

INFORMATION REPORT

May 26, 2000

SECY-00-0120

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0120 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MAY 26, 2000

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*No input this week.

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Case, OEDO

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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M. Case, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 26, 2000

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

Contact: M. Case, OEDO by E-mail: ___@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Meetings with FEMA

On May 15, 2000, the Branch Chief and members of the EP&HP Section/IOLB participated in the quarterly NRC/FEMA Steering Committee meeting at FEMA headquarters. Topics addressed include the Indian Point 2 event, EP for decommissioning plants, and availability of FEMA reports in electronic form.

On May 18, 2000, Falk Kantor of IOLB represented NRR at a periodic meeting of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee.

Risk Informing Security Symposium

On May 10-11, 2000, the Reactor Safeguards Section held a security symposium at NRC headquarters to discuss various methods of determining risk in a security context. The symposium was open to the public. Presenters from Sandia National Laboratory, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Department of Energy (DOE) headquarters, Central Training Academy (DOE), and the Technical Support Working Group (DoD anti-terrorist organization) discussed methods applied at nuclear facilities to determine risk. The information presented will assist the NRC staff in the risk informing of the NRC physical protection rule for nuclear power facilities (10 CFR 73.55).

Public Meeting on Risk Informing 10 CFR Part 73

On May 18, 2000, the Reactor Safeguards Section conducted a public meeting at NRC headquarters to discuss various topics in connection with risk-informing 10 CFR Part 73. Attendees included NRC staff, members of the public, members of industry, and representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). NRC staff discussed the rulemaking agenda and specified items to be included in the rule. NEI provided NRC staff members a working draft of its perspective for the proposed rule. Future public meetings on risk-informing of 10 CFR Part 73 will be scheduled as required.

Reactor Oversight Process

On May 18, 2000, the NRC issued its annual assessment letters for the 9 nuclear power plants that were under the pilot program. The primary purpose of these assessments is to perform a comprehensive review of licensee performance using the most recent performance indicators and inspection findings from the period May 30, 1999, to April 1, 2000. Additionally, these assessments provided licensees the NRC's planned inspection efforts for the period April 2, 2000 to March 31, 2001.

The IIPB staff organized and participated in the Nuclear Energy Agency's International Workshop on Inspection Activities that was held from May 14 through May 17, 2000, in Baltimore, MD. The workshop, hosted by the NRC and sponsored by the Working Group on Inspection Practices, was attended by senior inspectors and regulators from over 16 countries.

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Workshop participants exchanged information and insights on current inspection practices in the area of radiation protection, regulatory inspections required for long shutdowns, and the use of objective indicators by the regulatory authority.

On May 15 and 22, 2000, the IIPB staff conducted two NRR All Hands presentations on the revised ROP. The purpose of the presentations was to provide an overview of the new process and enhance the NRR technical staffs' understanding of the new process.

On May 16-18, 2000, the Technical Training Center staff conducted a condensed version of the ROP training course G-200, "Reactor Inspection and Oversight Training," for headquarters staff.

Research Reactor License Renewals

Currently four research reactor license renewals are under review, namely, General Electric, Veterans Administration, Idaho State University, and Texas A&M. Also, three licensees have recently applied for license renewal, but work has not yet commenced. These are Ohio State University, University of Wisconsin and University of California, Irvine. The University of Maryland is also expected to submit an application within the next two weeks. In FY-01 one more license renewal is scheduled to be submitted, Kansas State University, and in FY02 four more research reactors have indicated they will request license renewals. The renewals reflect the intent of the licensees to continue operation of their facilities in their established research and training programs.

Crystal River Unit 3 - Order Approving Application Regarding Proposed Acquisition by CP&L Holdings Inc. of Florida Progress Corporation

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) is the majority owner and a holder of the facility operating license for Crystal River Unit 3 (CR-3). The staff has approved FPC's application which requested approval of the indirect transfer of control of FPC's interest in the CR-3 operating license to CP&L Holdings. The transfer will occur under a proposed share exchange transaction between Florida Progress Corporation (Progress), the parent of FPC, and CP&L Holdings, Inc.

