

March 27, 2008

INFORMATION REPORT

SECY-08-0040

For: The Commissioners
From: Vonna L. Ordaz, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
MARCH 21, 2008

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*No input this week.

/RA Tamara E. Bloomer For/

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Oconee Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Review

During March 17-21, 2008, the Division of Risk Assessment staff conducted a review of the Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) fire PRA model to support implementation of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard - 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants," as allowed under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 50.48(c). ONS is participating as an NFPA-805 pilot. This review will allow the staff to assess the technical adequacy of the base ONS fire PRA model, and will support NRC review of ONS's anticipated license amendment request to transition the ONS fire protection program to one based on NFPA-805.

Safety Evaluation for Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant License

On March 18, 2008, the staff issued the Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items related to the license renewal of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. By application dated November 16, 2006, Carolina Power and Light doing business as Progress Carolina, Inc., submitted a request, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54, to renew the operating license for an additional 20 years.

PPL Susquehanna (PPL) Meeting Regarding Extended Power Uprate License Conditions

On March 18, 2008, a Category 1 public meeting was held with PPL representatives to discuss plans for complying with the extended power uprate steam dryer License Conditions for Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. The licensee provided details regarding the new steam dryer design features, locations and types of instrumentation to be used, additional analyses needed to reflect the new dryer as-built configuration, and the format and logistics for data submission during the power ascension phase. The licensee also discussed an ongoing steam dryer modification to correct the interference issue they recently encountered with the new steam dryer.

Digital Instrumentation & Controls (I&C) Meeting

On March 19, 2008, the Digital I&C Task Working Group #5, "Highly Integrated Control Rooms - Human Factors," and industry representatives met in a public meeting at Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Topics discussed included: (1) Revision C of the industry white paper titled, "A Methodology to Determine the Acceptability of Manual Operator Actions in Response to a BTP [Branch Technical Position] 7-19 Common Cause Failure;" (2) Computerized Procedures; and (3) Minimum Inventory. Of particular interest is industry's proposal for the use of unique prompting alarms to indicate a Common Cause Failure. Further discussions with industry will take place during the next public meeting tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2008.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Monthly Meeting

On March 19, 2008, the Division of Inspection and Regional Support staff held the monthly ROP public meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to allow discussion on staff initiatives and provide a forum for industry feedback. Meeting attendees discussed mitigating systems performance index implementation, safety culture integration into the ROP, performance indicator issues including potential changes to Nuclear Energy Institute 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guidance," and open and new frequently asked questions for the ROP.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of New Reactors (NRO)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

South Texas Project (STP) Alternative Site Visit

During the week of March 3, 2008, the staff conducted an alternative site visit for STP. The alternative sites reviewed by the staff were: Allens Creek, Limestone, and Malakoff, Texas.

AREVA Vendor Inspection

Between March 10 and March 14, 2008, the staff conducted an inspection at the AREVA-NP GmbH facilities located in Erlangen, Germany. The purpose of the inspection was to verify the implementation of the vendor's design control processes for Digital Instrumentation & Controls (I&C) systems, with primary focus on the NRC-approved TELEPERM XS Digital I&C platform and newly developed software validation tools. The inspection team also verified the implementation of aspects of the vendor's quality assurance program and reporting program consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B and 10 CFR Part 21, respectively. During the inspection, the team identified a number of potential non-conformances. AREVA-NP GmbH initiated non-conformance reports associated with the teams preliminary findings, and identified measures to address these concerns prior to the completion of the NRC inspection.

Receipt of Calvert Cliffs Part 2 Combined License Application

On March 17, 2008, UniStar Nuclear Energy, Inc. submitted Part 2 of its application for a combined construction permit and operating license (COL). The first part of the COL application was submitted on July 13, 2007, and accepted for docketing by the staff on January 25, 2008. The COL application designates the new unit as Calvert Cliffs Unit 3 and the application incorporates by reference the design certification application for the Evolutionary Power Reactor submitted to NRC on December 11, 2007.

Delay in Issuance of Review Schedule for Lee Combined License Application

By letter dated March 17, 2008, Duke Energy requested a deferral in the staff's plan for issuing its review schedule for the William States Lee III combined license application. Duke's request of this deferral was based on the discussions that occurred at the March 19, 2008, public meeting between Duke and the staff regarding scheduling issues. The applicant's request will allow sufficient time to reflect the staff's full consideration of the information provided by Duke during the public meeting. Based on Duke's request, the staff will publish its review schedule for the Lee COL application by April 2, 2008.

Meeting with U.S. Navy – Naval Seal Systems Command (NAVSEA) Regarding Valve-Regulated Lead Acid (VRLA) Battery Technology Research

On March 19, 2008, NRO staff, along with their counterparts from the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Regulatory Research, attended a meeting with battery experts at NAVSEA facilities in Washington, DC. NAVSEA offered a presentation of their VRLA battery technology research and operating experience. This type of battery is being proposed as a DC onsite power source in the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor design from General Electric, and NRC licensees have no operating experience available for NRC to assess their performance and life expectancy. This meeting also opened the channels of communication between the NRC and NAVSEA.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Final Report Issued by Independent External Review Panel

On March 11, 2008, the Independent External Review Panel, chartered through the U.S. Government Accountability Office Action Plan issued its final report to the Commission. The report identifies vulnerabilities concerning the NRC's materials licensing and tracking programs. The final report was made publicly available on March 18, 2008, when it was discussed in a public Commission meeting. A draft of this report had been made available for public comment in February.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

RES Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 3032 (DG-3032) "Design, Construction, and Inspection of Embankment Retention Systems at Uranium Recovery Facilities"

On March 18, 2008, the subject draft regulatory guide was issued. The draft guide describes engineering practices and methods generally considered by the NRC to be satisfactory for the design, construction, and inspection of the embankment retention systems used for retaining liquid and solid wastes from uranium recovery operations. This draft guide also updates and combines the guidance currently found in Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 3.11, "Design, Construction, and Inspection of Embankment Retention Systems for Uranium Mills," and Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 3.11.1, "Operational Inspection and Surveillance of Embankment Retention Systems for Uranium Mill Tailings." DG-5015 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/fuels-materials/draft-index.html>.

Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) and RES Technical Exchange in the Field of Materials Research

On March 18, 2008, RES staff met with representatives of the JNES to discuss areas related to materials research including cable degradation, irradiation-assisted stress corrosion cracking, stress-corrosion cracking in nickel base alloys, nondestructive inspection of nickel alloy welded joints, nondestructive inspection for shroud integrity assessment, residual stress improvement of the piping system methods, and fracture mechanics techniques in primary pressure boundary components. Future meetings will discuss cooperative research into these areas, and additional information exchanges.

Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Proposed Bellefonte New Reactor Site

On March 11, 2008, NRC staff supported a site visit by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) staff at the proposed Bellefonte new reactor site. The security visit was in support of DHS' consultation activities as authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Meeting to Discuss Federal Firearms Disabilities

On March 14, 2008, NRC staff hosted a Category 2 public meeting to discuss a draft generic communication "Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2088-yy Notice Regarding Federal Firearms Disabilities." Although invited, no members of the public or the media attended the meeting. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) offered to provide written comments on the draft RIS, including alternate text. NEI committed to provide written comments by March 28, 2008, and NRC staff agreed to review and consider NEI's suggestions. The NRC's new target for issuing the RIS is April 30, 2008.

PNO-IV-08-003 – Omaha Public Power District

Fort Calhoun Station Reactor Trip and Shutdown Expected to be Greater than 72 Hours

On March 15, 2008, the unit tripped due to a malfunction of the electro-hydraulic control system that caused a turbine trip, resulting in a reactor trip. During and immediately after the unit trip, the licensee noted several abnormal indications and problems. These included the loss of a reactor coolant pump (RCP) due to failure of its bus to fast-transfer, plant computer indications of control rod position, valve leakage from the chemical and volume control system, abnormal seal pressure indications on the RCPs, and the trip of an emergency diesel generator air compressor due to thermal overload. The licensee has developed a forced outage plan to address these and other maintenance issues. The forced outage is expected to last greater than 72 hours. The plant is stable in Mode 3.

RIS 2008-08

On March 19, 2008, RIS 2008-08, Endorsement of Revision 1 to NEI Guidance Document NEI 06-04, "Conducting a Hostile Action-Base Emergency Response Drill," was issued. The guidance document was developed by industry to ensure consistency in voluntarily conducting a hostile action-based drill scenario at each site as an "off-year" Emergency Preparedness (EP) drill over a 3-year period in support of Information Bulletin 2005-02. Lessons learned from the conduct of hostile action-based drills will be considered by the Federal Emergency management/NRC Joint Exercise Task Force in proposed changes to EP guidance.

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material; Notification of Impending Waiver Termination (AH84-10 CFR Chapter I)

On March 18, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 14376) to provide notice that the Commission has begun a phased termination of the time-limited waiver in accordance with the plan to facilitate the orderly transition of regulatory authority resulting from the expanded definition of byproduct material provided in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Act). The Act provided the Commission with regulatory authority of certain radioactive materials that were previously under State jurisdiction. The second phase of the time-limited waiver terminates on September 30, 2008.

Decommissioning Planning; Extension of Comment Period (AH45 – Parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72)

On March 20, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 14946) that extends the comment period for a proposed rule that would amend its regulations to improve decommissioning planning. The proposed amendments are intended to reduce the possibility that any current operating facility would become a legacy site. The proposed amendments would require licensees to conduct their operations in a manner that minimizes the introduction of residual radioactivity into the site, including subsurface soil and groundwater. The comment period for this action now closes May 8, 2008.

New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-51-1)

On March 20, 2008, the NRC published a document in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 14946) that denied a petition for rulemaking submitted by the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (PRM-51-1). The petitioner requested that the NRC revise the value for radon-222 in the Table of Uranium Fuel Cycle Environmental Data (Table S-3 of 10 CFR Part 51). The petition is denied because the NRC made a generic determination that the radiological impacts of the uranium fuel cycle, including those from radon-222 emissions, will remain at or below the Commission's regulatory limits.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 14, 2008 through March 20, 2008:

NRC's Environmental Compliance Management Plan per Executive Order 13423	FOIA/PA-2008-0149
Congressional testimony before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, specific documents dated April 26, 1988, May 25, 1988, and August 3, 1988	FOIA/PA-2008-0150

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the following:

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards letter to the Commission supporting extension of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant and Fitzpatrick nuclear power plant licenses

Entergy-sponsored "Independent Safety Evaluation" at the Indian Point nuclear power plant

Resolution of the dissimilar metal weld issue for eight nuclear plants

Uranium and mining issues

Fitness for Duty Rule

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA Region III did an interview on how the Karmanos Cancer Institute incorrectly treated a patient who was undergoing a gamma knife procedure. NRC corrected Karmanos mischaracterization of NRC's report on the issue in a previous news story.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
08-058	NRC Affirms Final Rule Amending Designation and Handling of Safeguards Information (3/17)
08-059	Independent External Review Panel Recommends Changes to NRC's Materials Licensing Process (3/18)
08-060	NRC Meeting with Public May 1 on Environmental Scoping for Lee New Reactor Application (3/20)
08-061	NRC Meeting with Public April 16 on Environmental Scoping for North Anna New Reactor Application (3/20)
08-062	NRC Endorses Industry Revised Guidance on Conducting Hostile Action-Based Emergency Drills (3/20)
Regions:	
I-08-009	New NRC Senior Resident Inspector Assigned to Limerick Nuclear Power Plant (3/18)
I-08-010	NRC to Discuss Annual Assessment for Ginna Nuclear Power Plant at Public Meeting Scheduled for March 25 in Ontario, New York (3/19)
I-08-011	NRC to Discuss Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant Annual Assessment at Public Meeting Scheduled for March 25 in Midland, Pennsylvania (3/20)

