

March 7, 1996

For: The Commissioners  
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 1, 1996

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending March 1, 1996

**Maintenance Rule Training for TTD Instructors**

Richard Correia, Chief, Reliability and Maintenance Section, and Wayne Scott, both of the Quality Assurance and Maintenance Branch, DRCH, NRR, presented the branch's 1-day Maintenance Rule training program to Technical Training Division reactor technology instructors and their supervisors at the TTC on February 21, 1996, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The 1-day training program is designed to indoctrinate residents, their supervisors and managers, and others likely to have an involvement with Maintenance Rule issues. The 1-day and 3-day training sessions were to be piloted at the TTC (1) to provide Maintenance Rule training to the TTD instructors, (2) to ensure the quality of non-TTD training by providing feedback to the HQMB instructors on presentation techniques and training aids, and (3) to initiate the integration of Maintenance Rule concepts and information into TTD reactor technology training. The 3-day pilot presentation is scheduled to be given to TTD personnel April 2 - 4, 1996.

**Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2**

On Friday, February 23, 1996, Public Service Electric & Gas publically announced that it was suspending the restart effort on Salem Unit 1 because of the large number of steam generator tubes with pluggable indications. Resources will be shifted toward restart of Salem Unit 2.

The licensee is planning to submit, in April 1996, a Framatome topical report on electro-sleeving. Electro-sleeving of Salem Unit 1 steam generator tubes is one of the options being considered for Salem Unit 1.

PSE&G said it is now developing a work schedule for Salem Unit 2 and is planning to be ready for restart in September 1996, or earlier. It is also planning to pull six steam generator tubes from Salem 2 to assure that the Salem Unit 2 tubes will not suffer the same degradation as have the Salem Unit 1 tubes.

On March 5, 1996, there will be a meeting with PSE&G at White Flint to discuss the results of the steam generator inspections at Salem.

**Millstone Unit No. 2**

On February 20, 1996, Millstone 2 shut down as a result of a determination that the HPSI system was inoperable because of potential clogging of the HPSI throttle valves. The openings in the valves were smaller than the openings in the screen that protected the valves from clogging of debris in the containment sump. This would be a concern during the recirculation phase of the HPSI during a LOCA. The licensee is evaluating the issue and has decided to extend the shutdown to approximately 35 days to correct the problem and perform some 18-month surveillances that were originally planned for a mid-cycle shutdown in April. The licensee also has assembled a task force to review the design basis of a sample of safety systems. If such review shows problems in configuration control and other areas, the licensee

will extend the scope of the review to include other systems. The review would be performed during this shutdown.

#### **Watts Bar Unit 1**

The unit has remained shut down (Mode 4) since it was manually tripped on February 19, 1996, due to the inability of the condensate hot well level control system to maintain normal level (see PNO-II-96-009). During the recovery from that event, the turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pump transferred its suction from the condensate storage tank (preferred source) to the emergency raw cooling water system (alternate source). The transfer was caused by spurious operation of the pressure switches in the suction line.

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

#### **Meeting on Coordination of U.S. Support Activities for International Atomic Energy Agency Environmental Monitoring for Safeguards**

On February 27, 1996, staff of the Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch participated in an interagency review of on-going U.S. efforts to assist the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in developing an Environmental Monitoring (EM) program to detect undeclared nuclear activities in nuclear programs around the world. The development of an IAEA EM program has included a series of field trials (recently concluded) to verify the capabilities of EM technology. An IAEA consultants meeting was held in December 1995 to assess the results of the field trials and to make recommendations on routine use of EM. These recommendations were discussed at the interagency meeting, as well as the status of the IAEA clean room, lessons learned and future plans for the IAEA Network of Analytical Laboratories, and a proposed study for evaluating the use of EM over large areas, referred to as wide-area monitoring.

#### **Meeting with Petrotonics Company on Shirley Basin, Wyoming, Uranium Mill Site**

On February 22, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management/Uranium Recovery Branch met with representatives of the Petrotonics Company (Petrotonics). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Petrotonics' schedule for completion of various activities and associated license amendment requests for the Shirley Basin, Wyoming, uranium mill tailings site. The schedule is based on license conditions that require Petrotonics to meet an October 1997 date for completion of a final radon barrier, a December 2003 date for completion of erosion protection, and a December 2002 date for completion of groundwater corrective action. Petrotonics indicated its commitment to provide expedited response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's requests for additional information in support of various amendment requests. Petrotonics will present its prioritized schedule of activities to NRC in March 1996.