CP&L Holdings is being formed by Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L) as part of an internal CP&L reorganization. Upon consummation of the share exchange transaction, under which CP&L Holdings will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Progress, Progress will become a wholly owned subsidiary of CP&L Holdings. FPC, which will remain a wholly owned subsidiary of Progress, will also become an indirect subsidiary of CP&L Holdings upon completion of the acquisition of Progress by CP&L Holdings.

FPC will retain its existing ownership interest in and the license for CR-3 and remain the licensed operator of CR-3 after the share exchange transaction. No physical changes to the facility or operational changes have been proposed.

Oconee

On July 6, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation submitted an application for a renewed license for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, in accordance with 10 CFR 54. On May 23, 2000, the renewed license was approved. As a result, follow up activities in this area will reside with the Division of Licensing Project Management, with assistance provided by the License Renewal Section of the Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs as needed. The many lessons learned from this review will be instrumental in the preparation of future submittals by licensees and in their review by the staff. The Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3 operating licenses now expire on February 6, 2033, October 6, 2033, and July 19, 2034, respectively.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Fifth Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee

On May 15-19, 2000, the Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee (TRANSSAC) V was held at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The U.S. delegation headed by the Department of Transportation also comprised members from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy. TRANSSAC discussions focused on transition issues for the implementation of ST-1, the newest international safety standards for the safe transport of radioactive material. Other issues reviewed were the IAEA transport safety program, training, and coordinated research programs, and member state agreement on the process for revising and simplifying IAEA's regulations.

Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society

On May 22, 2000, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety presented a paper on the revision of 10 CFR Part 35 at the Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society. The staff member discussed the status of the rulemaking, outlined many of the issues that went into the revision of Part 35, and discussed some of the major issues, such as training and experience.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Financial Review and Layoffs

On May 22, 2000, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) attended the afternoon session of a 2-day meeting arranged by the Paper Allied Industrial Chemical and Energy Workers Union at the Capitol Hill Holiday Inn in Washington, DC. The FCSS Deputy Director discussed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) ongoing financial review of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) in light of the February 2000 downgrading of USEC's credit rating to below investment grade. The staff expects to provide the results of its financial review of USEC to the Commission by the end of June 2000. The Deputy Director also described NRC's current and projected actions to ensure safety and safeguards following the recent announced layoff of 625 workers from the two gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio, starting in July 2000. Currently the Paducah and Portsmouth plants have workforces of approximately 1650 and 1900 persons, respectively.

Termination of BNFL, Inc., Contract at Hanford Site

In a May 23, 2000, memorandum and as a result of the Secretary of Energy's decision to terminate the BNFL, Inc., contract at the Department of Energy (DOE) Hanford Site in Richland, Washington, the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management directed the DOE Manager for the Office of River Protection to formulate a safety approach to new contracts related to Hanford to embody the role of the independent Regulatory Unit (RU) reporting as it does to the Manager of the Richland Operations Office. Further the DOE Assistant Secretary stated that an important consideration in establishing the proposed contracts for the waste

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treatment plant is the preservation and continued development of the design, the design basis, the regulatory basis, and the authorization basis. According to the DOE Assistant Secretary these directions are critical for a number of reasons, not the least of which is to preserve the nearly \$500 million investment made in the plant design to date, and by maintaining an independent RU to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest between project and regulatory interests.

Meeting at Nuclear Fuel Services

On May 22, 2000, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and Region II attended a meeting at Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) in Erwin, Tennessee, to discuss management improvements proposed and implemented by NFS to improve safety performance. The improvements include measures to improve procedure compliance and to raise the level of safety culture at the plant. NFS has created a procedure effectiveness task force that includes plant operators to develop ways to meet NFS' goals of eliminating procedure violations in operations and safeguards and achieving zero non-compliances with criticality safety limit cards and controls. NFS has developed performance measures and a tracking system, and plans to perform a 6-month self-assessment, which will be presented to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in August 2000. NRC commented that the proposed plans appeared to emphasize the right activities and stated that the agency looked forward to seeing enhanced performance in the future, including the follow-up presentation in August 2000.

