

INFORMATION REPORT

January 18, 2001

SECY-01-0008

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0008 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 12, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 12, 2001

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

Contact: D. Terao, OEDO by E-mail: dxt@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

OSRE at D.C. Cook

The NRR Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff (and contractors) participated in a Region III Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) at D. C. Cook from January 8-12, 2001. The IIPB staff had previously visited D.C. Cook with a Region III security inspector to conduct the pre-OSRE identification of, and agreement on, target sets and to coordinate activities to assure consistency and stability to the oversight.

Clearance Meeting with National Academy of Sciences

NRR participated with staff from NMSS and RES, in a meeting on January 4, 2001, with a task force of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on the issue of clearance. In August 2000, the staff was directed to request that NAS conduct an independent study of the need for a national clearance standard and/or alternatives to an NRC regulation. The meeting with NAS was for the staff to present the status of its efforts to develop the information that would be needed to support the promulgation of a clearance rule, provide information on stakeholder feedback to the staff, provide a status summary of international efforts, and provide a summary of existing NRC policy and guidance on clearance type activities. The NAS study is expected to be completed in 18 months.

License Renewal Safety Evaluation Report for ANO-1

On January 10, 2001, the NRC staff completed the safety evaluation report (SER) with open items for the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, license renewal application, which was submitted by Entergy Operation, Inc., on January 31, 2000. This SER was completed consistent with the schedule established at the time of the application, and represents a significant milestone for both the NRC staff and the applicant.

This SER documents the staff's safety review of the aging management programs and activities that were proposed by the applicant to demonstrate that the effects of aging will be adequately managed so that the intended function(s) of the long-lived, passive systems, structures, and components that are within the scope of license renewal will be maintained consistent with the current licensing basis for the period of extended operation. The staff's evaluation identified six open items that need to be resolved before the staff can make a recommendation on a renewed license for the Commission to consider.

The ACRS subcommittee will meet to review the ANO-1 SER on February 22, 2001, and the results of that review will be discussed at the full committee meeting in March.

WNP-2/Columbia Generating Station

The license amendment to change the name of WNP-2 to Columbia Generating Station was issued on January 8, 2001. The amendment only changes the name of the facility. There is no change in ownership or operational impact involved in this amendment. The amendment

removes the last vestiges of the former name, Washington Public Power Supply System and its nickname from the facility. The appropriate notification has been made to the NRC staff so the facility will be referred to by its new name.

Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1

Three requests for relief from appropriate sections of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Section XI Code have been issued to repair weld defects found in a Unit 1 control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration and two thermocouple penetrations in the reactor vessel head. Reliefs were needed for the CRDM and the thermocouple repairs to allow use of alternative examination methods since the Code-required examination criteria could not be met due to interference problems. The third relief was necessary to allow use of two Code Cases so that an upgraded weld filler material could be used. The requests for relief were processed in a very short time period (6 days) in order to allow Unit 1 to restart on time from the refueling outage.

Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Plant

The licensee submitted WCAP-15615, "Integrity Evaluation for Future Operation Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Plant: Reactor Vessel Nozzle to Pipe Weld Regions," and "Crack Growth of Alloy 182 Weld Metal in PWR Environments (PWR MRP-21)" as part of the assessment of the cracking in the "A" reactor coolant pipe weld. The NRC staff is currently reviewing WCAP-15615 and required additional information to continue its review. The staff is preparing a Technical Assessment Report. The staff requested additional information from the licensee on December 28, 2000. The staff anticipates completion of a safety evaluation in the near term. The exit meeting for the Special Inspection Team (SIT) and a public meeting with the licensee are scheduled for January 18, 2001, at the site. The inspection team and headquarters staff will be prepared to discuss findings and conclusions of the staff's efforts at this meeting. An inspection report from the SIT will be issued 30 days after the exit meeting.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Issuance of ISG-15, "Materials Evaluation"

On January 10, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) issued a new Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) document: ISG-15, "Materials Evaluation." This guidance applies to dry cask storage system (DCSS) and radioactive material transportation package reviews. The ISG provides guidance to the SFPO staff for performing materials reviews of DCSSs and transportation packages. The document will be incorporated into the appropriate SFPO standard review plans in the future.