#### **Atlantic Richfield Company Bluewater Mill Groundwater Alternate Concentration Limits Approved**

On February 22, 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued Amendment 30 to Materials License SUA-1470 approving groundwater Alternate Concentration Limits (ACLs) for the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) Bluewater Uranium Mill and Tailings Site near Grants, New Mexico. This was the first approval of an ACL petition by the NRC staff, and approval was based on the Staff Technical Position, "Alternate Concentration Limits for Title II Uranium Mills," recently approved by the Commission. Since the groundwater at the Bluewater site currently meets the three ACLs established for Selenium, Molybdenum, and Uranium, no further corrective action will be required of ARCO at this time.

ARCO has virtually completed surface reclamation at the Bluewater site, and is preparing a Construction Completion Report for submittal to NRC. The NRC staff is currently reviewing a draft Long Term Surveillance Plan for custodial care of the site, submitted by the Department of Energy (DOE **EXIT**). The Uranium Recovery Branch expects to approve license termination and transfer of the site to DOE during this fiscal year.

#### **Staff Visits Molycorp, Washington, Pennsylvania, Site Decommissioning Management Plan Site**

On February 23, 1996, the Division of Waste Management staff visited Molycorp's Washington, Pennsylvania, Site Decommissioning Management Plan site to: (1) discuss the licensee's plans to store decommissioning waste from the licensee's York, Pennsylvania, facility; and (2) view the licensee's proposed location for disposing of decommissioning waste from both the Washington and York facilities. The licensee provided a tour of the site which included contaminated areas both on- and off-site; the proposed interim onsite storage location for York facility waste; and the location of the proposed onsite disposal cell. After the tour, the staff discussed the licensee's recent license amendment application for the interim onsite storage facility, the types of additional information that will be needed by the staff to complete the review of this application, information that would be needed in an environmental report to support the staff's assessment of on-site disposal and other feasible alternatives, and related schedules.

#### **California Governor Wilson Declares LLW Policy Act Unworkable**

In a press release on February 16, 1996, California Governor Pete Wilson declared the current Low-Level Waste Policy Act of 1980 (LLWPA) unworkable and stated that the Federal Government should be responsible for storage of waste. The LLWPA assigned the States the responsibility for disposal of low-level waste (LLW) generated within the State. Pursuant to the LLWPA, the California Department of Health Services selected the Ward Valley site, which is owned by the Federal Government, for California's disposal site. California has requested transfer of the property to the State. Recently, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced that the Department of Interior will require additional radionuclide migration studies and a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prior to land transfer. In various letters to members of Congress, Governor Wilson requested prompt transfer of the Ward Valley land to the State of California or legislation which would relieve California and other States from responsibilities assigned to them in the LLWPA.

#### **Meeting with Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc.**

On February 28, 1996, the Division of Waste Management staff met with a representative of Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (CNSI) to discuss low-level waste (LLW) disposal at its Barnwell, South Carolina, facility. CNSI holds a 10 CFR Part 70 license for the storage and disposal of special nuclear material (SNM) LLW at this facility. The regulatory authority for disposal of source and byproduct material is the State of South Carolina. CNSI's presentation illustrated the site layout, the enhanced disposal trench cap design and installation, disposal vault production, and disposal operations. Other discussion topics included: CNSI implementation of the new uniform manifest; planned operations for the next five years; the status of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of a license amendment application; plans for renewal of the SNM license (it expires on 12/31/96); status of the tritium plume and corrective actions; site stabilization

and closure, long term monitoring, and related financial assurance; and CNSI activities in support of LLW disposal facility siting/development in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. The Chairman is scheduled to visit the Barnwell facility on March 5, 1996.