Public Meeting on the Reactor Decommissioning Generic Environmental Impact Statement

On May 17, 2000, staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Office of the General Counsel, and Region I held a public scoping meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in support of the revision to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Reactor Decommissioning. Attendees included, representatives of the state of Maine, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Nuclear Energy Institute, Maine Yankee, other industry groups/companies, various citizens groups, and concerned citizens. Presentations were provided by NRR staff and its contractor Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. A question and answer/comment session followed. The principal concern voiced by citizens groups is the lack of opportunity for public involvement in the decommissioning process until very late in the process when the License Termination Plan is submitted. Issues identified for inclusion in the scoping process included: rubblelization, partial site release, entombment, decommissioning costs, transportation doses, reactor vessel waste classification, financial assurance, fuel storage, secondary dose consequences from recycling and waste disposal, health effects of radiation exposure (i.e., cancer rates in communities near nuclear power plants), and cost estimates. Prepared statements were read by EPA and the state.

Meeting with the Cherokee Nation

On May 23, 2000, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Office of the General Counsel, State and Tribal Programs, and Region IV met with representatives of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to discuss long-term stewardship of the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) sites in Oklahoma. Three SDMP sites have, or

are expected to, submit decommissioning plans applying for license termination under conditions of restricted release.

The sites are Sequoyah Fuels, Fansteel, and Kaiser. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff discussed the provisions of the License Termination Rule (LTR) in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. A question and answer session followed. The Nation expressed its concerns with becoming a long-term steward for these sites and outlined conditions under which it would consider such a role. Several of these conditions could not be accommodated under the LTR (e.g., a federal guarantee of no liability).

On May 24, 2000, NRC staff had a follow-up meeting with the Nation and invited representatives of Sequoyah Fuels and Fansteel. The Nation and the NRC staff summarized the previous day's discussion. The Nation emphasized that it will not become a landowner of these sites, but is still willing to explore how it might function as the independent third party specified in Part 20.1403(c). A discussion of potential landowners followed. The Department of Energy was identified as one entity that would meet all requisites. There was a discussion of how the "without cost to the federal government" provision of Section 151(b) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act could be met. The licensees raised the question of finality of license termination and responsibility for additional remediation. Staff replied that only in a case of significant threat to public health and safety would NRC review the condition of the site. If NRC determined that action was necessary to protect the public, we would expect the landowner to take that action.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

On-Line Public Workshop on Performance-Based Activities

On May 9, 2000, RES published a notice in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 26772) that revised high-level guidelines for performance-based activities and also announced an on-line public workshop. The previous guidelines were the subject of a conventional public workshop in which a wide cross-section of stakeholders participated. The guidelines were revised as a result of written comments and discussion at the workshop. The Federal Register notice also provides the staff's response to public comments and a proposed process for implementing the guidelines.

The public is invited to provide further comments on these matters during the on-line workshop at the NRC's Rule Forum site on June 8, 2000. More detailed plans, incorporating all comments, will be presented to the Commission by August 21, 2000.

Beta Version of TRAC-M Thermal Hydraulic Code

RES is consolidating its four thermal-hydraulic codes into one code with the aim of minimizing the dilution of resources that occurs with the maintenance and development of four codes. The ultimate goal is to recover the functionality of all four codes while making some marked improvements when feasible. With one code, user-requested improvements can be made far more efficiently and the knowledge base will not be fragmented across the four codes. RES has just released a beta version of the code, denoted TRAC-M, to NRR. The architecture of the code has been modernized to enhance code readability and extensibility (the ability to add new features), and the functionality of RAMONA (3D kinetics and stability) and TRAC-B (LOCA and transients for BWR) has been recovered. Some improvements have also increased the speed and ease of use of the code. The next stage in the effort is to recover the RELAP5 functionality.

After completion, assessments will be run to select the set of physical models that will produce results as good as the predecessor codes for both BWR and PWR applications. RES has run over 450 test cases on five computer platforms, including full-scale plant models, to ensure the code functionality. Code development and configuration control is done by NRC staff so that RES will be better equipped to resolve any problems uncovered by NRR.

First Meeting on PIRT for Burnup Credit

The first meeting to develop Phenomena Identification and Ranking Tables (PIRTs) for the application to burnup credit issues was held by RES on May 16 - 18, 2000. Thirteen of the world's best technical experts participated in this meeting, and the experts represented a balance between industry, universities, and foreign research and regulatory organizations. NRC staff and contractor (ORNL) made presentations and participated in the discussions.