High-Level Waste Path to Completion Team Meeting

On January 8-9, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) were invited by the Department of Energy (DOE) to participate in the second of three off-site meetings to discuss DOE's options for discontinuing high-level waste (HLW) vitrification operations at West Valley (WV). The HLW melter is nearing the projected end of its service life. The team, which consists of DOE-WV staff and contractors, representatives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, was tasked with identifying issues and potential impacts associated with the shut-down of the melter and providing a recommendation for a path forward. NRC will be reviewing DOE's Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) determination for closure of the WV HLW Tanks as part of its West Valley Demonstration Plant Act responsibilities. Staff from DWM were invited to attend because issues related to cessation of melter operations could effect the WIR evaluation strategy and schedule. The final meeting will be held on February 9, 2001, which is the target date to deliver recommendations.

Staff Participation in Meeting of West Valley Citizens Task Force

On January 9, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff participated in a meeting of the West Valley Citizens Task Force via video conference. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Department of Energy's (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) progress toward future decisions regarding completing the West Valley Demonstration Project and long-term site management. DOE and NYSEERDA are still negotiating over issues concerning the environmental impact statement (EIS). NYSEERDA stated that it is working to resolve these issues, but some concerns remain regarding long-term stewardship of the site. The two organizations are scheduled to meet on January 11, 2001, in Albany, New York, to review the latest draft agreement which was prepared by DOE and given to NYSEERDA on December 26, 2000. DOE and NYSEERDA did not elaborate on the topics covered in the agreement, so that negotiations would not be affected. NYSEERDA indicated that the issues are complex and unique and NYSEERDA will take the time needed to reach an agreement.

DOE informed the West Valley Citizens Task Force that DOE is in the process of explaining the DOE vision of the new EIS strategy for West Valley to the West Valley Coalition. According to DOE, the two organizations are not in agreement concerning DOE's plans to split the EIS into

two new EISs. It was noted that the Coalition sent a letter to DOE on December 31, 2000, with its concerns. DOE stated that it feels its EIS strategy is protective of the public health and environment and that DOE attorneys, as well as DOE management, are satisfied with it. Further discussions between the two groups will be planned.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant Shutdown Meetings

On January 3, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) and Region III met with Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) staff in an open working-level meeting in a facility located outside the security fence of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. This meeting was the fifth in a series of meetings held since August 2000 to discuss USEC's plans for the termination of uranium enrichment operations at the Portsmouth plant by June 2001; the subsequent transfer of regulatory oversight from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to DOE of about 50 of the 200 facilities leased by USEC from DOE; and the continuation of UF₆ product transfer, sampling, and shipping activities under NRC regulatory oversight. Also present at the meeting as observers were members of the public, representatives from Congressman Ted Strickland's office, the local Portsmouth workers union chapter of PACE, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. After the meeting, the NRC staff answered questions asked by the observers.

On January 4, 2001, staff from FCSS and the NRC's Resident Inspector for the Portsmouth plant met with USEC staff in an open working-level meeting in a facility located outside the security fence of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. This meeting was held to discuss USEC's certificate amendment request dated January 2, 2001, to add six cold trap systems to eight of the thirteen autoclaves in the X-340 complex which USEC will continue to use for UF₆ product transfer and sampling activities after termination of uranium enrichment operations in June 2001. USEC desires to have the amendment issued by March 1, 2001. Also present at this meeting as observers were representatives from Congressman Ted Strickland's office and the local workers union chapter of PACE. After this meeting, the NRC staff answered questions asked by the PACE representative.

Mixed Oxide Fuel Meeting with Duke Cogema Stone & Webster

On January 4-5, 2001, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Duke Cogema Stone & Webster staff met to discuss information to be included in the mixed oxide fuel fabrication construction authorization application to be submitted by February 28, 2001. The application will include, among other things, a safety assessment of the principal structures, systems, and components of the facility. Most of the meeting was focused on discussing the design basis level of detail to be included in the forthcoming application.

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Radiation Exposure Review

On January 10, 2001, the Department of Energy released a report on radiation exposures to workers at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant for the period 1952 to 1991, prior to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involvement in regulating the site. NRC assumed regulatory jurisdiction over the gaseous diffusion plants on March 3, 1997. The study estimated that 2,500 to 4,000 employees worked in areas that increased their potential exposure to

radiation beyond that of other workers at the plant. Particular attention was paid to potential radiation exposures to plutonium and neptunium. Based on estimates of contamination levels, the study estimated average and maximum hypothetical worker doses for given jobs and plant areas. The report stated that on the order of 10 percent of the 2,500 to 4,000 workers could have had internal radiation exposures that may have exceeded regulatory limits.

Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses

In 1998, the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, used a Business Process Redesign technique to redesign its materials licensing process. One of the elements of the new process was an aggressive program to update and consolidate numerous guidance documents into a NUREG series of subject-specific documents over a three-year period. NUREG-1556, Volumes 1-20 were developed and are entitled, "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses." This NUREG series will be used by NRC and Agreement State regulators and licensees/ applicants.

As of December 19, 2000, all 20 NUREGs were completed. Although NUREG-1556, Volume 9, "Program Specific Guidance About Medical Use Licenses," has been completed, it will not be issued until publication of the final Part 35 rulemaking. Part 35 was approved by the Commission in an SRM dated October 23, 2000, and will be published following OMB approval of the information collection requirements. The development of the NUREG-1556 series supports NRC's performance goal of maintaining safety, protection of the environment, and the common defense and security as well as reducing unnecessary regulatory burden.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

National Academies' Study

On January 3-5, 2001, the National Academies' Provisional Committee on "Alternatives for Controlling the Release of Solid Materials from Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Licensed Facilities" conducted its inaugural meeting. During open sessions of the meeting, Chairman Meserve and staff from NMSS and RES presented the Committee with information on NRC's efforts in this area. In addition, Andrew Wallo, U.S. Department of Energy, and Craig Conklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, presented information on their organizations' clearance efforts. The DOE presentation focused on the DOE policy and requirements for control of releases of materials with residual radioactivity. The EPA presentation focused on the historical aspects of EPA's activities; EPA's technical analysis; and orphan source and international initiatives.

Major discussion topics were: rationale for NRC's initiative to examine this issue; NRC expectations for the National Academies' study; staff resources devoted to implementing the current approach; and solid material inventories (including soil) at NRC and Agreement States' licensed facilities that may be potentially released. The Chairman of the Committee indicated that a formal request for additional information on some of these issues would be submitted to NRC and that the staff should wait on providing additional information until that request is received.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Video Conference with Regional Office Property Custodians

The PAOB Property Management Specialist and Branch Chief conducted a video conference with Regional Property Custodians January 10, 2001, to discuss FY 2000 Property Inventory results and other property control issues. Custodians were reminded to obtain property paperwork for all sensitive items, and were encouraged to use and monitor a sign in/out log for laptops assigned on a temporary basis.

Acquisition Training

On January 10, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted "Overview," a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module. There were 46 attendees. This all-day module serves as the primer for other workshops in the acquisition training program. The workshop familiarizes participants with the entire NRC acquisition process including Federal Acquisition Regulation applicability, commercial contracts, and DOE laboratory interagency agreements.

On January 11, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management presented a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled "Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate." There were 61 attendees. This half-day module focused on the importance of establishing an independent Government cost estimate, the mechanics of the process, and components used in its development.

Requirements for Certain Generally Licensed Industrial Devices Containing Byproduct Material (Parts 30, 31, and 32)

A final rule that amends the regulations governing the use of byproduct material in certain detecting, measuring, gauging, or controlling devices was published in the Federal Register on December 18, 2000 (65 FR 79162). The final rule includes explicit provisions for a registration authorized under provision of the existing regulations, adds a registration fee, and modifies the reporting, recordkeeping, and labeling requirements for specific licensees that distribute the generally licensed devices. The final rule is intended to allow the NRC to better track general licensees and the devices that they possess. The final rule becomes effective February 16, 2001.

Base Civil Penalties for Loss Abandonment, or Improper Transfer or Disposal of Sources, Policy Statement

A document that amends the NRC's Enforcement Policy to establish separate base civil penalty amounts for loss, abandonment, or improper transfer or disposal of sealed sources and devices containing NRC-licensed material was published in the Federal Register on December 18, 2000 (65 FR 79139). The amendment becomes effective February 16, 2001.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
January 5,2001 through January 11, 2001:

NRC Monthly Parking Permit holders listing. (FOIA/PA-2001-0090)

Spent fuel, staffs final report on spent fuel storage risks, sent to Commissioners on 12/20/00.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0091)

Individual, individual response to IA 99-021. (FOIA/PA-2001-0092)

Manhattan Project, FBI investigation related to March 1944 article published in *Astounding
Science Fiction* publication. (FOIA/PA-2001-0093)

License applications since 6/1/98 for new laundry facilities, and all correspondence with Eastern
Technologies Inc. (FOIA/PA-2001-0094)

Browns Ferry, late 1970 incident regarding alleged access by an individual to the facility.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0095)

Federal employees listing, employees in state of North Carolina. (FOIA/PA-2001-0096)

NRC Safety Evaluation of GE Topical Report DEDC-31858P, Rev. 2, September 1993, letter
dated March 3, 1999. (FOIA/PA-2001-0097)

Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, environmental review submitted by Duke Cogema Stone
and Webster on 12/19/00. (FOIA/PA-2001-0098)

Self, Investigation 1-2000-008. (FOIA/PA-2001-0099)

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, 11/17/00 letter from NRC re 10 CFR 76.68 notice of
violation. (FOIA/PA-2001-0100)

Violations, listing of civil and administrative monetary penalties assessed for calendar year
1999. (FOIA/PA-2001-0101)

Spent fuel, risk assessment documents on security and safety of storage at offline nuclear
power plants. (FOIA/PA-2001-0102)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Arrivals		
CRESPO, Manuel	FUEL FACILITY INSPECTOR	RII
CULLISON, David*	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NRR
DAVIS, John	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCIO
HAMILTON, Ruben	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RII
LASKA, Gerard	OPERATIONS EXAMINER	RII
MARTIN, Christopher	RADIATION SPECIALIST(HP)	RIII
MIRANDA, Samuel	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
RICHARDSON, Lizzie	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
SPIVACK, Ian**	ENGINEERING AIDE (COOP)	NMSS
Retirements		
FIELDS, Ronald	SR. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG
SUMMERS, Betty	SECRETARY	OE
Departures		
GALLEGOS, Alfred	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCIO
SAENGRAYIB, Charles***	CLERK	RIII
REITER, Monica***	CLERK	OI

* Transferring from Region I

**Returning from LWOP

***Effective on 1-05-01

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-003	NRC Amends Regulations to Add Fuel Solutions Storage Cask Design to Approved List
Regions:	
I-01-01	NRC Names Christopher Cahill Resident Inspector at the Hope Creek Nuclear Plant
I-01-02	NRC to Begin Inspection at IP-2
II-01-03	Prehearing Conference Scheduled on Turkey Point Nuclear Plant License Renewal
II-01-04	NRC Staff to Meet With Law Engineering to Discuss Apparent Violations of NRC Requirements
II-01-05	NRC Meeting to Discuss Harris Nuclear Plant Concerns With CP&L Rescheduled
III-01-01	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant
IV-01-01	Note to Editors: Decision Issued on Callaway

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

FY 2001 Funding for Nuclear Safety Assistance Activities

State Department has advised OIP that NRC will be allocated \$3 million in funds from the FY2001 Freedom Support Act to conduct nuclear safety-related activities in the Newly Independent States. These new funds are expected to be received in May or June. The Department's allocation involves \$1 million for Ukraine, \$1 million for Russia, \$0.5 million for Armenia and \$0.5 million for Kazakhstan. However, 60% of the \$1 million for NRC assistance to Russia cannot be obligated for that country due to Congressional restrictions based in part on Russia's continued efforts to sell nuclear-related technology and equipment to Iran. The restriction is essentially the same as in past years except that the percentage has grown from 50% to 60%. Thus, OIP expects to be able to use only \$400,000 of the FY 2001 Russia allotment for Russian projects. The remaining \$600,000 may be reprogrammable for use in Armenia, Kazakhstan and/or Ukraine.

January 12, 2001

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-85-373	11/25/1985	Denial of DOE Request for Exemption to Permit Salvaging Contaminated Smelted Alloys
2. SRM on 85-373	1/30/1986	(same subject)
3. Palladino Vote on 85-373	12/11/85	(same subject)
4. Bernthal Vote on 85-373	12/18/85	(same subject)
5. Asselstine Vote on 85-373	12/16/85	(same subject)
6. Zech Vote on 85-373	12/16/85	(same subject)
7. Roberts Vote on 85-373	1/7/86	(same subject)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0004	1/5/01	SECY-01-0004 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending December 29, 2000
2. SECY-00-0237	12/21/00	Litigation Report - 2000 - 6
Memoranda		
1. M010110A	1/10/01	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0003-Private Fuels Storage, L.L.C. (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation); State of Utah's Partial Interlocutory Appeal of LBP-00-28

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Robert R. Loux, Executive Director, Agency for Nuclear Projects, State of Nevada, dated January 2, 2001, concerns report entitled "Reexamination of Spent Fuel Shipment Risk Estimates, NUREG/CR-6672" published in March 2000.
2. Letter to Richard L. Lawson, National Mining Association, dated January 2, 2001, concerns related to decisions on uranium recovery activities, including staff efforts to develop a new 10 CFR Part 41.

January 12, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final Rule, Consideration of Potassium Iodide in Emergency Plans, 10 CFR Part 50, RIN:3150-AG11.

January 12, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Indian Point 2

On January 5, 2001, the Region I Administrator, visited the Indian Point 2 site and toured the plant with Congresswoman Sue Kelly and Con Ed officials. The principal topic of discussion with Congresswoman Kelly during the site visit was the licensee's response to indications of a small amount of leakage (approximately 0.5 gpm) past the seat of a reactor coolant system (RCS). It was noted that this leakage is significantly below Technical Specification limits on leakage from the RCS and that the leakage is going to a tank, not directly into the plant or into the environment, which is fundamentally different from the steam generator tube failure leakage earlier this year.

On January 9, 2001, Con Ed completed its event response team review of a turbine trip that occurred on January 2. The report was provided to Congressional offices by Con Ed. The report summarizes corrective actions being implemented by Con Ed.

Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory Panel Meeting

A public meeting of the Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory panel was held at the site in Wiscasset, ME, the evening of January 11, 2001. This panel is chaired by State Senator Marge Kilkelly to provide a public forum for ongoing discussions concerning the decommissioning of the Maine Yankee plant. NRC attendees included the RI Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch Chief and a RI Health Physicist. Main technical topics of discussion were the status of the reactor vessel segmentation, and environmental monitoring, with presentations by both Maine Yankee staff and State of Maine staff, including the State of Maine Site Inspector.

The meeting also included a discussion of recent regulatory activities, specifically a January 9, 2001, letter to Maine Yankee which provided the Office of Investigations findings of a deliberate violation of a licensee procedure for failure to construct a shield cage specified in an ALARA review. The agency policy for predecisional enforcement conferences was explained. Questions were asked concerning the status of the spent fuel pool risk analysis, and the RI attendees indicated that the report has not been released.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Progress Energy (Florida Power Corporation) - Commissioner Merrifield visits Crystal River

On January 11, 2001, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Commissioner's Technical Assistant for Reactors, and the Regional Administrator visited the Crystal River site in Crystal River, Florida. The visit included a tour of the plant and discussion with plant managers and plant staff.

Florida Power and Light Company - Commissioner Merrifield visits Turkey Point

On January 12, 2001, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Commissioner's Technical Assistant for Reactors, and the Regional Administrator visited the Turkey Point site in Florida City, Florida. The visit included a tour of the plant and discussion with plant managers and plant staff.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 12, 2001

Regional Staff Meets with Kewaunee Plant Officials

Members of NRR and Region III staff met with Nuclear Management Co. and Kewaunee plant officials in the regional office January 10 to discuss the new corrective action program that recently has been implemented at the Kewaunee (Wisconsin) Nuclear Power Plant. The licensee in December revamped its problem identification and resolution program.

Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation Held at D.C. Cook

A week-long Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation was held at the D.C. Cook plant near Bridgman, Michigan January 8-12. The Region III Regional Administrator attended the exit meeting January 12 at the plant.