### **Congressional Hearing on Bill to Extend the Authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act**

On February 28, 1996, Division of Waste Management staff attended a hearing of the Congressional Subcommittee on Energy and Power on a Bill (H.R. 2967) to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA). Hearing witnesses included Mr. James Owendoff, Department of Energy (DOE); Ms. Bernice Steinhardt, General Accounting Office; Mr. Howard Roitman, State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPH); Mr. Curtis Sealy, UMETCO Minerals Corporation; and Mr. Tom McDaniel, Kerr-McGee Corporation. DOE is requesting a two-year extension of the UMTRCA program, from 1996 to 1998, for cleanup of inactive (Title I) uranium mill sites.

In addition, DOE has requested that Congress amend UMTRCA to authorize a radon management program after the Secretary's authority expires to perform remedial action under UMTRCA, and that Congress review UMTRCA's land annotation requirement. The proposed radon management program would allow DOE to keep the Cheney Repository, located in Grand Junction, Colorado, open to accept residual radioactive materials from vicinity properties managed by States and local governments after UMTRCA expires in 1998.

The CDPH has requested that the land annotation requirement of UMTRCA be deleted or modified for sites that have been cleaned up. This change has been requested by stakeholders who fear annotation will adversely impact property values. The representatives of UMETCO and Kerr-McGee requested that the per ton reimbursement under Title X of the Energy Policy Act be increased, and that the total authorization for the Title II uranium sites be increased to offset reclamation costs that are much greater than were originally expected.

### **Business Process Reengineering License Extensions**

Business Process Reengineering Core Team members are in the process of visiting each regional office in order to process the one-time license extension. During the week of February 12, 1996, they reviewed and extended "E" licenses in Headquarters. The week of February 19, the team reviewed all 855 licenses in Region II and 96% of these were extended. Based on estimates provided by the team of an average review rate of 32 dockets/hour (two reviewers, 8 hours/day), Regions I and III are estimated to take nine working days each. The team expects to complete the reviews by mid-May 1996.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

### **Safety Programs Division (SPD)**

#### **Reliability and Risk Assessment Branch (RRAB)**

##### **Proposed Reliability and Availability Data Reporting Rule**

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on February 12, 1996. The staff plans to publish a draft regulatory guide for comment in April, hold a public workshop in May, close the comment period on the regulatory guide and rule in June.

#### **Reactor Analysis Branch (RAB)**

##### **Visit to National Institute of Standards and Technology**

On February 27, 1996, Charles E. Rossi, Director, Safety Programs Division, AEOD, accompanied by other AEOD staff, visited the National Institute of Standards and Technology 20 MW reactor facility located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The purpose of the visit was to obtain additional information in support of an ongoing study on Nonpower Reactors being conducted by AEOD. Representatives from NRR, including Dr. Seymour Weiss and Ted Michaels, who have oversight of the NIST reactor facility, accompanied the AEOD staff members.

##### **Preliminary Notifications**

- a. PNO-I-96-009, New York Power Authority (Fitz Patrick 1), UNPLANNED SHUTDOWN DUE TO SCRAM TIME TEST FAILURE
  - b. PNO-I-96-010, Public Service Electric & Gas Co (Salem 1 2), SALEM UNIT 1 RESTART DELAY
  - c. PNO-1-96-011, Nuclear Metals, Inc. VENT FIRE AT NUCLEAR METALS, INC.
  - d. PNO-1-96-012, Baltimore Gas & Elec. Co. (Calvert Cliffs 2), UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO PARTIAL LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER
  - e. PNO-II-96-010, Florida Power & Light Co. (Saint Lucie 1), UNIT 1 DROPPED ROD AND MANUAL REACTOR TRIP
  - f. PNO-II-96-11, Virginia Power Co. (Surry 2), SCHEDULED SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 72 HOURS
  - g. PNO-II-96-012, Collins Engineering, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE
  - h. PNO-III-96-010, William Beaumont Hospital, THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION
  - i. PNO-IV-96-010, Philip J. W. Lee, M.D., MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING STRONTIUM-90 EYE APPLICATOR TREATMENTS
  - j. PNO-IV-96-11, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 1), APPARENT LIGHTNING STRIKE AND DECLARATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT
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Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

#### Interagency Panel on Oral Presentations

On February 27, 1996, Mary Lynn Scott, Senior Contract Policy Analyst, and Susan Hopkins, Contract Specialist, participated in an interagency panel discussion at the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Scott served as a panel member and Ms. Hopkins made a presentation to the panel on NRC's experience using oral presentations as a streamlining technique for procuring goods and services. Approximately 60 Federal procurement personnel attended the meeting which also included presentations from DOE, IRS [\[EXIT\]](#), FAA [\[EXIT\]](#), and CDC [\[EXIT\]](#). The session was videotaped to be used as a training tool. The new Guidelines for the Use of Oral Presentations, which was developed with input from NRC, was also provided to participants.

#### National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) Meeting

Raymond Brady, Director, Division of Security and Pamela Kruzic, Director, IRM Technology Staff, attended the NSTAC XVIII meeting held at the State Department on February 28, 1996. NSTAC was established by E.O. 12382 to provide information and advice to the President on national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications policies, programs and measures. Topics discussed at this meeting included the National Information Infrastructure Security Center of Excellence, network security and information assurance.

#### Employee Protection Policies; Minor Amendments (Parts 19, 30, 40, 50, 60, 61, 70, and 72)

A direct file rule amending the regulations relating to notices to workers was published in the Federal Register on February 22, 1996 (61 FR 6762). The direct final rule requires the use of an updated NRC Form 3, updates a telephone number, and clarifies the applicability of employment discrimination policies. The final rule becomes effective April 22, 1996, unless significant adverse comments are received by March 25, 1996. The companion proposed rule that references the direct file rule was published in the Federal Register on February 22, 1996 (61 FR 6796).

NOTE: This action is the first direct final rule published by the NRC.

#### Significant FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of February 23-29, 1996:

Request for inspection reports, violations, citations and fines given to the Zion Nuclear Power Plant in Zion, IL, by OSHA from March 1, 1993 until October 1, 1994. (Mathew Smith of Stuart J. Bobrow & Associates; FOIA-96-088)

Request for a copy of the decommissioning plan, Decommissioning Cost Estimate and Site Characterization for MOLYCORP, York, PA facility. (Barbara Bastenbeck; NES, Inc.; FOIA-96-091)

Request for copies of specific exhibits related to an OI investigation at Millstone 3, OI Case No. 1-90-001. (Michael McIntire; The Hartford Courant; FOIA-96-092)

Request for a declassification review of two AEC documents having proprietary restrictions on them. (David Lee; Los Alamos National Laboratory; FOIA-96-093)

Request for information on currently licensed or shut down power plants experiencing degradation, rusting, erosion, pitting, ablation, spalling, or thinning of steel and/or concrete, concrete nuclear containment shell degradation due to contact with condensation, standing water, or boric acid. (William Gleaves; FOIA-96-094)

Request for investigation records on Sacred Heart Hospital's (Cumberland, MD) radiation treatment facility for the period 1987 to the present. (Larry Smith; FOIA-96-096)

Request for record information related to a latitude/longitude identified location in Louisiana. (Nelson Morvant; Woodward-Cycle; FOIA-96-097)

Request for records relating to Congressman Dick Zimmer and Congressman Robert Torricelli. (Juli-Ann Whitney; FOIA-96-098)

Office of Information Resources Management  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

#### EIE Strategy

On March 5, 1996, IRM will brief the Information Technology (IT) Council on Electronic Information Exchange (EIE). The briefing will summarize progress to date, lessons learned from the EIE pilot project, and the process IRM intends to follow for the implementation of EIE programs. The process includes soliciting the advice of the IT Council on the agency-wide priority for proposed EIE projects.

#### IT Council Sponsored Applications Review

In its March 5 meeting, the IT Council will review requests for applications development submitted to IRM during this year's IT Planning Call. In past years, Offices have used the review successfully to combine some of their requests in order that single systems may serve multiple offices. The IT Council will advise IRM on the agency-wide priority of the applications requests so that resources may best be used to support the agency's priorities.

#### Records Management Training

A Memorandum of Understanding to conduct records management training at the NRC Regional Offices was signed on February 26, 1996. The agreement, between the NRC Office of Personnel and the Federal Records Center (FRC), will allow FRC to conduct the training between March 1996 and February 1997. The Office of Information Resources Management will contact each NRC Regional Office to inform them of the arrangement. Regional Offices may then contact the FRC directly to establish mutually convenient training dates. The two-day course has been previously offered at Headquarters.

ENCLOSURE H

Office of the Controller  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

#### **FY 1996 Final Fee Rule**

On January 30, 1996, the NRC published, for public comment, a proposed fee rule to recover approximately 100 percent of its budget for FY 1996. The comment period expired on February 29, 1996. The NRC received six comments on the proposed rule. This is the lowest number of comments received on a proposed fee rule, subsequent to the requirement to recover 100 percent of the budget from fees. Five comments were received from the uranium recovery industry and one from the Nuclear Energy Institute.

All commenters supported the steps taken by NRC to stabilize the annual fees noting the approximate 6 percent reduction in all annual fees. While noting that the NRC had made fees more equitable and fair, the commenters indicated, however, that they continue to believe that 100 percent fee recovery, as mandated by OBRA-90, is unfair and inequitable to licensees because they are paying for NRC costs that are not related to and do not benefit them. They urge the Commission to seek legislative relief from the 100 percent recovery requirements. The commenters also support the continuation of the two hourly rates adopted by NRC in FY 1995, but noted that while the increases to the rates (about 4 percent) are generally in keeping with inflation, the rates are higher than they would prefer.

A final fee rule is currently being prepared for signature by the EDO.

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Personnel  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

#### **Career Fairs Attended by NRC Representatives**

On February 21, 1996, the University of Maryland held the 19th Annual Multi-Ethnic Career Fair. Tom Yingst, Office of Personnel, represented the NRC at this event. On February 23 and 24, 1996, Espanola Hughes and Cardelia Maupin attended the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Applications received from these events provided a diverse group of applicants for selection officials to consider for entry-level programs.

#### **Organizational Development and Training Staff Sponsors Leadership Seminar**

On February 26, 1996, Organizational Development and Training sponsored a Leadership Seminar, There Is No "I" in Teamwork, which featured Captain Dennis Fitch, the United Airlines pilot who crash landed flight UAL 232 in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1989. More than 270 employees and managers attended the session in the NRC Auditorium. A videotape will be available on March 18, 1996, in the NRC Individualized Learning Center for those who wish to see the presentation.

#### **Breast Cancer and Mammography Education Program Sponsored for Headquarters Employees**

On February 28, 1996, the NRC Employee Health Center sponsored a breast cancer and mammography education program for Headquarters employees. Thirty employees attended the program, which was presented by Lyn Turner, Chief Mammography Technician for Healthsouth Imaging. Ms. Turner discussed the recent advances in breast cancer detection and the importance of prevention techniques, which include monthly self-examination, regular physical examinations, and mammography. During March, employees will have an opportunity to sign up for mammograms at Healthsouth Imaging, at a reduced rate, and for training on breast self-examination at the NRC Employee Health Center.

#### **Arrivals**

ADAMS, John	REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT)	R III
BRAND, Javier	RESIDENT INSPECTOR (PFT)	RI

#### **Retirements**

BAER, Robert	CHIEF, SOURCE CONTAINMENT AND DEVICES BRANCH (PFT)	NMSS
DODA, Robert	STATE AGREEMENTS OFFICER (PFT)	RIV
ROSENTHAL, William	MANAGEMENT ANALYST (PFT)	NRR
SMITH, Hazel	MANAGEMENT ANALYST (PFT)	IRM
SMITH, Jimmy	REACTOR INSPECTOR (PFT)	R III

#### **Departures**

None

ENCLOSURE K

Office of Enforcement  
Items of Interest

**Significant Enforcement Actions**

By EN 96-011 dated February 20, 1996, the Commission was notified of the intent of OE to issue on or about February 23, 1996, a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice) in the amount of \$12,500 to ABB-Combustion Engineering Nuclear Fuel. This action was based on a Severity Level III problem for three examples of failure to provide the NRC complete and accurate information concerning the licensee's chemical safety program and two licensee responses to a Notice of Violation and a Demand for Information. On February 23, 1996, the staff discovered that the appropriate licensee management is on travel. Therefore, in view of management unavailability at the Hematite facility, the staff delayed issuance of the Notice until February 26, 1996. (EN 95-011A)

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$1,000 was issued on February 29, 1996, to Foley Construction Services. The action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving an Agreement State (California) licensee willfully using a moisture density gauge in a non-Agreement State (Montana) in January and February 1995. (EN 96-013)

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice) in the amount of \$2,500 was issued on March 1, 1996, to the Monsanto Chemical Company. The action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving the loss of a gauge containing byproduct material. EN 96-015)

**Civil Penalties Paid**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Diablo Canyon) paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000. The action was based on a breakdown in the licensee's program to assure adequate control of temporary grounding devices. (EA 95-279)

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending March 1, 1996

**Media Interest**

Chairman Jackson was interviewed by the Christian Science Monitor for part of a series of articles on the nuclear power industry and the NRC.

**School Volunteers Program**

Doug Coe, NRR, and Robert Lewis and Lawrence Kokajko, NMSS, participated in a Science Expo at Woodfield E.S. Sarita Brewer, Robert Hall, Ronaldo Jenkins and Frank Ashe judged a Science Fair at Parkdale E.S.

**Press Releases**

**Headquarters:**

- 96-43 NRC Staff Proposes \$12,000 Fine Against ABB-CE'S Missouri Nuclear Fuels Plant
- 96-45 NRC Issues Order to Former Indian Point 3 Employee; Prohibits Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities

**Regions:**

- I-96-16 NRC Staff Cites Massachusetts Institute of Technology for an Alleged Violation of NRC Requirements
- I-96-18 NRC Staff to Hold Informal Public Hearing in Waterford, CT
- II-96-31 NRC Chairman to Visit Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant
- IV-1396 NRC Proposes Fine Against Foley Construction

ENCLOSURE O

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending March 1, 1996

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 53**

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	03/06/96 366 DSOB	9:30	DOE, State PUCs	S. 1526, Changes in Electric Power Industry	Senators Murkowski/Johnston Energy & Natural Resources
Gerke	03/06/96 2154 RHOB	9:30	GAO	Government Performance & Results Act	Senators Stevens/Glenn Governmental Affairs Reps. Clinger/Collins Government Reform & Oversight
Gerke	03/08/96 342 DSOB	9:30	TBA	Government Travel	Senators Cohen/Levin Oversight of Govt Mgmt & DC Governmental Affairs
Madden	03/26/96 2362B RHOB	2:00	DOE	Nuclear Waste Issues	Reps. Myers/Bevill Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Madden	03/27/96 2362B RHOB	2:00	Commission*	FY 97 Appropriations	Reps. Myers/Bevill Energy and Water Development Appropriations

Combs	March TBA	TBA	Markup	S. 1271, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments	Senators Murkowski/Johnston Energy & Natural Resources
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\*A letter of invitation has been received for this hearing.

ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

**Beaver Valley Exercise**

The Beaver Valley Power Station conducted a full-participation exercise on February 28, 1996, from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Overall licensee performance was good with one exercise strength and one weakness. The states of Ohio and West Virginia, their risk counties, as well as Beaver County and the Bureau of Radiation Protection in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fully participated in the exercise. The Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluated off-site activities.

**Watertown Army Research Laboratory Confirmatory Survey**

On March 4-8, 1996, the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Engineering (ORISE) will conduct a confirmatory radiological survey at the Army Research Laboratory -Watertown (ARL) site located in Watertown, MA (a suburb of Boston). Watertown ARL is listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan due to residual contamination from extensive use of depleted uranium and other isotopes for defense research purposes. The confirmatory survey will include exposure rate measurements, fixed and loose surface contamination measurements, and sampling and analysis of soil in remediated areas. The site survey will cover portions of 18 major buildings on the 37-acre site. The survey will focus primarily on the buildings that were extensively remediated and/or were known to be locations of use of licensed materials. Radiological surveys will also include selected unaffected areas in the buildings. A Region I inspector will accompany ORISE during the confirmatory survey.

**Vent Fire at Nuclear Metals, Inc.**

On February 23, 1996, Region I received notification of a vent fire that occurred at Nuclear Metals, Concord, MA on February 21, 1996. The fire occurred in the licensee's liquid radioactive waste processing system due to failed thermocouples that did not control the operating temperature. Exhaust particulate filters ignited, resulting in approximately 47 grams of depleted uranium being involved. Vent air samples showed no off-site release. Firefighters wore self-contained breathing apparatus, and followup bioassays are being conducted.

Region I sent an inspector from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch to the site on February 27-28, 1996 to evaluate the licensee's response and corrective actions.