PIRTs have been used at the NRC since 1988, and they provide a structured method to obtain the technical understanding that is needed to address certain issues. In the present case,

PIRTs are intended to help answer questions such as: In the near term, can the present NRC guidance on actinide-only burnup credit be extended to reduce regulatory burden while still maintaining a high degree of safety? The long-term objective of the PIRT process, as well as other work in this area being performed by RES, is to aid the development of a Standard Review Plan for use by NMSS in the review of license applications incorporating full (fission products and actinides), as well as actinide-only, burnup credit in storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel.

Additional PIRT meetings will be scheduled to consider applications to BWR and MOX burnup credit as well as other issues arising from high-burnup fuel. It is estimated that three multi-day working meetings will be needed to complete this PIRT process. A web page has been created at <http://www.nrc.gov/RES/pirt/BUC/index.html> to make transcripts and other useful information available to the participants.

DET Staff Receives Awards for Their Papers in ICON-8

Jim Costello and Joe Muscara, RES/DET, have both received the Best Paper Award for their papers presented in ICON-8, held in Baltimore in April 2000 with a theme of Nuclear Energy in the New Millennium. ICON-8 was attended by over 700 people representing more than 25 countries. This international conference was organized into ten technical tracks, each with several sessions and 40 to 50 papers. ICON-8 has given these awards for each of the technical tracks. Jim's paper on the predictability of steel containment response near failure was co-authored with SNL staff and was presented in one of the sessions on Structural Integrity, Dynamic Behavior and Seismic Design. Joe's paper on the effects of LWR coolant environments on fatigue crack initiation was co-authored with ANL staff and was presented in one of the sessions on Major Component Reliability and Materials Issues.

Career Achievement Award

On May 16, 2000, Dr. Harold L. Ornstein of the Regulatory Effectiveness Assessment and Human Factors Branch received the City College of New York Engineering School Alumni Association's Career Achievement Award. This annual award is presented "to a graduate of the School of Engineering whose career and achievements are a source of pride to Alma Mater and to his/her fellow alumni." The presentation was made at the Engineering School Alumni Association's annual meeting, which was held in New York City. Dr. Ornstein has been on the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the past 25 years.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Tabletop Exercise in Lynchburg, VA

Commissioner Jeffrey Merrifield, IRO Director Frank Congel, and Region II Regional Administrator Luis Reyes participated in a Tabletop Exercise in Lynchburg, Virginia on May 24, 2000. Other NRC participants included IRO staff, Region II staff, and NMSS management and staff. The Tabletop (named "Cavalier Challenge") was a joint Federal/State/local exercise in which the main objective was to validate the respective concepts of operations for responding to an event involving concurrent radiological safety and safeguards issues at an NRC-licensed facility. Other organizations participating included FBI Headquarters, the FBI Richmond Field Office, FEMA Region III, DOE Headquarters, the State of Virginia, BWXT, NFS Erwin, Amherst and Campbell Counties, Virginia, and the City of Lynchburg, Virginia. Following the Tabletop Exercise, written comments were received from participants. These comments were constructive and positive and indicated that participants considered the exercise to be successful and informative.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-00-023, Anheuser-Busch, Inc., LOST EXIT SIGN CONTAINING TRITIUM.
2. PNO-IV-00-011B, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (Diablo Canyon 1), UPDATE — UNUSUAL EVENT BECAUSE OF A FIRE LASTING GREATER THAN 15 MINUTES.
3. PNO-IV-00-012, Oklahoma Gas & Electric (Muskogee Generating Station), LOSS OF CESIUM-137 SOURCE FROM A FIXED GAUGE.
4. PN-IV-00-013, University of Oklahoma, UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE OF MATERIAL.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Focused Source Selection Award

On May 26, 2000, the Division of Contracts and Property Management awarded contract No. NRC-38-00-290 entitled, "Agency-Wide Wellness Program," to Hummer Whole Health Management, Inc. to implement a comprehensive agency-wide employee wellness program for NRC employees both at NRC headquarters and regional offices. The wellness program includes on-site and off-site fitness centers; development and implementation of an agency-wide employee wellness program; development and implementation of an agency-wide occupational safety and health program; and development and implementation of an agency-wide ergonomics program. The total estimated ceiling amount of this contract, should all four one-year options be exercised, is \$4,998,405,75. This competitive contract was awarded under NRC's Focused Source Selection Pilot program in five months after receiving Chairman approval.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of May 19, 2000 through May 25, 2000

