

INFORMATION REPORT

July 5, 2005

SECY-05-0116

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO **/RA/**
Subject: SECY-05-0116 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JUNE 24, 2005"

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*No input this week.

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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Contact:
T. Kim, OEDO

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T. Kim:jva

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JUNE 24, 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 (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Annual Nuclear Utilities Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC)/Vendors Meeting

On June 14-16, 2005, NRR staff attended the subject meeting held in Omaha, Nebraska. During the meeting, the staff presented issues identified in recent vendor audits concerning commercial grade item dedication, status of the staff's safety evaluation report on commercial grade calibration services provided by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, and its observations of NUPIC's audit of Enertech. The staff also participated in a question and answer session on topics related to NRC rules and regulations regarding procurement of safety-related and commercial grade components and services. Approximately 180 vendors and utility representatives, including several international utilities, attended the meeting.

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)-Sponsored Maintenance Rule Users Group Meeting

On June 15, 2005, NRR staff attended the subject meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio. The staff's presentation during the meeting included the risk-informed Technical Specification initiatives, 10 CFR 50.65(a)(4) risk assessments, 10 CFR 50.59 evaluations, maintenance-preventable functional failures, structural condition monitoring, structures, systems, and components in 10 CFR 50.65(a)(1) as a Performance Indicator, and the status of the Mitigating System Performance Index implementation. Recent revisions to inspection program guidance were also discussed. An extensive question and answer session on current industry maintenance rule issues and recent maintenance rule enforcement followed the presentation.

NRC Information Notice (IN) 2005-16: "Outage Planning and Scheduling - Impacts on Risk"

On June 20, 2005, NRC issued the subject IN to inform all commercial power reactor licensees on the importance of managing shutdown risk during a plant outage. The IN provides four recent examples of refueling outage events that led to a loss of shutdown cooling or other potentially significant events. The IN requires no specific action nor written response; however, licensees are expected to review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider taking actions, as appropriate.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)-Sponsored Workshop on Mitigating System Performance Index (MSPI) Performance Indicator Implementation

On June 21-22, 2005, NRR staff attended the subject workshop. The workshop was widely attended with approximately 190 participants representing the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), NEI, the Owners Groups, and nuclear power plant licensees. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the industry participants to the data requirements needs of the MSPI, provide an opportunity to exercise the Consolidated Data Entry program which is available for trial use, and to discuss the results of the industry's cross-comparison of plant probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) data to address, in part, MSPI PRA quality requirements. The MSPI is a more risk-informed performance indicator that addresses many of the concerns with the current Safety System Unavailability performance indicator used as part of the Agency's Reactor Oversight Process.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE A

North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC)'s Operating and Planning Meeting

On June 7-10, 2005, staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and NRR participated in the subject meeting held in Montreal, Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on improving grid reliability standards and operating procedures in response to the August 14, 2003, blackout event in the US Northeast and Midwest. The NERC Standards Authorization Committee has authorized the development of a new standard for nuclear plant offsite power reliability. New standards that are under development and improvements on the existing NERC procedures are being approved in a balloted process to reach consensus. To date, 91 standards on reliability have been approved. Regional councils adopt NERC standards as mandatory for transmission system operators. NRR plans to continue its participation in these meetings to ensure that the development of NERC procedures reflect NRC regulatory perspective for reliable offsite power to nuclear stations.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Louisiana Energy Services' National Enrichment Facility - Issuance of Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

On June 15, 2005, NMSS staff issued the subject SER (NUREG-1827) and FEIS (NUREG-1790) for the proposed National Enrichment Facility (NEF) to be constructed and operated by Louisiana Energy Services (LES). NEF is a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Lea County, New Mexico. The SER provides the staff's conclusion that LES has adequate safety programs to construct and operate the proposed facility. The FEIS provides the staff's analysis of potential environmental impacts from the proposed NEF. In preparing the final EIS, the staff addressed nearly 4200 comments received from approximately 400 individuals and groups on the draft Environmental Impact Statement that was issued on September 17, 2004. Currently, the staff is in the process of responding to a petition filed by Nuclear Information and Resource Service and Public Citizen requesting the Commission review of the recent Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) decision on environmental contentions. The ASLB is planning to hold a separate hearing in October - November 2005 on the contentions related to the safety review.

