

INFORMATION REPORT

October 5, 2005

SECY-05-0179

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2005"

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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U. Shoop, OEDO

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10/05/05	10/05/05

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

Contact: U. Shoop, OEEO by E-mail: USS@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Operating Committee Meeting

On September 14-15, 2005, the NRR staff met with NERC during the subject meeting in Dallas, TX to continue discussions regarding development of grid reliability standards.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

On September 21, 2005, the staff held a public meeting with NEI and other industry representatives to discuss issues related to inspection, tests, analysis and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) inspections for new reactors licensed under Part 52 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Public Meeting

On September 21, 2005, the staff hosted the monthly MSPI public meeting at NRC Headquarters. Meeting attendees discussed the staff's response to NEI's letter dated July 27, 2005, which provided the industry's proposal for assuring the Probabilistic Risk Assessment technical adequacy needed to implement the MSPI.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Public Meeting

On September 22, 2005, the staff hosted the monthly ROP public meeting at NRC Headquarters. Meeting participants discussed fire protection and other Significance Determination Process issues, status updates on two Performance Indicator (PI) Task Forces, discussion on improvements to other PIs, stakeholder comments on the ROP and cross-cutting issues, Accident Sequence Precursor analysis program revisions, and PI Frequently Asked Questions.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

High-Level Waste Staff Activities at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant

On September 12-14, 2005, Headquarters and Region IV staff visited the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant, near Omaha, NE. At the site, the staff observed tests conducted by the utility to identify spent fuel assemblies with cladding defects and discussed equipment failure experience at the Plant. This visit is part of the staff's preparation to review a license application for the Yucca Mountain Repository.

Quarterly Management Meeting on Proposed High-Level Waste Repository

On September 15, 2005, the staff held the 3rd Quarterly Management Meeting between the Department of Energy (DOE) and NRC at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss programmatic issues and progress related to the Yucca Mountain Project. Members of the public and stakeholders attended the meeting. Meeting topics included updates on NRC's program, DOE's program, and DOE's quality assurance program.

Public Meeting on National Source Tracking

On September 20, 2005, the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety held a public meeting on the proposed rule associated with the National Source Tracking in Houston, TX. This was the second of two public meetings on the proposed rule. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, with 8 individuals providing comments on the rule. A number of positive comments were received, with individuals focusing on specific aspects of the rule or responding to specific questions raised in the *Federal Register* notice. The issues that captured the most interest were: (1) whether to require reporting of transfers of sources between temporary job sites, and (2) whether to include Category 3 sources in the tracking system.

Dairyland Power Cooperative - La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor Pressure Vessel

On September 20, 2005, representatives from Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) and Duratek, Inc., presented a plan to NRC staff which outlined proposed transportation methods for the disposal of the LaCrosse Reactor Pressure Vessel. The current plan calls for grouting the vessel, placing it in a package, and transporting it to Barnwell, SC, for disposal.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

International Nuclear Graphite Specialists Meeting (INGSM-6)

From September 18 to 24, 2005, staff participated in the subject meeting and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section III Graphite Core Components Codes and Standards Meeting. Information gained from the meetings will support reviews of advanced gas cooled graphite reactor designs.

Meeting on the Risk-Informed In-Service Inspection (ISI) Methodologies (RISMET) Project

From September 22 to 23, staff participated in a planning meeting for the RISMET project. Objectives of the project are to compare RISMET with traditional ISI programs to achieve optimization of various factors including risk, ALARA, and financial resources.

Testing on Chemical Effects Head Loss

The staff initiated confirmatory head loss testing at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) to determine if chemical reaction products that may form in a pressurized water reactor (PWR) containment sump pool after a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) can cause sump screen clogging. Two tests have been conducted to measure the head loss across a fibrous debris bed on a sump screen and demonstrated that the debris bed created a significant pressure drop. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation issued Information Notice 2005-26 on the test results, available in ADAMS ML052590327. A public meeting will be held on September 30, 2005, to discuss the result implications for PWR containment sump emergency core cooling recirculation.

Publication of NUREG/CR-6850, "EPRI/NRC-RES Fire PRA Methodology for Nuclear Power Facilities"

The staff and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) jointly published the subject report. The report is available on the NRC website. This report provides data, documents state of the art methods and tools, and serves as a handbook for performing fire PRA for a nuclear power plant. These methods have been used to revise the fire protection Significance Determination Process and currently support the development of the ANS fire risk standard, and the implementation of the Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection Rule endorsing National Fire Protection Association 805, "Performance - Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants."