San Onofre, OI report 4-1999-037. (FOIA/PA 2000-0248)

FOIA/PA-2000-0217 incoming request, Subject: Salem power plant safety concerns, fines assessed, corrective actions, and follow up measures. (FOIA/PA 2000-0249)

Self, investigative, personnel, security clearance and radiation exposure records, 1966 thru 1968. (FOIA/PA 2000-0250)

Babcock & Wilcox Co., Inc., formerly Nuclear Materials & Equipment Corp., and Atlantic Richfield, Co., located in Western PA, production of or use of plutonium 1960 to 1980. (FOIA/PA 2000-0251)

Atlas Corp., 4/1/98 letter to NRC regarding revision of groundwater cleanup plan. (FOIA/PA 2000-0252)

Site assessment, 400 and 410 South Washington St., Kokomo, IN, 46901, for identified site ownership entities. (FOIA/PA 2000-0253)

MLTS database, mobile nuclear medicine companies listing. (FOIA/PA 2000-0254)

Resolution of GI 67.5.1, "Reassessment of SGTR Radiological Consequences," 6/30/94 E. S. Beckjord memo. (FOIA/PA 2000-0255)

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 26, 2000

Arrivals		
BROSEUS, Roger	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
HERTZ, Jeffrey	SUMMER INTERN	NMSS
LEMONCELLI, Mauri	SUMMER INTERN	OGC
PSYK, Linda	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
Retirements		
None		
Departures		
FENTON, Brook	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
MISRA, Timir	GENERAL ENGINEER (INTERN)	NRR

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 26, 2000

Media Interest

The South Bend (Ind.) Tribune is printing a 5-part series on D.C. Cook beginning May 28.

There was media interest in the briefing on operating reactors and fuel facilities under the new reactor oversight program.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-83	NRC Revises Goal; Extends Timing on Availability of Documents to the Public
00-84	NRC Renews Licenses for Oconee Nuclear Power Plant for an Additional 20 Years
00-85	NRC Issues Annual Assessments for 13 Nuclear Plants That Participated in Pilot Evaluation of Revised Reactor Oversight Process
00-86	Senior Managers Brief Commission on Nuclear Power Plant Performance
00-87	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Lisle, Illinois on June 14
00-88	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland on June 13-15
00-89	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland on June 7-9
00-90	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland on June 28 and 29
Regions:	
I-00-36	NRC to Discuss Performance at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant
II-00-25	NRC Staff to Meet With Southern Nuclear June 1 to Discuss Apparent Violation at Farley Plant
II-00-26	NRC to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss Latest Assessment of Sequoyah Plant

III-00-23	NRC to Hold Public Meetings May24-25 in Illinois on Changes in Reactor Oversight and Latest Assessment of Dresden and Braidwood Plants
III-00-24	NRC to Hold Public Meetings to Discuss its Plans to Monitor Uranium Enrichment Plants as Layoffs Occur
IV-00-17	NRC to Meet With Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Program for ANO
IV-00-18	NRC to Meet With Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Program for STP

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM on SECY-00-0081	5/23/00	Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 - Renewal of Full-Power Operating License
Commission Voting Record on 00-0081	5/23/00	(same)
2. SECY-00-0080	4/10/00	Final Rule: "Elimination of the Requirement for Noncombustible Fire Barrier Penetration Seal Materials and Other Minor Changes" (10 CFR Part 50) (WITS 199800128)
Commission Voting Record on 00-0080	5/25/00	(same)
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-00-0100	5/4/00	Initiation of NRR-Sponsored Rulemaking Codes and Standards
Cmr. McGaffigan comment on 00-0100	5/8/00	(same)
SRM on 00-0100	5/23/00	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0109	5/18/00	SECY-00-0109 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 2, 2000
2. SECY-00-0102	5/5/00	Self Assessment of ACRS and ACNW Performance
3. SECY-00-0103	5/11/00	Litigation Report - 2000 - 2
Memoranda		
1. M000509	5/23/2000	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Stakeholders on Efforts Regarding Release of Solid Material

2. M000525C	5/25/00	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-99-0282-Hydro Resources, Inc., Docket No. 40-8968-ML, Memorandum and Order (Financial Assurance for Decommissioning Issues), LBP-99-13, 49 NRC 233 (March 9, 1999); and Memorandum and Order (Motion to Hold in Abeyance), LBP-99-40 (October 19, 1999); II. SECY-00-0080 - Final Rule: "Elimination of the Requirement for Noncombustible Fire Barrier Penetration Seal Materials and Other Minor Changes" (10 CFR Part 50)
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Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Robert C. Seldon, Project on Liberty and the Workplace, dated May 19, 2000, concerns the NRC's actions with respect to allegations made by a former employee of Pacific Gas & Electric Company
2. Letter to Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman dated May 19, 2000, concerns coolant pipe rupture at Indian Point II
3. Letter to Congress dated May 18, 2000, concerns compliance with the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996
4. Letter to Congress dated May 17, 2000, concerns paperwork reduction
5. Letter to Milton Levenson dated May 17, 2000, concerns appointment to a four-year term on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW)
6. Letter to Dr. Kenichi Murakami, President, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI), dated May 16, 2000, concerns announcement of appointment as President of JAERI by the Japanese Government
7. Letter to Deidre A. Lee, OMB, dated May 16, 2000, designates a Senior Agency Official in accordance with E.O. 13149

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Renewal Notice
2. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-71]; Nuclear Energy Institute; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking
3. 10 CFR Part 50; Emergency Core Cooling System Evaluation Models; Final Rule

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4. 10 CFR Part 50; Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants; Confirmation of Effective Date and Availability of Guidance; Final Rule

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Veterans Administration Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA

On May 17, 2000, a pre-decisional enforcement conference with the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center was held in the Region I Office. The meeting was held to discuss the Office of Investigations (OI) findings documented in OI Reports 1-1998-003 and 1-1999-009. Also discussed in the meeting were the findings of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board's (MSPB) Initial Decision that the Department of Veterans Affairs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, retaliated against a former research nurse for her whistle blowing activities by subjecting her to intolerable working conditions and ultimately terminating her employment prior to its scheduled expiration. The meeting was open for public observation and was transcribed. The staff is reviewing the information provided by the licensee and will be making an enforcement decision in the near future.

St. Albans (NY) Meeting

Region I held a meeting at Rockville, MD, on May 22, 2000, to discuss proposed derived concentration guideline limits (DCGLs) for strontium-90 contamination at the St. Albans decommissioning site in Queens, NY. Meeting attendees included representatives of Region I, DWM, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The site is owned by the VA Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, and the Corps of Engineers is responsible for the decommissioning under the Formerly Utilized Defense Sites (FUDS) program. The meeting provided a forum for the Corps to understand what is required for NRC approval of the proposed DCGLs. The Corps' justification is expected during June, 2000.

Oyster Creek

On May 24, 2000, a meeting was held between the NRC and GPU Nuclear to discuss the recent performance of the Oyster Creek plant. The meeting was open to the general public: attendees included three newspaper reporters and two members of the general public. The meeting lasted approximately two hours. The discussions centered around the performance outlined in the March 31, 2000, PPR letter. GPU Nuclear management discussed improvement initiatives in the human performance and onsite engineering areas.

Indian Point 2

An NRC special inspection commenced this week to review Con Edison's oversight and performance with respect to the steam generator monitoring and inspections during the 1997 outage and the current outage. Wayne Schmidt (RI team leader) and Causis Dodd (NRC contractor) were at the Waltz Mill facility this week to begin this inspection, as well as to support the development of the Indian Point 2 steam generator safety evaluation. They were accompanied by Ted Sullivan (NRR) and David Lew (RI). The special inspection will be continuing next week at the Indian Point 2 site. Region I and NRR have closely coordinated this inspection with activities associated with the development of the safety evaluation. NRR is also providing significant technical support to the inspection.

May 26, 2000

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Meeting with Congressman Romero-Barcelo on Vieques Island

On May 25, the Regional Administrator met with Congressman Romero-Barcelo to discuss the NRC plans for follow-up on the U.S. Navy's clean-up of depleted uranium from the Navy firing Range on Vieques.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.

On May 22, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), the Deputy Regional Administrator and others from NMSS held a meeting with licensee representatives. The purpose was for the licensee to present status of improvements in their Safety Culture at Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, Tennessee.