Quarterly Management Meeting with USEC Inc.

On June 17, 2005, management and staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) met with USEC Inc., (USEC) to discuss the status and schedule of the NRC staff's ongoing safety, safeguards, and environmental reviews of USEC's license application dated August 23, 2004, for the proposed American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) to be constructed in Piketon, Ohio. This was the third quarterly management meeting between NRC and USEC. NRC staff stated that, because of the unavailability of the non-sensitive portions of the ACP application for about 2 months in late 2004, compounded by USEC's delay in submitting some of its responses to the staff's requests for additional information, the staff's schedule to prepare its draft and final environmental impact statements had slipped by about 2 months, to September 2005 and April 2006, respectively. NRC staff also stated that it would be restoring the "screened" information concerning the ACP application based on results of the NRC's Sensitive Information Screening Project.

Meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Radiation and Indoor Air

On June 21, 2005, NMSS staff and a representative from OGC met with EPA representatives of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air and the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information about EPA's rule for removal of uranium from drinking water and considerations related to NRC's responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act and 10 CFR Part 40. Attendees also discussed the status of EPA's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for disposal of low-activity radioactive material at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act landfills. EPA representatives offered to provide any information relative to water treatment facilities impacted by the EPA rule and any background technical information. With respect to further work on the ANPR, EPA representatives reported

that no new progress had been made other than continued work on the supporting technical documents, due to the higher priority work on high-level waste rule. NRC committed to keep EPA staff informed of NRC activities related to the EPA water treatment rule.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Agreement on the OECD-ROSA Project

On June 16, 2005, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations signed the multilateral international Agreement regarding NRC's participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Nuclear Energy Agency's (NEA's) new ROSA Project. Eleven additional organizations in eleven countries will participate in this research project.

This project will provide experimental data that will enhance NRC's knowledge base of thermal-hydraulic safety issues for light water reactors in areas such as: 1) thermal stratification during emergency core cooling system injection; 2) natural circulation with superheated steam; and 3) primary cooling through secondary depressurization. The project will provide integral and separate effects experimental data which will be used to validate NRC's TRACE code predictive capability and accuracy. The TRACE code is used by the staff to make risk-informed regulatory decisions and to perform independent assessments of reactor safety issues under postulated transients in licensing reviews.

Letter of Agreement Between NRC and OECD/NEA Relating to the Piping Failure Data Exchange (OPDE) Project

On June 16, 2005, the Executive Director for Operations signed the subject Letter of Agreement which defines the terms and conditions by which NRC and OECD/NEA will continue to cooperate in the exchange of international nuclear power plant piping event data on the basis of mutual benefit and reasonable equity and reciprocity. Participation in the project gives the NRC access to proprietary foreign data that would not otherwise be available. These data augment the NRC's piping failure information with foreign experience, and enable the NRC to compare domestic operating experience with that of other countries to glean insights for use in quantitative risk studies, development of piping failure frequency estimates, and risk-informed inspections. This Agreement became effective upon signature and will remain in effect for 3 years.

Joint Public NRC/EPRI Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Workshop

On June 14-16, 2005, RES staff, in conjunction with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), held a public workshop on draft NUREG/CR-6850, "EPRI/NRC-RES Fire PRA Methodology for Nuclear Power Facilities." NUREG/CR-6850 supports implementation of the risk-informed, performance-based rule (10 CFR Part 50.48(c)), as well as other risk-informed fire protection activities such as the fire protection Significance Determination Process. Approximately 90 people attended this workshop. Based on the level of technical discussions held during the workshop and stakeholder interest in this research, the staff is tentatively planning to hold a second fire PRA workshop in 2006. Additionally, the staff has completed an evaluation of comments received on draft NUREG/CR-6850 and expects to publish the final NUREG/CR in August 2005.