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I-08-012	NRC to Discuss Seabrook Nuclear Plant Annual Assessment at Public Meeting Scheduled for March 25 in Seabrook, New Hampshire (3/21)
I-08-013	NRC to Discuss Pilgrim Nuclear Plant Annual Assessment at Public Meeting Scheduled for March 26 in Plymouth, Massachusetts (3/21)
II-08-009	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance of North Anna Nuclear Power Station (3/19)
II-08-010	NRC Schedules Public Meeting on April 2 in Erwin to Discuss Environmental Impact of Uranium Disposal Program (3/21)
III-08-005	NRC to Discuss 2007 Performance Assessment for Monticello Nuclear Power Plant (3/21)
IV-08-009	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Arizona Public Service Company on Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (3/17)

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Office of the Secretary (SECY)
 Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-08-0006	02/08/08	Draft Press Release and <i>Federal Register</i> Notice to Solicit Qualified Candidates for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)
SRM-COMSECY-08-0006	03/13/08	(same)
Voting Record COMSECY-08-0006	03/13/08	(same)
2. SECY-07-0131	08/07/07	Final Rule – 10 CFR Part 73 “Safeguards Information Protection Requirements” (RIN 3150-AH57)
Voting Record SECY-07-0131	03/17/08	(same)
3. SECY-08-0029	03/04/08	State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequence Analyses – Reporting Offsite Health Consequences
4. SECY-08-0033	03/06/08	Approaches for an Integrated Digital Instrumentation and Control and Human-Machine Interface Test Facility in the United States
5. SECY-08-0031	03/06/08	Proposed Rule: Expansion of National Source Tracking System (RIN 3150-AI29)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-08-0035	03/17/08	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending March 7, 2008
Memoranda		
1. M080317A	03/17/08	Staff Requirements – Affirmation Session: I. SECY-07-0131 – Final Rule – 10 CFR Part 73 “Safeguards Information Protection Requirements” (RIN 3150-AH57); II. SECY-07-0219 – Pa’ina Hawaii, LLC (Materials License Application)

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, L.L.C., and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Vermont Yankee), Notice of Reconstitution.
2. Proposed rule, Decommissioning Planning; Extension of Comment Period, 10 CFR Parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 70 and 72, RIN 3150-AH45 (NRC-2008-0030).
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes, Renewal Notice.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Request for Resumes, NRC Seeks Qualified Candidates.
5. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Power Upgrades (Hope Creek); Revised, notice of meeting (March 20-21, 2008).
6. ACRS, Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (April 18, 2008).
7. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials, notice of 188th meeting (April 8-10, 2008).
8. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Memorandum and Order, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Early Site Permit for Vogtle ESP Site).
9. U.S. Department of Energy (High-Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters, Advisory PAPO Board), Notice of Reconstitution.
10. ACRS, notice of 551st meeting (April 10-12, 2008).

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Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Honeywell Licensee Performance Review Meeting

On March 18-19, 2008, the Acting Regional Administrator, accompanied the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards on site tours of the Honeywell facility in Metropolis, Illinois, and the Paducah facility in Paducah, Kentucky. The staff held a public Licensee Performance Review meeting at Honeywell in the Metropolis Courthouse to discuss Honeywell's recent performance.

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Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 21, 2008

Palo Verde Annual Assessment Meeting

On March 20, 2008, the Regional Administrator and Region IV staff conducted a Category 1 public meeting in Avondale, Arizona, to discuss Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station's safety performance for 2007 and site improvement plan status. Approximately 70 people were in attendance at the meeting. Participants included Arizona Public Service Company officials, a member of the Arizona Corporation Commission, members of the local media, local community leaders, and numerous members of the public.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 8					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Powell	Spring 08 TBD	TBD	House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Representatives Stupak / Whitfield)	Inattentive Guards at Peach Bottom and other Security Related Topics	• TBD

Note: The Senate is in recess until March 31, 2008.
The House is in recess until March 31, 2008.

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