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

**Georgia Power Company**

On February 26, representatives of the Georgia Power Company were in the Region II Office to attend a Management Meeting regarding security issues at their Vogtle facility.

**Duquesne Light Company - Beaver Valley**

On February 26 - 27, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Region I Site Team in the Beaver Valley full scale exercise.

**Duke Power Company - Catawba**

On February 27, representatives from Duke Power Company were in the Regional Office to attend a management meeting to discuss the status and results of performance improvement initiatives at Catawba.

**Westinghouse Electric Corporation**

On February 28, 1996, Region II and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards held an open meeting with the licensee. The purpose was to discuss the licensee's performance over the past two years. The meeting was conducted by the Region II Regional Administrator, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region II and the NMSS Director of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards. The meeting was open to public observation. The licensee's performance was assessed to be good with attention to safety. Self assessments were normally good, but attention was needed to timely close some corrective actions. Performance was somewhat lower than others in the areas of procedural adherence, evaluation and reporting of events and in packaging of fuel for shipment. As a result of the review, the NRC will adjust resources for the inspection program. This review was the first one to be performed as part of the NMSS fuel cycle licensee performance review program.

**Enforcement Conference - NDT Services, Inc.**

On February 29, 1996, Region II held an enforcement conference with the licensee's radiographer to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements in 1993. The NRC inspection occurred in December 1993; an OI investigation was completed in December 1995. The violations included deliberate use of unqualified individuals to perform radiography activities. The radiographer, presented his perspective views on the safety significance and wrongdoer aspects of the apparent violations.

## **Georgia Institute of Technology - Spent Fuel Shipment From Georgia Tech**

On June 16, 1995, the NRC issued an Order modifying Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) operating license to authorize the conversion from high enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel. The licensee shut down the GTRR on November 17, 1995, to begin the conversion process. The licensee subsequently transferred the irradiated HEU fuel elements to the storage pool, cut off the non-fuel bottom and top ends of the fuel elements in the Hot Cell, and placed the spent fuel in shipping "baskets" in the pool. In addition the unirradiated fuel was shipped out. The "baskets" of irradiated fuel elements were loaded into a shipping cask on February 16 and 17, 1996.

On February 18, the cask containing the irradiated fuel was shipped from the site to the Savannah River Site by truck. This completed the removal of the GTRR fuel. State of Georgia personnel escorted the shipment from the campus to the Georgia State line. An NRC inspector escorted the shipment to the Savannah River Site, where it arrived at 11:30 p. m. No problems were encountered during the shipment.

The licensee plans to replace the HEU fuel with LEU, but the LEU fuel will not be received at the facility until after the Atlanta Olympic Games, scheduled to end on August 4, 1996.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

## **Chemetron-Newburgh Heights, Ohio**

On February 28, 1996, staff members from Region III and DMNS held a meeting with the new Mayor of Newburgh Heights. A tour was also conducted of the Bert Avenue site with Mayor Kolar and a representative of Senator Glenn's Office. Additionally, a meeting with the Village Council and members of the public was held in the evening. Representatives from Senator Glenn's Office, Congressman Hoke's Office, Ohio Emergency Planning Agency, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and Ohio Department of Health attended the public meeting.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 1, 1996

## **San Onofre Meeting**

On February 26, 1996, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Training Manager and the Supervisor of Operations Training met with Operator Licensing Branch Chief to discuss improvements to the Operator Training Programs. These include changes to the organizational structure, the attendance by all nuclear training division supervisors in a project management course, the proposed development of a requalification and initial examination writing course, the conduct of an audit of the requalification examination bank, new examination bank software with spell checker, and a new evaluation form for dynamic examinations.

## **Region IV Utility Group Meeting**

On February 29, 1996, the Vice President, Engineering and Technical Services, Southern California Edison (SCE) and the licensing managers for SCE, Houston Lighting and Power, Arizona Public Service Company, Texas Utilities, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Washington Public Power Supply System were in the Region IV offices, in Arlington, Texas, to meet with the Deputy Director, Office of Enforcement and the Regional Administrator and members of his management staff to review the results of the Region IV Utility Group (RUG IV) assessments and recommendations of NUREG-1600 and EM 3.5, "Safety Significance and Severity Level."