Issuance of Draft NUREG/CR-6870, "Consideration of Geochemical Issues in Groundwater Restoration at Uranium In-Situ Leach Mining Facilities," for Public Comment

On June 16, 2005, RES issued the subject NUREG/CR for public comment. The U.S. Geological Survey prepared this report in collaboration with the RES staff, and in coordination with staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. After the comment period ends on August 31, 2005, staff will revise the report as appropriate based on comments received and issue it as a final report. The report summarizes the application of a geochemical model to the restoration process to estimate the degree to which a licensee has decontaminated a site where a leach mining process has been used. Toward that end, the report analyzes the respective amounts of water and chemical additives pumped into the mined regions to remove and neutralize the residual contamination using different restoration strategies. On the basis of those analyses, this report also summarizes the conditions under which various restoration strategies will prove successful. This, in turn, will allow more accurate estimates of restoration and decommissioning costs.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Contract Awards

On June 16, 2005, a non-competitive (8a) cost reimbursement contract (No. NRC-04-05-068) was awarded to Advanced Systems Technology and Management, Inc. The contractor will assist in developmental assessment of thermal-hydraulic capabilities of the Transient Reactor Analysis Code/Reactor Excursion and Leak Analysis Program computational code to calculate thermal-hydraulic phenomena simulated in the Boucle de Etudes Thermohydraulique Systeme test facility. The total estimated cost is \$216,964.23 for seven months.

On June 21, 2005, a competitive cost reimbursement contract (No. NRC-07-05-154) was awarded to Athey Consulting, Inc. The contractor will provide qualified personnel to support the enhancement of the technical assessment tools for the NRC's Operations Center. The total estimated cost is \$982,887.00. The period of performance is for five years, a base year plus four 1-year options.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
June 17 through June 23, 2005:

MFG Inc., 1044 Northwest Blvd., Ceour de'Alene, ID, current status	FOIA/PA-2005-0272
Yucca Mt. Review Plan (NUREG-1804, Final Rev. 2) & Reg. Guide 3.69, Topical Guidelines for the licensing support system, correspondence to and from OGC & any legal assistant to the Commissioner	FOIA/PA-2005-0273
IMPAC card holders	FOIA/PA-2005-0274

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Arrivals		
Kenneth Armstrong	Mechanical Engineer (NSPDP)	NMSS
Molly Barkman	Student Law Clerk (Summer)	OGC
Jeffrey A. Borowitz	Student Engineer (Summer)	NMSS
Steven P. Burris	Resident Inspector - NFS	R-II
David Curtis	IT Specialist (SYSANALYSIS)	OIS
Peter Eselgroth	Consultant	EDO
William Holland	Consultant	EDO
Ruth C. Morrison	Secretary (OA)	R-II
Dat T. Nguyen	Student Engineer (Summer)	NRR
Timothy Hennessey	IT Specialist (NSPDP)	R-I
Rolonda Jackson	Secretary (OA)	NMSS
William Johnson	Consultant	EDO
Timothy Pruett	IT Specialist (INET)	OIS
Mohammad Saba	Health Physicist	NMSS
Margaret Sewell	Secretary (OA)	NSIR
Valerie M. Whipple	Sr. Contract Specialist	ADM
Robert K. Wild	Sr. Management Analyst	OIG
Departures		
Jose Arroyo-Rivera	Project Engineer	NRR
Jean Simons	Attorney	OGC

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

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

The decision to issue a notice of violation for Vermont Yankee's misplaced fuel.

The Commission decision on the proposed Private Fuel Storage facility in Utah.

New York Congresswoman Nita Lowey's proposed legislation on license renewal.

