

INFORMATION REPORT

August 3, 2000

SECY-00-0165

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0165 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JULY 28, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA by Debra J. Corley Acting For/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
M. Case, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JULY 28, 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: mjc@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Indian Point Unit 2

In a letter dated July 20, 2000, the staff notified Consolidated Edison Company of New York (ConEd) that, based on the information provided to date, it cannot conclude that the information presented in ConEd's steam generator inspection operational assessment report resolves the staff's concerns. Thus, the staff cannot conclude that the applicable performance criteria would be satisfied for the proposed operating period. The concerns centered on uncertainties inherent in the licensee's analysis, specifically the assumed probability of detection in the small radius U-bends, the use of eddy current sizing data, and the assumed material properties. The licensee will need to address these concerns before the staff can make a final determination on the operational assessment. Because of this letter, a meeting has been scheduled with ConEd on July 28, 2000, at the plant to discuss ConEd's response to these concerns. The meeting will be open to public observation.

Dresden 1 Loads HiStar Dry Cask

During the first week of July, Dresden 1 began the process of loading their first HiStar dry cask. Other than some minor delays, due to the fuel handling crane bridge motor thermal switch problems and the adjustment of the vacuum drying exhaust when small amounts of Kr was detected during vacuum drying, the process went well. The cask arrived on the ISFSI pad on July 24, 2000, at 2:53 PM. The next cask is expected to be delivered to the site in March of 2001.

Waterford 3 EDG AOT Extension

The staff approved the emergency diesel generator allowed outage time extension from 3 to 10 days for Waterford 3 on July 21, 2000. The staff evaluated the application in accordance with the three-tiered approach set forth in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.177, and found that the risk associated with the proposed change would be small. The licensee also established a configuration risk management program to support this risk-informed application consistent with the RG. The staff's review concluded that the licensee met the intent of RGs 1.174 and 1.177; therefore, it found that risk findings and insights supported the proposal. This task is on the Chairman Tracking Memorandum.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Protection, Federal Guidance Subcommittee

On July 19, 2000, a representative from the Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section attended a meeting of the Federal Guidance Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) at EPA Offices in Washington D.C. The three top issues discussed at this Subcommittee meeting were: 1) Drafting a "White Paper" on how to update the dosimetric methods for internal radiation emitters to take advantage of the more sophisticated models in later (e.g., ICRP 60) recommendations; 2) Revising the EPA Protective Action Guides (PAG) and discussion of whether the separate effort of revising the PAGs should be published as a Federal Guidance Report (FRG); and 3) Revising EPA's guidance for Public

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Dose Limits. Current EPA guidance is based on the 1960's version of the ICRP recommendations. Certain EPA staff feel that a 100 mrem per year limit (consistent with current ICRP guidance and NRC regulation) does not meet the EPA Lifetime Risk goals for members of the public. A proposal made at this meeting (by EPA members) is to endorse "Optimization" of radiation exposure, on a source specific basis, without specifying a dose limit.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Technical Training Center is conducting its week-long Reactor Oversight Process Training (G-200 course) in headquarters for NRC headquarters and regional staff during the week of July 24, 2000.

Physical Security/Safeguards

On July 6, 2000, a public meeting was attended by NEI, licensee Access Authorization personnel, and the public. NEI and industry personnel presented proposed changes to Regulatory Guide 5.66 and NUMARC 89-01 (regulations pertaining to screening of personnel working at nuclear plants), based on data collected during ten years of experience implementing the present regulation.

On July 12, 2000, a public meeting was held with licensees and numerous stakeholders regarding the industry draft Safeguards Performance Assessment. Staff comments on NEI 99-07, (Draft 5) were discussed. A closed meeting (the subject was Safeguards Information) was subsequently held with NMSS and industry security managers to discuss the draft Adversary Characteristics Document. NMSS plans to have a final document to the Commission by early Fall.

Review Guidelines for STP Exemption Request and Baseline Acceptance Criteria for RIP50, Option 2

On July 17, 2000, the staff released to the public a draft version of its review guidelines for the South Texas Plant (STP) Nuclear Operating Company request for exemptions from numerous special treatment requirements in 10 CFR Parts 21, 50 and 100. The draft guidelines were developed by the RIP50, Option 2 core team and were approved by the RILP. They represent a "work in progress" and are subject to change on the basis of stakeholder input. These guidelines will also serve as the starting point for the development of acceptance criteria for licensees who choose to adopt the staff's risk-informed changes to the special treatment requirements published in an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on March 3, 2000 (risk-informed Part 50, Option 2).

The purpose for releasing the draft guidelines was to facilitate discussion of the issues at an NEI-sponsored forum on risk-informed regulation in Clearwater, FL on July 18-19, 2000, an ASME pump and valve symposium on July 19, 2000, and a meeting with STPNOC on July 24-25, 2000. The staff received limited feedback from stakeholders on the guidelines at these forums. In general, the feedback was that the guidelines will be useful for future discussions and that it is clear that safety-related SSCs of low safety significance (RISC-3) are removed from the scope of the existing special treatment requirements, consistent with SECY-98-300 and SECY-99-256. Specific comments include (1) the level of detail in the section on treatment

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for RISC-3 SSCs, (2) the perception that the treatment of non-safety-related SSCs that are safety significant (RISC-2) will be less than that for RISC-3, (3) perception that a new program will need to be created that provides more assurance than existing commercial programs but less than existing regulation-required programs, and (4) a desire to prevent the staff from regulating commercial programs.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Draft NUREG 1556, Vol. 20, "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licensees

On July 20, 2000, "Guidance About Administrative Licensing Procedures," dated July 2000 was published in the Federal Register (65 FR 45116) for public comment. The 75 day comment period ends on October 3, 2000. Additionally on July 20, 2000, the final version of NUREG 1556, Vol. 14, "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licensees: Program-Specific Guidance About Well Logging, Tracer, and Field Flood Study Licensees," dated June 2000 was published in the Federal Register (65 FR 45116).