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie Plant Performance Review and Reactor Oversight Meeting

On May 24, regional management conducted the St. Lucie semi-annual Plant Performance Review at the St. Lucie Training Center on Hutchinson Island. A public meeting was also held in Jensen Beach, Florida to discuss the revised reactor oversight process.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. - Hatch Nuclear Plant

On May 26, Region II held a pre-decisional enforcement conference with representatives from Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss two apparent violations related to implementation of the Physical Security Plan. The meeting was closed to the public due to the need to discuss safeguards information.

Emergency Preparedness Ingestion Pathway Workshop

During the period May 24-25, 2000, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated in an Emergency Preparedness Ingestion Pathway Workshop in Dothan, Alabama.

Attendees included State officials, officials of the affected local jurisdictions located within the Fifty Mile - EPZ of the Farley Nuclear Station, and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U. S. Department of Energy, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Health and Human Services (Food and Drug Administration), and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The participation was a part of the Region II and IRO State and local "outreach" program.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

D.C. Cook Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection Public Exit

During a May 22 public exit, NRC officials met with American Electric Power Co. officials to discuss the findings of an 11-inspector team regarding the readiness of the D. C. Cook plant in Michigan to restart. Overall, the team's findings were positive, but NRC staff noted that more work remains to be completed before restart. Five news organizations were represented at the meeting, including reporters from a local television station and the Associated Press. Several other reporters made telephone inquiries following the meeting. NRC has scheduled the next public meeting for June 5.

Illinois Public Meeting to Discuss Changes in Reactor Oversight

NRC officials May 24 held a public meeting in Morris, Illinois, to discuss the NRC's reactor oversight process.

NRC Discusses Dresden Assessments

NRC officials May 24 met with Commonwealth Edison officials to discuss Dresden Unit 2 and 3's latest plant performance results. The meeting was held at the plant.

NRC Discusses Braidwood Assessments

NRC officials met May 25 with Commonwealth Edison officials to discuss Braidwood Unit 1 and 2's latest plant's performance results. The meeting was held at the plant.

Staff members attend FEMA Workshop

Several staff members attended the FEMA Region V 2000 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Workshop May 24-25 in Chicago. Deputy Regional Administrator Jim Caldwell gave the opening remarks. State, local and tribal government representatives attended the workshop.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 26, 2000

Visit by Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield to the Callaway Plant

On May 23, 2000, Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield, with a member of his staff, and the Region IV Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Callaway plant. The Commissioner met with the NRC Senior Resident Inspector, toured the facility with the Callaway Plant Manager and members of his staff, and held a question and answer session with licensee plant personnel. The Commissioner met with the plant manager and members of his staff to discuss the licensee's overall performance, the new reactor oversight process, and the licensee's future plans and challenges.

Siemens Power Corporation

A public meeting was held May 23, 2000, at the Richland Engineering and Manufacturing Facility Emergency Operations Center in Richland, Washington. The Region IV DNMS Director and members of his staff, along with a NMSS staff member, met with the Siemens Power Corporation President and CEO, Vice President and other staff members to discuss the NRC's review of Siemens' performance for the past 2 years.

Commissioner Addresses Resident Inspector Counterpart Meeting Using Video Technology

On May 24, Commissioner McGaffigan presented the keynote address to the Region IV resident inspector counterpart meeting using video teleconferencing and a boxlight image projector. In addition to resident inspectors, the meeting was attended by Region IV management and staff. After the remarks, an effective question and answer period ensued. The keynote address was enthusiastically received by the Region IV staff. This media provided an effective means for communication and interaction while maximizing the efficient use of the Commissioner's time.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending May 26, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 18

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	06/06/00 2203 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Implementation of Financial Management Improvement Act	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	06/07/00 SD 366	9:30	Markup	S. 2098, Electric Power Market Competition & Reliability Act	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Portner	06/08/00 216 Hart	TBA	Markup TENTATIVE	FY01 Energy & Water Development Appropriations	Senators Stevens/Byrd Appropriations
Gerke	06/14/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Electronic Freedom of Information Act (e-FOIA)	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	06/14/00 2123 RHOB	TBA	Markup	H.R. 2944--Electricity Deregulation	Reps. Bliley/Dingell Commerce
Combs	Late July TBA	TBA	NRC Staff and others	Moab	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy & Power Commerce

Note: Congress is in recess until Tuesday, June 6.

May 26, 2000

ENCLOSURE R