President Bush's speech on energy policy at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA supported an interview with Chairman Diaz for Voice of America.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-094	NRC Completes Restoration of Additional Documents to Public Access via its On-Line Library (6/20)
05-095	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet July 6-8 in Rockville, Maryland (6/22)
Regions:	
I-05-035	NRC Issues Notice of Violation for Misplaced Vermont Yankee Spent Fuel Pieces (6/22)
I-05-036	NRC, Virginia Company to Discuss Results of Inspection
I-05-037	New Resident Inspector Named at Indian Point 3
I-05-038	NRC Terminates License for Pennsylvania Irradiator
II-05-030	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting with Progress Energy June 24 to Discuss Initial Brunswick Plant License Renewal Application (6/21)
III-05-032	NRC Seeks Public Input on Monticello Nuclear Plant Environmental Issues for License Renewal (6/22)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 24, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM-SECY-05-0097	6/24/05	Options for Permitting Visitors of Hospitalized Patients to Receive Doses in Excess of Currently Permitted Levels
Commission Voting Record on 05-0097	6/24/05	(same)
Information Paper		
1. SECY-05-0108	6/22/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 10, 2005
Memoranda		
M050620	6/20/05	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0076 - Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; II. SECY-05-0079 - U.S. Army (Jefferson Proving Ground Site) (Possession-only License for Depleted Uranium Munitions); III. SECY-05-0088 - Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2), Commission Sua Sponte Review of the Licensing Board's March 10, 2005 Final Decision on Security Contention
M050602A	6/21/05	Briefing on Office of International Programs (OIP) Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress, dated June 7, 2005, provides response to the recommendations made by the GAO in its report entitled "Nuclear Regulatory Commission - NRC Needs to Do More to Ensure That Power Plants Are Effectively Controlling Spent Nuclear Fuel" (GAO-05-339).

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE O

2. Letter to Congressman Mark Udall, dated June 9, 2005, responds to letter expressing concerns about an application by Clean Harbors Deer Trail for disposal of radioactive materials in Colorado.
3. Letter to Matt Blunt, Governor of Missouri, dated June 19, 2005, request State to appoint a single person to act as liaison to the NRC for the purpose of Federal/State cooperation.
4. Letter to The President and Congress, dated June 19, 2005, concerning the Presidential appointment reduction plan.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. DOE/NNSA - Y12 Application for a License to Export High-Enriched Uranium.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels, notice of meeting (7/27-28/05).
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, notice of meeting (7/20-21/05).

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Vehicle And Cargo Inspection System (VACIS)

On June 21, 2005, staff members from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and Region I visited the Port of Baltimore to observe a Vehicle And Cargo Inspection System (VACIS) operated by the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection. The VACIS system uses a cobalt-60 source to produce "X-ray like" pictures of the contents of cargo containers and is becoming more widely used by Customs, the military and other organizations. NRC personnel discussed the operation of the equipment and the radiation safety procedures used by the Customs Officers.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Meeting with Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency

On June 20, 2005, the Regional Administrator, accompanied by the Regional State Liaison Officer, met with the Acting Regional Director, Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV, in Atlanta to discuss matters of mutual interest.

BWX Technologies - License Performance Review Meeting

On June 23, 2005, the Regional Administrator attended the License Performance Review Meeting for BWX Technologies held in Lynchburg, VA.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Westinghouse

On June 22, 2005, Region III management held a predecisional enforcement conference with representatives of Westinghouse Electric Company to discuss apparent violations of NRC criticality safety requirements at the company's former fuel fabrication facility in Hematite, Missouri.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending June 24, 2005

Waterford - Completion of On-site Portion of Special Inspection

On June 24, 2005, the on-site portion of a special inspection was completed at the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant in Louisiana. The inspection reviewed the circumstances regarding an event that occurred on April 19, 2005, while draining the reactor coolant system to a reduced inventory condition. Inspection findings will be documented in an inspection report.

June 24, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending June 24, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 25

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	June 28 SD-562	10:00	DoD, GAO, & OPM	Security Clearance Process Overhaul	Senators Voinovich/Akaka Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Combs	June 28 2128 RHOB	10:00	D. Albright, Institute for Science and International Security R. Gottmoeller, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	Pathways to the Bomb: Security of Fissile Materials Abroad	Reps Linder/Langevin Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack Homeland Security
Combs	June 29 2247 RHOB	10:00	J. Hevesi, U.S. Geological Survey W. J. Arthur, Yucca Mountain Project	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 25

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	June 29 2203 RHOB	2:00	R. Johnson, Department of Energy D. Baldwin, General Atomics R. Rowntree, University of California, Berkeley D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists	The Next Generation of Nuclear Power	Reps Issa/Watson Energy and Resources Government Reform
Combs	TBA SD-366	TBA	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources