On January 11-13, 2005, staff from the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety attended a meeting of an ad hoc task group on long-term safety criteria. The Nuclear Energy Agency's (NEA's) Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) established this task group to prepare a topical session on "long-term protection criteria and attending regulation" for RWMC's 38th Meeting in March 2005. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hosted this task group meeting which was attended by representatives from eight countries - Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States - as well as NEA staff and contractors.

Pre-Application Meeting with DOE

On January 13, 2005, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration to discuss the design of the Model No. EA-3100 transportation package, which is a new package for the shipment of high enriched uranium. The Model ES-3100 is being designed to replace the U.S. Department of Transportation Specification 6-M package, which will no longer be authorized for use after October 1, 2008. DOE, however, plans to eliminate use of the 6-M package by January 2006. It plans to submit the Model ES-3100 Safety Analysis Report to NRC for review and approval in March 2005.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Human Reliability Analysis (HRA) Users Group Annual Meeting

On January 14, 2005, a representative from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) participated in the annual EPRI HRA Users Group meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives from EPRI and nuclear power utilities and included discussions on the treatment of HRA dependencies, application of HRA to shutdown and fire events, and selection of appropriate HRA modeling methods. Additionally, the RES representative presented an overview of recent initiatives in the HRA area. The Users Group members expressed interest in participating in future joint NRC/industry workshops and assisting the NRC in populating the Human Event Repository and Analysis (HERA) database with industry operating experience data.

RES Management Meeting with Sandia National Laboratory (SNL)

On January 11-12, 2005, senior management and staff from RES met with management and staff from SNL to discuss key research program status, challenges, and milestones. The SNL staff presented an overview for each of the NRC-funded research programs and provided a tour of several test facilities. A primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the value of the SNL research programs and products in addressing nuclear safety issues.

RES Management Meeting with Los Alamos National laboratory (LANL)

On January 13, 2005, senior management and staff from RES met with management and staff from LANL to discuss research conducted at the University of New Mexico for PWR sump debris testing in support of Generic Safety Issue 191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized-Water Reactor Sump Performance." The LANL staff presented an overview of the NRC-funded research programs and provided a tour of the testing facilities.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Sander C. Perle, ICN Worldwide Dosimetry; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-20-25)

On January 14, 2005, the NRC published the subject document in the Federal Register (70 FR 2577). The petitioner had requested that the NRC amend its regulations to require that any dosimeter, without exception, that is used to report dose of record and demonstrate compliance with the dose limits specified in the Commission's regulations be processed and evaluated by a dosimetry processor holding accreditation from the National Voluntary Accreditation Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The petitioner also requested that the definition for individual monitoring devices (individual monitoring equipment) be revised to include "electronic dosimeters, optically stimulated dosimeters" as examples of certain devices. The petition was denied because there is insufficient evidence that the petition solves a regulatory problem or improves health and safety and, therefore, the increase in burden to licensees that would result if the petition were granted is not justified.

January 21, 2005

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
January 14, through January 19, 2005:

Allegation, RIII-03-A-0073 and OI investigation, final reports	FOIA/PA-2005-0102
Technical Interface Agreements (TIA) for all Regions	FOIA/PA-2005-0103
St. Lucie, Unit 1, all communications re: violations, inspection reports, radiological surveys; and Ft. Pierce Sewage Treatment Plant, all documents re: disposal and/or removal of sludge, 1976-1985	FOIA/PA-2005-0104
FOIA/PA-2005-0020, all documents released under this FOIA	FOIA/PA-2005-0105