Office of Administration (ADM)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Direct File Rule Amending the List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks

On September 20, 2005, the NRC published a direct final rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 55023) that amends the NUHOMS -32PT, -24PHB, and -24PTH entry in the list of approved spent fuel storage casks (Amendment 8) (AH77 - Part 72). The rule modifies the cask design to add a new spent fuel storage and transfer system. The direct final rule becomes effective December 5, 2005.

Confirmation of Effective Date (AH75- Part 72) for a Direct Final Rule

On September 22, 2005, the NRC published a document in the Federal Register (70 FR 55513) confirming the effective date of October 11, 2005, for a direct final rule that added Amendment 4 to the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) Number 1015. The amendment to the NAC International Universal Multipurpose System (NAC-UMS) CoC modifies the cask design by replacing the specific term "zircaloy" with the term "zircaloy alloy", revises other definitions, adds an alternate site-specific design basis earthquake analysis, and incorporates editorial and administrative changes.

Contract Awards

On September 14, 2005, a competitive contract was awarded to Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC for furnishing qualified personnel, materials, and services to develop, present, and maintain the "Pressurized Water Reactor Maintenance Training Overview Course" for NRC. The period of performance is for 5 years, from September 14, 2005, to September 13, 2010. The estimated cost of the contract is \$342,884.

On September 16, 2005, a competitive fixed price contract was awarded to Scientech, Inc. The Contractor will perform an assessment of NRC's Probabilistic Risk Assessment Program for regulating commercial nuclear power plants. The total estimated cost is \$200,972.00. The period of performance is from September 14, 2005, to March 3, 2006.

On September 19, 2005, a non-competitive (8a) cost reimbursement contract no. NRC-04-05-092, was awarded to Advanced Systems Technology and Management, Inc. The Contractor will assess the TRAC/RELAP Advanced Computational Engine (TRACE) code against test data which represent Boiling Water Reactor thermal-hydraulic phenomena. The total estimated cost is \$350,072.02. The period of performance is from September 19, 2005, to September 18, 2007.

On September 19, 2005, a competitive task order was awarded to Information Systems Laboratories, Inc., under the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule for technical support services entitled "Verification and Validation Test Suite for the TRACE Code." The estimated cost of this delivery order is \$99,667.00. The period of performance is from September 19, 2005, to December 31, 2005.

Office of Information Services (OIS)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of
September 16 through September 22, 2005:

Rohm & Haas Co. Experimental Farm, 923 Highland Road, Upper Makefield Township, Bucks Co., PA, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0353
Hi-Star Safety Analysis Report, Holtec Reports HI-951251, docket no. 71-9261	FOIA/PA-2005-0354
Organization chart, telephone book, & key personnel by positions and/or offices	FOIA/PA-2005-0355
OI Reports 3-2003-034 & 3-2004-021	FOIA/PA-2005-0356
Geo-Design & Engineering Inc., Chantilly, VA, radioactive materials license application for portable gauge use	FOIA/PA-2005-0357
Global Stone Detroit Lime Co., 125 S. Dix, Detroit, MI, license no. 21-13259-0, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0358
Exhibits & other documentation related to an OI Report	FOIA/PA-2005-0359
St. Lucie safety inspection conducted Dec. 13-17, 1982, report nos. 50-335/82-46 & 50-389/82-75	FOIA/PA-2005-0360
St. Lucie safety inspection conducted Sept. 17-24, 1982, report nos. 50-335/82-33	FOIA/PA-2005-0361

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources (HR)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Arrival		
OESTERLE, ERIC	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
KING, MONIQUE	CONSULTANT	OIG
Departures		
FOGG, JANE E.	SECRETARY (OA)	CSU

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

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

Preparations at nuclear plants in Texas and Louisiana as Hurricane Rita approached.

The discovery of a potential small leak from the Indian Point 2 spent fuel pool.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted at a public meeting in Eureka, California, regarding a special inspection at Humboldt Bay.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
05-131	NRC Raises Security Design Expectations for New Reactor Licensing Activities (9/21)
Regions:	
I-05-049	NRC Performing Special Inspection at Indian Point 2 Nuclear Plant; Small Amount of Leakage from Spent Fuel Pool Area Under Review (9/20)
I-05-050	NRC Seeking Public Comment on Proposed Release of Land from Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (9/21)
IV-05-036	NRC Dispatches Inspectors in Preparation for Hurricane Rita (9/21)

