

April 17, 1996

For: The Commissioners  
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /s/  
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 1996

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\*No input this week

**Enclosure**

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Shutdown Operations Rule Development**

A draft rule "\$50.67 Shutdown Operation of Nuclear Power Plants" and an accompanying regulatory guide were transmitted to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and to the Public Document Room on April 5, 1996. These represent work-in-progress and will be discussed with the ACRS Operations Subcommittee on May 21, 1996, and with the full committee on May 23 or 24, 1996. Copies were made available at the Regulatory Information Conference on April 10, 1996, and will be discussed in a public meeting that is to be scheduled on April 23, 1996.

The draft rule is a risk informed, performance oriented regulation organized in three tiers: (1) performance criteria set by licensees that govern reactor coolant system (RCS) temperature, RCS pressure, RCS water level, and core reactivity; (2) safety requirements that are to be met by monitoring and controlling RCS temperature, RCS pressure, RCS water level, core reactivity, containment, fuel handling, and movement of heavy loads; and (3) event mitigation capability consisting of a backup cooling capability and containment.

**Haddam Neck**

Northeast Utilities (NU) has provided its response to our March 7, 1996, 50.54(f) letter asking that NU address the issues in the event response team report (Adverse Condition Report 7007) as they relate to Millstone 3 and Haddam Neck. The April 8, 1996 letter only addresses Haddam Neck.

The staff has reviewed this letter and provides the following summary: In the letter, NU discusses recent initiatives to assess their processes for tracking and resolving design-related issues and configuration and commitment management at Haddam Neck. Based on the preliminary results from these initiatives, NU has identified some areas for improvement but believes the results show there are no major programmatic deficiencies. The letter also discusses recent engineering efforts at Haddam Neck that provide additional confidence in the integrity of the design bases including: system modifications, upgrades, and replacements; LOCA analyses upgrades; and technical specification revisions. In summary, NU proposes to conduct a more detailed assessment of the issues contained in the 7007 report. In addition, they propose to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the licensing basis and configuration management process; the detailed plans for this evaluation will be developed by May 30, 1996.

The team is currently preparing for the next phase of the inspection which will include two weeks at Haddam Neck starting April 15, 1996.

**Millstone Unit 1**

On April 8, 1996, the NRC staff conducted an informal public hearing, in Waterford, Connecticut near the Millstone site, concerning a 10 CFR 2.206 Petition. The informal public hearing afforded the Petitioners, NU, and the public an opportunity to provide additional information regarding the Petition filed in August 1995. The Petition alleged that NU has knowingly, willingly, and flagrantly operated Millstone Unit 1 in violation of its operating license for approximately 20 years; that it obtained previous licensing amendments through the use of material false statements; and that it presently proposes to continue operating under unsafe conditions rather than comply with the mandates of its license.

The staff afforded the Petitioners approximately one hour to provide additional information and address staff questions.

NU then was afforded the opportunity to address the issues contained in the Petition and also address staff questions.

About 50 members of the public then spoke, a mix of NU employees and the public. The meeting was transcribed and information obtained will be factored into the final Director's Decision. Approximately 350 people attended the meeting at the Waterford Town Hall along with about seven representatives of the news media. The staff informed all meeting attendees that the NRC would continue to accept written comments from the public and that a public meeting would be scheduled in May, sponsored by First Selectman Sheridan, to answer general questions from the public.

### **Millstone Unit 3**

On April 4, 1996, the staff issued a 50.54(f) letter to NU requiring that information be submitted no later than seven days prior to Millstone 3 restart from the current outage. The information requested was based on preliminary results of the special team inspection and included resolution of five specific examples of design and configuration control deficiencies, as well as recently identified design deficiencies in the auxiliary feedwater containment isolation valves (see April 3, 1996 highlights) and the recirculation spray system. These conditions have existed for more than 10 years. The projected restart date for Millstone 3 from the current outage is now uncertain.

### **Watts Bar Unit 1**

The unit is currently at 71% power. TVA completed the following testing at the 75% plateau in the past 24 hours: Incore/Excore Nuclear Instrument Cross Calibration Testing, Loose Parts Monitor System Performance Measurements, and Startup Alignment of Reactor Control System. Preliminary results were satisfactory.

Three tests (Delta-T Program Data Collection, RCS Flow Measurement, and Calibration of Feedwater and Steam Flow Instruments) remain for the 75% plateau. TVA expects to complete all the 75% plateau testing around April 13, 1996, and expects to raise power level to 90% by April 14, 1996.

### **Palisades**

On April 4, 1996, Consumers Power Company (CPCo) submitted Updated Reactor Vessel Fluence Values for the Palisades Plant. CPCo informed the staff of the changes during a telephone conversation on March 26, 1996. The conversation was summarized in the March 27 Daily Highlight.

Palisades' submittal states that the new best-estimate fluence values are derived utilizing a bias factor which is based on Palisades' in-vessel and ex-vessel capsule measurements. The previously existing capsule measurements have been reevaluated and updated values are provided in the submittal. Based on the licensee's reanalysis, the axial welds containing heat #W5214 remain the limiting vessel material and are now estimated to reach the screening date in the year 2011. The Palisades license expires in 2007.

The submittal is under review by the Reactor Systems Branch. An initial meeting with the licensee is planned for mid-May.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

### **SCALE Training Course**

From April 8-12, 1996, several members of the Spent Fuel Project Office attended a training course on SCALE, a system of highly complex computer codes used for criticality, shielding and thermal analyses. The course was conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and held at the NRC's headquarters. The course combined lectures on the scientific bases and hands-on application of the codes.

### **National Academy of Sciences Review of Low-Level Waste Impacts**

On April 1, 1996, the National Academy of Sciences announced its intent to conduct a review of the potential effects of low-level waste management on U.S. biomedical research. The review will be conducted under the auspices of the Commission on Life Sciences (Board on Radiation Effects Research) and the Institute of Medicine (Board on Health Sciences Policy). The specific objectives of the review are to: (1) evaluate the effects of higher disposal costs and on-site storage on the current and future activities of biomedical research, including the effects of state non-compliance with the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act and (2) discuss risk perception issues and consider appropriate means to inform the public of the absolute and comparative risks of exposure to low-level waste and of the risk/benefit comparisons involved with biomedical low-level waste. The review will be conducted by a committee of experts in radiological health, biomedical research, clinical radiological medicine, environmental law, state government, and risk perception and communication. The academy estimates that the review report would include helpful information for biomedical research institutions on waste minimization and safe storage techniques and would be completed within 18 months of securing funding for the review. The review was requested by a consortium of universities, biomedical firms, and the New England users group of radioactive materials.

### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Meets with Environmental Protection Agency to Discuss Disposal of Mixed Waste**

On April 4, 1996, staff of the Division of Waste Management met with the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (EPA/OSWER) staff. Recently, EPA indicated that it was considering establishing criteria to allow certain mixed wastes, with levels of hazardous waste constituents that would otherwise require disposal in a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted facility, to "exit" the RCRA system if the mixed waste was disposed of pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The purpose of this meeting was to provide EPA/OSWER staff with an overview of the NRC's requirements for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. This information will be used to support EPA's evaluation of the degree of protection afforded by licensed low-level waste disposal facilities.

### **Confirmatory Order Issued to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality**

On April 9, 1996, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards issued a Confirmatory Order to the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) requiring WDEQ to proceed with reclamation of the American Nuclear Corporation (ANC) Gas Hills, Wyoming, uranium mill and tailings site. ANC announced on May 9, 1994, that it was discontinuing operations and going out of business. WDEQ informed the NRC on July 21, 1994, that it was prepared to complete reclamation of the site, and ANC's reclamation bond was forfeited to WDEQ on October 5, 1994.

The Division of Waste Management has been assisting WDEQ in developing a reclamation plan which provides maximum protection to the public health and safety while minimizing costs, consistent with regulatory requirements. Reclamation of the site under WDEQ direction began in 1995 with the relocation of the Bullrush Heap Leach, and will recommence this Spring. Through the Confirmatory Order, the staff will have a mechanism to ensure reclamation is completed consistent with an acceptable plan, and WDEQ will become eligible to collect funds for completed reclamation work at ANC's Gas Hills site paid by the Department of Energy under Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

#### **Quivira Amendment Request for Disposal of Atomic Energy Act 11e.(2) Byproduct Material**

On April 10, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Office of the General Counsel met with representatives from the Quivira Mining Company (Quivira) and their legal counsel. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Quivira's amendment request to License SUA-1473 to accept Atomic Energy Act 11e.(2) byproduct material from other sources for disposal at its Ambrosia Lake facility near Grants, New Mexico. The discussion focused on the quantities and types of material included in the request, further information required by the NRC staff, the reviews that would be required by the NRC staff to determine the acceptability of the request, and the projected timing of the reviews. In addition, because of the Quivira proposal to accept all types of 11e.(2) byproduct material, not just in-situ material, the staff discussed the need for preparing an Environmental Assessment. Based on the additional information needed, and the discussions at the meeting, Quivira agreed to re-evaluate the extent of its request, and to provide additional information to the NRC to resolve staff questions.

#### **Implementation of International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards**

A meeting of the Subgroup on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards in the U.S. was held on April 9, 1996, at NRC headquarters. The Subgroup includes representatives of the Department of State, the Department of Energy (DOE **EXIT**), and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Discussions focussed on the status of IAEA safeguards implementation on excess nuclear weapons material and other issues related to IAEA safeguards in the U.S.

#### **Highly Enriched Uranium Transparency Protocol Signed**

On April 1, 1996, representatives of the U.S. and Russian Federation met in Vienna, Austria, for final negotiations on the transparency arrangements associated with the U.S. purchase of downblended Russian highly enriched uranium. Several annexes to the Transparency Protocol were signed, including the annex pertaining to Russian Federation monitoring activities at U.S. commercial nuclear fuel fabricators. Material balance reports will be generated for all Russian material subject to the agreement.

#### **Department of Energy Tank Waste Remediation Systems Privatization**

On April 3, 1996, the staff met with representatives of DOE Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) Privatization Program. The aim of the TWRS program is to privatize the remediation of high-level waste tanks at the Hanford Reservation located in the State of Washington. At this meeting, DOE's representatives reported on the status of the TWRS procurement effort to date and on DOE's planned regulatory program for TWRS. DOE plans to implement much of the NRC's regulations as part of their regulatory program for the pilot phase. DOE's representatives also requested assistance for their establishment of a docketing process for TWRS and the review of the TWRS regulatory draft work breakdown structure. Effort is underway to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC and DOE in order to clearly define the level of potential technical assistance by NRC during DOE's regulation of TWRS. Discussions regarding the MOU will be held at the next meeting currently scheduled for the week of May 6, 1996.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

#### **Aging Research Session at 58th American Power Conference**

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) organized a session on reactor aging at the 58th American Power Conference, held in Chicago, IL, April 9-11, 1996. The session, entitled "Aging in Nuclear Power Plants -- Causes, Effects and Significance," included presentations by the RES staff, research contractors, EPRI, and nuclear utilities. The session was attended by 25 persons from the power industry and government organizations.

#### **MOV Pressure Locking/Thermal Binding Test Results**

The first series of RES/DET sponsored tests on a flexible wedge motor operated gate valve was recently completed at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). The test results are intended to provide the staff with technical information for evaluating licensees' responses to Generic Letter 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves." Preliminary observations from these tests indicate that: (1) small amounts of entrapped air in the bonnet delay the onset of thermally-induced pressure locking but do not preclude this phenomenon from occurring; (2) leakage from the valve bonnet can impact the rate of valve pressurization when the valve is heated; and (3) disk flexibility has a significant impact on the occurrence of thermal binding. A similar series of tests, on a different valve design, will begin later this month at INEL.

#### **Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Failure Experiments at SNL**

The first of a series of tests on reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower head failure was conducted successfully at the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). The purpose of these tests is to obtain data on the mode, location, timing, and characteristics (size, shape) of RPV failure under the combined effects of thermal and pressure loads. A quick look report on the first test was received on April 4, 1996. This test was performed in a 1/5-scale RPV lower head (0.96m diameter) without penetrations. The inner wall of the vessel was heated uniformly to a nominal heat flux of about 15 KW/m<sup>2</sup> at a pressure of 10 Mpa. The preliminary results showed that the vessel failed at about 140 minutes into the

test when the wall temperature reached 1000°C. The overall strain, based on downward deformation, was about 30% which supports the possibility that water ingress in-vessel may arrest further vessel deformation. Future tests will be performed at different heat loads and pressures. Experimental data from these experiments will be used to assess and validate analytical models of RPV lower head failure.

ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Technical Training Division (TTD)**

The Technical Training Division Director gave the keynote speech on April 10, 1996, for the Simulators International XIII Conference sponsored by the Society for Computer Simulation (SCS). The conference was conducted in New Orleans, LA. The keynote speech was titled "Use of Simulation for USNRC Staff Training" and featured coverage of NRC use of full scope simulators, engineering workstation-based simulations, how and why the simulation infrastructure is maintained with the resources available, how simulation tools are used in both training of NRC staff and other regulatory activities, and how training of NRC staff differs from training of operational staff in certain areas.

The Technical Training Advisor and Senior Simulator Engineer also participated in the Simulators International XIII Conference. The Technical Training Advisor served on the SCS Planning Committee and chaired two conference sessions. The Senior Simulator Engineer discussed potentially common solutions to common simulation problems with a number of conference attendees and participating vendors.

**Safety Programs Division (SPD)**

*Discussion with Representatives of Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear from Spain*

On April 11, 1996, Charles E. Rossi, Director, Safety Programs Division, met with Alfonso Arias Cañete, Secretario General, and Ignacio Lequerica Perez, Subdirector de Centrales Nucleares, to discuss the NRC's proposed rule for reporting reliability and availability data for risk-significant systems and equipment. Both the substance of the rule and the process for developing a regulatory guide and the final rule were discussed.

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

Dale Rasmuson of the Reliability and Risk Assessment Branch met with INPO staff at their request in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 4, 1996. He briefed them about the Common Cause Failure (CCF) Database and CCF analysis. AEOD asked INPO to review the database because it contains NPRDS information and the staff would like to distribute the database to domestic utilities. A response is expected by May 31, 1996.

**Preliminary Notifications**

- a. PNO-I-96-022, St. Francis Hospital, A THERAPEUTIC MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING A HIGH DOSE RATE REMOTE AFTERLOADING TREATMENT UNIT
- b. PNO-III-96-024, Commonwealth Edison Co. (Braidwood 1 2), NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS
- c. PNO-III-96-025, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION
- d. PNO-IV-96-016B, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 2), DAMAGED FUEL ASSEMBLY FOUND DURING CORE DEFUELING
- e. PNO-IV-96-016C, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 2), PALO VERDE STUCK FUEL ASSEMBLY NOW IN SAFE STORAGE - UPDATE
- f. PNO-IV-96-017, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 2), DECLARATION OF ALERT DUE TO FIRE
- g. PNO-IV-96-018, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Grand Gulf 1), SECURITY FORCE LABOR STRIKE

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Contract Awards**

Contract NRC-33-96-194 was awarded to Sytel, Inc., under the 8(a) set-aside program of the Small Business Administration (SBA) on April 5, 1996, for the "Next Generation Network." The period of performance is three years with two, one-year options and options for additional services and equipment. The total estimated cost plus fixed fee is \$28,573,229, if all options are exercised.

Contract NRC-04-96-037 was awarded to Risk Engineering, Inc., on April 4, 1996, for "Revision of Regulatory Guidance on Design Ground Motion." The period of performance is three years. The total estimated cost plus fixed fee price is \$774,506.

Contract NRC-33-96-180 was awarded to Cellular One on April 3, 1996, for "Cellular Telephone Service." The period of performance is two years. The total fixed price is \$55,597.60.

Contract NRC-04-96-039 was awarded to Advanced Systems Technology, Inc., on April 3, 1996, under the SBA 8 (a) program, to provide expert technical assistance to the staff of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in the areas of radiation protection and health effects for "Health Physics Technical Assistance - Reactor and Materials." The

total estimated cost-plus-fixed-fee price is \$407,784 for the base period of performance of one year with four additional one-year option periods available totalling \$1,808,957.

Two contracts were awarded under RFP RES-96-048 on April 4, 1996, to the University of California, Los Angeles, for a total cost of \$7,511.95 in the technical area of software engineering for "Technical Assistance for the New Thermal-Hydraulics Code Planning" and to Liebrock-Hicks Research for a total cost of \$4,616.32 in the technical area of database distribution for "Technical Assistance for the New Thermal-Hydraulics Code Planning." The period of performance for both time and materials contracts is from April 4, 1996 through September 30, 1996.

NOTE: Procurement streamlining methods were used in all of the above contract awards.

#### **OWFN Restack Project**

The Division of Facilities and Property Management has established an aggressive schedule for the OWFN restack project to ensure the award of a construction contract by the end of this fiscal year. This schedule will require a commitment by everyone involved in the project to attend all scheduled meetings and to adhere to the time frames established for each review period. Several meetings have already been conducted with the Office Director Representatives (ODR), the Labor Management Partnership Committees (LMPC), the Union Representatives, and the Office of Personnel (OP), to discuss the schedule and to clarify everyone's role and responsibilities. The space planning phase has begun - floor plans for the first five floors of OWFN will be ready for review on April 12. Meetings will be held with the ODRs, LMPCs, Union Representatives and OP beginning the week of April 15, 1996, to review the plans within the allotted 10 day period. All review comments will then be provided to Weihe Partnership, the contractor performing the space planning. These comments will be incorporated into the final drawings which will be reviewed by the same team, and approved by the ODRs. The space planning phase will be completed by June 17, 1996.

#### **Fee Schedule Final Rule**

The final rule that revises the fee schedules in Parts 170 and 171 for the 1996 fiscal year has been signed by the EDO and forwarded for publication in the Federal Register. This rule streamlines the computation of annual fees by reducing all annual fees by about 6% compared to the annual fees assessed for FY 1995. The final rule has been scheduled for publication in the April 12, 1996 issue, of the Federal Register.

#### **Financial Insurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors (Part 50)**

An advance notice of proposed rulemaking that invites public comment on issues concerning the form and content of NRC's financial assurance requirements for nuclear power reactor decommissioning as they relate to electric utility deregulation was published in the Federal Register on April 8, 1996 (61 FR 15427). The NRC is concerned that the potential deregulation of the power industry may require modification of current regulations governing decommissioning funds and financial mechanisms to account for utility reorganizations not contemplated when current financial assurance requirements were adopted. The NRC is also considering requiring power reactor licensees to report on the status of their decommissioning funds periodically. The comment period for this action closes June 24, 1996.

#### **Significant FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of April 5 - 11, 1996:**

Request for records related to employee complaints and concerns regarding the South Texas Project for the period 1988 to present. (S.A. Whinston of Berger & Montague; FOIA-96-152)

Request for all records related to materials license numbers 24-01882-01 and -02. (G.A. Grissom; SCI Environmental, Inc.; FOIA-96-153)

Request for records related to the Shippingport Nuclear Power Station in Beaver County, Shippingport, PA for the period 1953 through 1964. (P.R. Kingsley of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae; FOIA-96-154)

Request for records of NRC actions related to allegations against Entergy Operations Inc. by a former employee of the Riverbend Nuclear Station. (B.P. Garde law office; FOIA-96-155)

Request for records related to the Riverbend Nuclear Station and investigation report number OI-4-91-008. (B.P. Garde law office; FOIA-96-156)

Request for communications between NRC and Houston Power and Light (HPL) concerning a former employee's security access while employed at the South Texas Nuclear Project. (D.K. Colapinto of Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto; FOIA-96-157)

Request for copies of records related to the application of Veterans preferences in the consideration of employment. (Individual; FOIA-96-158)

Request for copies of awarded contracts related to air freight services to international and U.S. points. (Individual; FOIA-96-159)

Request for NRC's response to OMB Circular A-11, Exhibit 43. (S. Payton; INPUT; FOIA-96-160)

Request for records regarding discussions between named individuals on the use of exported material covered by international safeguards in nuclear explosive devices during June '74 through October '74. (J. Battle; National Security Archive; FOIA-96-161)

Request for inspection and/or investigation records related to cementitious fireproofing materials at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. (B.A. Pusateri of Bellinger, Ruberry & Garvey; FOIA-96-162)

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ENCLOSURE G

Office of Information Resources Management  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**National Library Week**

National Library Week, held each April, celebrates the contributions of America's libraries and librarians. This year National Library Week will be observed April 14-20, 1996, with the theme, "Libraries Change Lives." Thousands of supporters across the country unite during this special week in April with the goal of focusing the nation's attention on libraries, including the NRC Technical, Law, and Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel Libraries.

The NRC Technical Library was established in 1975 with a unique collection from the Atomic Energy Commission's library of scientific and technical books. Since its inception, the Library has continually expanded its collection and services for NRC Headquarters, Regional, and Technical Training Center staff. The Library maintains over 22,000 books and 800 journals and newsletters. It also contains about 500,000 technical research reports, including historical and current industrial codes and standards issued by government and professional societies.

While the primary mission of the NRC Technical Library is service to the staff, the library has always made its unique resources accessible to all segments of the public for on-site use and via loans to other libraries. The NRC Library is positioned to provide these information resources today, as well as in the future. National Library Week is a time to salute our libraries, celebrate their success and services, and invite library use and support.

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Personnel  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

<b>Arrivals</b>		
BURROWS, Ronald	RADIATION SPECIALIST (PFT)	RIII
GIBBS, Russell	REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT)	RI
PAPA, Dean	COMPUTER SPECIALIST (PFT)	RIV
<b>Retirements</b>		
HOWELL, Nada Sue	OFFICE RESIDENT ASSISTANT (OPFT)	RIV
<b>Departures</b>		
BREWER, David	METALLURGICAL ENGINEER (PFT)	NRR
GORE, Zetherine	CONTRACT SPECIALIST (PFT)	ADM
HAZELWOOD, LeJuene	PARALEGAL SPECIALIST (PFT)	OGC

ENCLOSURE K

Office of Enforcement  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Significant Enforcement Actions**

An Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of \$2,500 was issued on April 12, 1996. This action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving the licensee's failure to leak test sealed sources at intervals specified by [10 CFR 34.25\(b\)](#). (EN 96-004A)

**Civil Penalty Paid**

Diamond H Testing Company paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$8,000. This action was based on a Severity Level II problem involving: (1) a willful failure to lock the sealed source in the shielded position following a radiographic exposure; (2) a failure to conduct an adequate survey of the source guide tube after a radiographic exposure; and (3) a failure to wear an alarm ratemeter. (EA 95-148)

Duke Power Company paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000 for a Severity Level III violation involving the failure to provide adequate procedures to control fuel assembly movement in the spent fuel pool. This failure was of safety significance in that it resulted in an irradiated fuel assembly being left attached to the fuel bridge mast and withdrawn from its storage location in the spent fuel pool for a period of over three weeks following fuel assembly inspection activities. The assembly could have been uncovered during an accident scenario. The licensee's enforcement history indicated that the violation could have been prevented by the development of appropriate corrective actions in response to previous violations in the area of controlling fuel assembly movement. (EA 96-019)

Arizona Public Service Company paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$100,000. The action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving discrimination against a contract instrumentation and control technician. It should be noted that the supervisor responsible for the discrimination is also being issued a Severity Level III Notice of Violation. (EA 93-159)

ENCLOSURE L

Office of State Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Massachusetts Request for Agreement**

On March 28, 1996, Governor William F. Weld of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, signed a formal request to enter into an Agreement with the Commission under Section 274b of the Act. Under the proposed Agreement, the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program, which is located in the Department of Public Health, would assume regulatory authority from the Commission over section 11e.(1) byproduct materials, source material, and special nuclear materials (in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass). The activities to be assumed by the Commonwealth include licensing, inspection, and enforcement. The proposed Agreement also calls for the Commonwealth

to assume regulatory authority over the disposal of low-level radioactive waste and the evaluation of sealed sources and devices, but does not include the regulation of source material recovery and mill tailings management. Staff estimates that four to six months will be required to complete the formal processing of the request. Mr. Richard Blanton is the State Programs Project Manager.

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Media Interest**

The Office of Public Affairs now has a home page on NRC's external Web site - (<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/public-affairs.html>) This information includes OPA staff locations, telephone and E-mail addresses, press releases, plants on the Watch List, current SALP data, fact sheets and brochures, and school program information.

OPA has been fielding requests for information regarding the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

**School Volunteers Program**

Ed Trottier, NRR, spoke with students at Hereford H.S. and Heather Astwood discussed geology at a career day at Oakland Terrace E.S.

NRC employees judged the Montgomery Area Science Fair, the largest and most prestigious in the county. Special NRC awards will be bestowed on 6 students, who will then be invited back to NRC to discuss their projects before the Commission. Judges included: Mindy Landau, OPA; Dave Matthews, Vern Hodge, George Hubbard, Ramin Assa, Tommy Le, Ronaldo Jenkins, NRR; and Prasad Kadambi, RES.

**Press Releases**

Headquarters:	
96-56	NRC Considering Revising Decommissioning Funding Rule to Reflect Utility Deregulation; Public Comments Asked
96-57	NRC Makes Changes to Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees
Regions:	
I-96-26	NRC Staff to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference With Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
I-96-27	NRC Staff Officials to Hold Public Meeting April 29 to Discuss Issues at Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station
II-96-39	NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at Harris Nuclear Power Plant
II-96-40	NRC Inspection Team to Discuss Findings on NFS Fire
III-96-13	NRC Staff to Hold Conference With Detroit Edison Company
IV-96-25	Grand Gulf Rated "Superior" in Three Areas, "Good" in Another in Latest NRC Systematic Assessment Report
IV-96-26	NRC Regional Administrator to Hold News Conference in Jackson, Mississippi

ENCLOSURE N

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**FOREIGN VISITORS**

**Spain**

On Monday, April 8, 1996, Commissioner Anibal Martin, Vice Chairman of the Spanish Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN), met with Chairman Jackson to discuss a number of nuclear safety issues of mutual interest. They also discussed Spain's plans for ratifying the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Spain's nuclear safety exchange program with Latin American countries.

Commissioner Martin, along with CSN official Commissioner Jose Azuara General Secretary Alfonso Arias, and Ignacio Lequerica, Deputy Director for Nuclear Power Plants, met on Thursday with Commissioner Rogers, also to discuss nuclear safety issues. The Spanish delegation later met with staff from AEOD, NRR, OP, and IRM to discuss issues such as management information systems, review criteria and status of advanced reactors, NRC policies and procedures regarding training managers and executives, Cost Beneficial Licensing, and the Reliability Data Rule.

**United Kingdom**

Dr. Sam Harbison, Chief Inspector, British Nuclear Installations Inspectorate attended the NRC Regulatory Information Conference on April 9-10, 1996. He also met with Chairman Jackson and Commissioner Rogers on April 8, 1996, to discuss bilateral cooperation topics of interest and renewal of the NRC/UK agreement.

**Finland**

On April 9, Chairman Jackson and Antti Vuorinen, Director General (DG) of the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety, renewed the NRC/STUK Information Exchange Arrangement at the Capital Hilton Hotel, following the Chairman's presentation to the NRC Regulatory Information Conference. Afterwards, the DG met with Commissioner Rogers to discuss a number of current nuclear safety issues.

DG Vuorinen met with AEOD staff on April 11, 1996, to discuss high-level waste matters.

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Public Document Room (PDR)**

Over 230 attendees of the April 9-10, 1996 Regulatory Information Conference visited the PDR exhibit and computer demonstration. The public was especially interested in the full text searching capabilities of NRC's public document collection on the Bibliographic Retrieval System and accessing the PDR's Bulletin Board on FedWorld.

Two senior members of the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS), met with the Secretary of the Commission and members of the PDR staff on April 11, 1996. The KINS delegation is planning to establish a public document service facility, the first for KINS. At KINS' request the PDR staff provided a briefing on the management of information functions for public access, using the NRC PDR as a case study.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Follow-up Inspection at Malden Mills**

On April 10, 1996, Region I performed a follow-up inspection at the Malden Mills facility in Lawrence, Massachusetts, which experienced a major fire in December 1995, that resulted in the damaging of a number of licensed gauges. The inspectors toured the site and made surveys in an attempt to identify gauges in the rubble. Due to the large amount of concrete and other rubble at the site, no elevated radiation levels were identified and no gauges were found. The licensee's contractor and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts continue to monitor the site. The inspectors discussed plans for the recovery of the gauges with Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials as well as licensee representatives. The Region will continue to coordinate its activities with the Commonwealth and will perform additional inspections as site recovery progresses.

**St. Francis Medical Center, Hartford, CT**

An inspection was conducted on April 8-9, 1996, to review the circumstances associated with a therapeutic misadministration. The misadministration involved an unplanned exposure of about 440 cGy to the vulva and thigh of a patient during treatment of a vaginal tumor. The misadministration occurred using a high dose rate, remote afterloading, brachytherapy treatment unit. The treatment was given on March 12, 1996, but the patient did not report erythema to her physician until March 28, 1996, and she chose to treat the symptom until April 3, 1996, when she was seen by the physician. The erythema was improved at that time and her physician expects no lasting medical effect. An NRC medical consultant has been retained to review the incident. The misadministration is believed to have resulted from partial displacement of the vaginal cylinder containing the source as the result of coughing by the patient near the end of the last treatment fraction. Enforcement action is being reviewed by the region.

**Indian Point Unit 3**

The Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant emergency response organization participated in an NRC/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) graded exercise from 7:45 a.m. to about 3:50 p.m., on April 10, 1996.

The State of New York and the local counties participated in the exercise. Their performance was evaluated by FEMA. FEMA's evaluation results are not yet available.

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Duane Arnold Energy Center Exercise**

Region III staff participated in the multi-agency emergency preparedness exercise at the Duane Arnold Energy Center on April 9-10, 1996. Region III involvement included both a base team and a site team and headquarters participation. A. Bill Beach, Deputy Regional Administrator, was the Director of Site Operations. Both phases of the exercise--plume and ingestion--were conducted in cooperation with State of Iowa and local county officials, as well as with representatives from NRC headquarters and FEMA, EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and DOE.

**Commonwealth Edison Company**

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) announced on April 9, 1996, that a settlement agreement had been reached on a new contract with its union employees. The ratification vote was reportedly 83% in favor of the contract. Union personnel had been working without a contract for about eight months. A substantial organizing and planning effort had been done in Region III to prepare for a potential strike, which would have involved reactor operators (licensed and non-licensed), maintenance personnel (mechanical, electrical and instrument), chemistry and radiation protection technicians, and some administrative staff.

On April 11, 1996, ComEd announced a new management organization for its Nuclear Division. Senior Vice President Thomas J. Maiman will be given oversight responsibilities for the Nuclear Division. Senior Vice President Michael J. Wallace will be responsible for strategic issues such as storage of low-level and high-level radioactive waste in the

newly created division of Nuclear Strategic Services. Chief Nuclear Operating Officer Harold Keiser will report to Mr. Maiman and continue responsibility for day-to-day operations of ComEd's six nuclear generating stations.

**Dresden Nuclear Power Station**

On April 12, 1996, Hubert Miller, Regional Administrator, and A. Bill Beach, Deputy Regional Administrator, met with ComEd Nuclear Support Vice President John Brons and ComEd BWR Nuclear Operations Vice President Steve Perry on recent licensee investigations.

**Perry Nuclear Power Station**

On April 10, 1996, Perry Nuclear Power Station synchronized to the main generator with the grid; completing its fifth refueling outage. The outage, scheduled for 65 days, took 74 days to complete.

ENCLOSURE K

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**Community Hospital, Torrington, Wyoming**

Region IV conducted a predecisional enforcement conference on April 8, 1996, with an employee (nuclear medicine technologist) of Community Hospital of Torrington, Wyoming. The purpose of the conference was to discuss an apparent violation of 10 CFR 30.10 involving falsification of two dose administration records for sodium iodide doses administered to patients. The dosages administered to the patients were more than 20% greater than prescribed and were identified as misadministrations by NRC staff during a recent inspection. By separate correspondence, an inspection report was issued to the licensee documenting apparent violations which are also being considered for escalated enforcement action. The licensee has not requested a conference with NRC staff.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 12, 1996

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 59**

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	04/18/96 342 DSOB	9:30	Markup	S. 1080, Thrift Savings Plan Investment Funds	Senators Stevens/Glenn Governmental Affairs
Gerke	04/24/96 2253 RHOB	8:30	TBA	Federal Building Security	Reps. Gilchrist/Traficant Public Bldgs & Econ Development Transportation & Infrastructure
Madden	05/14/96 TENTATIVE	TBA	Commission	NRC Oversight	Senators Faircloth/Graham Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works