January 21, 2005

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Arrivals		
John K. Buehler	Sr. Management Analyst	OIG
Julie A. Chambers	Student IT Specialist (Co-Op)	OCIO
Sally Hardy	IT Specialist (INET)	OCIO
Daniel L. Livermore	Reactor Inspector	R-IV
Lawrence McDade	Administrative Judge (Legal)	ASLBP
Raymond Mullikin	Consultant	R-IV
Kha Nguyen	IT Specialist	OCIO
Michael Reichard	Health Physicist	R-I
John P. Reynoso	Reactor Inspector	R-IV
Dereje B. Tessema	Sr. Project Manager	OCIO
Departures		
Zvi Band	Student IT Trainee	RES
Jeffrey Hardy	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRR
Crystal Johnson	Secretary (OA)	NMSS
Adam Kalkman	Student Clerk	R-III
Amanda M. Nerret	Student Administrative Clerk	NSIR
Jeffrey E. Seifried	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	NMSS
Meghan Ann Slattery	Student Clerk	NSIR

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Media Interest

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

The President's recess appointment of two new NRC Commissioners.

NRC's review of Vermont Yankee's uprate request.

Security at nuclear power plants.

A scheduled Atomic Safety Licensing Board hearing on a proposed uranium enrichment plant in New Mexico.

Other OPA Items:

OPA staff assisted at a public meeting in Piketon, Ohio, regarding a proposed centrifuge plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-011	NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Elects New Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member-at-Large (1/19)
05-012	NRC Cancels Public Meeting Scheduled for Jan. 19 in Mineral, Va., Due to Local Weather Conditions (1/19)
05-013	NRC Commissioner Jaczko Takes Oath of Office; Commissioner Lyons Swearing-In Set for Next Week (1/21)
Regions:	
IV-05-003	NRC to Meet with Nebraska Public Power District to Discuss Performance Improvement Actions at Cooper Nuclear Station (1/19)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-04-0233	1/18/05	Proposed Rulemaking–Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions (RIN 3150 AH-54)
Commission Voting Record on 04-0233	1/18/05	(same)
Information Paper		
1. SECY-05-0018	1/19/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 7, 2005
Memoranda		
1. SRM-M050118	1/18/05	Affirmation Session: (1) SECY-05-0004 - System Energy Resources Inc. (Early Site Permit for Grand Gulf Nuclear Site) Docket No. 52-0009 Appeal by NAACP-Claiborne Co. Mississippi Branch, Nuclear Info. Service, Public Citizen & Mississippi Chapter of Sierra Club from LBP-04-19; (2) SECY-05-0011 - Louisiana Energy Services, L.P. (National Enrichment Facility) DOE “Plausible Strategy for Disposal” – Status of Depleted Uranium as Low-Level Waste
2. SRM-M050119	1/19/05	Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0012 - Proposed Order Resolving Public Citizen’s Request for Hearing on the Commission’s July 2, 2004, Spent Fuel Security Order

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (2/10-12/2005) Meeting Notice.
2. Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities - Final Rule.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

H. B. Robinson - Senior NRC Management Visit

On January 18, 2004, the Regional Administrator visited the H. B. Robinson Nuclear Plant for a site tour with the resident inspectors and met with licensee management. Later on the same day, the Regional Administrator attended an Operator Licensing Certificate Presentation ceremony for the recently qualified plant operators.

Georgia Institute of Technology Students Visit to Region II Offices

On January 20, 2005, representatives from the Georgia Institute of Technology Student Chapter of the American Nuclear Society visited the Region II Office and met with Region II staff to learn about the NRC and to explore employment opportunities.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 21, 2005

South Texas Project (STP) Meeting

On January 18, 2005, the Region IV Director, Division of Reactor Safety, and other members of the Region IV staff, held a meeting with STP Nuclear Operating Company representatives to discuss implementation of a risk-informed technical specification initiative. The meeting was open to attendance by members of the general public.

January 21, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending January 21, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 3</u>					
OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	01/26/05 SD-366	9:30	Markup	Vote on Nomination of Samuel W. Bodman for Secretary of Energy	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	01/26/05 SD-342	10:00	DHS	Outlook for Department of Homeland Security	Senators Collins/Lieberman Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Shane/ Keeling	Tentative for March	TBD	Chairman Diaz, DOE, Utility CEO, Union rep.	DOE's NP 2010 Program	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources

January 21, 2005

ENCLOSURE R