Office of the Secretary (SECY)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-05-0120	7/6/05	Security Design Expectations for New Reactor Licensing Activities
SRM on SECY-05- 0120	9/9/05	(same)
Voting Record on SECY-05-0120	9/9/05	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-05-0138	9/21/05	Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Alternatives to the Single-Failure Criterion
Voting Record on SECY-05-0138	9/21/05	(same)
3. SRM on SECY-05-0156	9/22/05	United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Halden Reactor Project During 2006-2008
Voting Record on SECY-05-0156	9/22/05	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0158	8/31/05	Periodic Assessment of the Activities of the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR)
2. SECY-05-0165	9/16/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 9, 2005

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Jim Saxton, dated September 14, 2005, responds to letter requesting that NRC provide a comprehensive and exhaustive review of the license renewal application for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.
2. Letter to J. B. Beasley, Jr., Southern Nuclear Operating Company, concerns the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site.
3. Letter to Congressman Robert A. Andrews, dated September 13, 2005, responds to letter concerning the Hope Creek Generating Station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, notice of 526th meeting (10/6-8/05).

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE O

Region I (RI)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Lancaster General Hospital

On September 16, 2005, an open predecisional enforcement conference was held with Lancaster General Hospital at the Region I office, to discuss three apparent violations identified during a routine NRC inspection conducted on October 21, 2004. The violations occurred as a result of equipment failure during a Gamma Stereotactic Radiosurgery treatment conducted on September 30, 2003. At the conference, the licensee described its corrective actions, including the intent to send the equipment that failed to the manufacturer for evaluation.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Representatives Visit Salem/Hope Creek Site

On September 23, 2005, representatives of GAO visited the Salem/Hope Creek site for discussions with the Resident Inspectors and the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, as part of an ongoing audit of the Reactor Oversight Program (ROP). The Resident Inspectors explained how they implement the ROP and discussed their involvement in the ROP deviation for heightened oversight of the Salem/Hope Creek site.

Region II (RII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Honeywell Management Meeting

On September 20, 2005, representatives from Honeywell International, Inc., attended a management meeting at the Regional Office to discuss the status of the Honeywell Performance Improvement Plan.

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Region III (RIII)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Participation in D. C. Cook Emergency Preparedness (EP) Exercise

On September 20, 2005, Region III participated in a periodic EP exercise involving the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station in Bridgman, Michigan.

Region III Management Visits to Quad Cities and Duane Arnold facilities

The Deputy Regional Administrator conducted routine site visits to the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant on September 20, 2005, and the Duane Arnold Energy Center on September 21, 2005. The purpose of these management visits include plant tours for first-hand observation of plant conditions and meetings with resident inspectors and licensee management to discuss plant status and recent performance.

Region III Participation in State of Missouri Meeting on Westinghouse Fuel Facility

On September 22, 2005, staff members from RIII, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of the General Counsel participated in a public meeting in Hematite, Missouri, with the State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public about a proposed consent decree between the State of Missouri and Westinghouse regarding the remedial investigation and contamination removal activities involving materials under state jurisdiction at the Westinghouse Hematite fuel processing facility. The facility is in decommissioning status.

Proposed Civil Penalty Against St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Indiana

On September 23, 2005, Region III issued a Notice of Violation and Proposed \$19,200 Civil Penalty to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Indiana, for violations associated with five instances of patients receiving unintended radiation exposure to the legs during radiation therapy for cervical cancer in 2004.

Region IV (RIV)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station Management Change

On September 22, 2005, Arizona Public Service (APS) announced that Mr. Gregg Overbeck, Senior Vice President Nuclear, at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station will retire effective immediately. Mr. Jim Levine, Executive Vice President, APS Generation, will fill the Senior Vice President Nuclear position while retaining his current responsibilities.

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 23, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 32					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	09/27/05 SD-342	10:00	OPM, GAO, Commerce, NIST, NTEU and others	Alternative Personnel Systems: Assessing Progress in the Federal Government	Senators Voinovich/Akaka Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce And the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Shane	09/27/05 2247 RHOB	2:00	TBA	H.R. 3276 - Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act, H.R. 3277 - Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act	Reps. Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform
Keeling	09/29/05 SD-419	9:30	Warren Stern, State Dept.	Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage	Senators Lugar/Biden Foreign Relations
Combs	10/06/05 SD-406	9:30	EPA, FEMA, NRC, Fish and Wildlife, GSA, FHA	Hurricane Katrina Disaster	Senators Inhofe/Jeffords Environment and Public Works
Madden	TBA	TBA	Conference	FY 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations	House/Senate Appropriations Committee conferees

September 23, 2005

ENCLOSURE R