NEI/Industry Meeting on Standard Technical Specifications

On July 20, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with NEI and industry representatives as part of a continuing process to develop standard technical specifications for spent fuel storage casks. This effort is part of a trio of initiatives the staff is pursuing to improve the dry storage cask certification process and the process for subsequent changes to cask certificates of compliance. The other initiatives include streamlining the rulemaking process and implementing a new 10 CFR 72.48 process, which parallels the new 10 CFR 50.59 process. Both the staff and industry agreed to work towards completing the first phase of the technical specification improvement process by the end of the year.

Observation of the Department of Energy Audit of the Total System Performance Assessment - Site Recommendation

On July 9-19, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Quality Assurance audit of the processes and activities that support the Total System Performance Assessment - Site Recommendation (TSPA-SR). The audit was conducted at the Yucca Mountain project office in Las Vegas, Nevada. Four analysis model reports (AMRs) supporting the TSPA-SR, the draft TSPA Model report and several AMRs associated with Features, Events, and Processes were selected for review during the audit. The scope of the AMRs included waste package degradation, dissolved concentration limits, drift seepage, and biosphere dose conversion factors for irrigation. The most significant finding during the audit questioned the methods used to validate certain AMR models.

Data and software qualification were not directly evaluated during this audit, however, data traceability and status tracking were reviewed. Most software used in support of the TSPA-SR have been qualified, however, several, including the top-level TSPA code GOLDSIM, are currently in the qualification process.

Reassignment of Tank Waste Remediation System Staff

On June 29, 2000, the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of River Protection issued a notice to BNFL Inc. (the Tank Waste Remediation System - Privatization [TWRS-P] contractor) that terminated and stopped all work under its privatization contract for waste treatment and immobilization services at Hanford. Since January 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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(NRC) has been assisting DOE's Regulatory Unit on this project under a Memorandum of Understanding. As a result of this contract termination and Stop Work order, which NRC staff expect will result in an indefinite delay in the TWRS project, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) is preparing for Commission consideration a proposal to end its relationship with DOE on this project and is reassigning TWRS Section staff to other positions throughout NMSS to meet high priority needs. Approximately half of these reassignments will occur by July 31, 2000. Other TWRS Section staff will remain to document completed review activities and bring this effort to an orderly close. Most TWRS Section personnel will be reassigned by September 11, 2000. It should be noted that this plan could change as a result of Commission review and redirection.

Honeywell Disposal of 10 CFR 40.13 Materials

On July 19, 2000, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) confirmed the acceptability of Honeywell's proposed transfer of 90,000 cubic feet of scrap metal to Waste Control Specialists in Andrews, Texas. In addition, on July 25, 2000, staff from FCSS held a conference call with Honeywell regarding a separate proposal to remove and transfer calcium fluoride wastes with low levels of radioactive contamination from a storage pond.

Atlas Stakeholders Group Meeting

On July 25, 2000, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated in a public meeting, in Moab, Utah, of the Atlas Stakeholders Group. Participants included the Moab Mill Reclamation Trust (which holds Nuclear Regulatory Commission license SUA-917 for the former Atlas Corporation uranium mill site near Moab) and its contractors, the State of Utah, Grand County, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Grand Canyon Trust and other interested parties. Senators Bennett and Hatch and Congressman Cannon were also represented by Congressional staff.

The trustee provided an update on the status of activities at the Atlas mill site and described actions anticipated in the next few months. The trustee expects to start moving contaminated material onto the tailings pile in mid-September. In addition to cleaning up the site, the material added to the pile will aid in dewatering the tailings by adding weight that will help force out water. The dewatering, using wick drains, is expected to begin in December and be completed in 18 months.

A representative of Senator Bennett presented a summary of the status of legislation to transfer the site to DOE. The Senator's amendment was attached to the Defense Authorization bill, passed by the Senate, because of the tie to the transfer of Naval oil shale reserves to the Ute tribe. As the House version of the bill does not contain this language, it will be resolved by the conference committee.

Criticality Safety Screening

On July 24-25, 2000, three Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Criticality Safety Team members screened 84 Nuclear Criticality Safety Evaluations (NCSEs) for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) at the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Headquarters.

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The review was the first step in preparing for the review of the high assay upgrade amendment request expected for the PGDP in October 2000. The amendment request is to allow PGDP to operate up to 5.5% enrichment, an increase from the current authorization of 2.75%. The team members categorized the NCSEs as high, medium, or low risk to help in determining which ones would need further review to support the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) review of the amendment request. This review identified a larger number of NCSEs than expected were in the higher risk, more complex categories. This amendment request is a high priority for USEC with the announced shutdown of the Portsmouth plant and is receiving a lot of public interest. USEC has requested NRC to support a decision on the amendment request by December 31, 2000. NRC has informed USEC that the earliest date (with an aggressive schedule) would be by March 2001. The staff is meeting with USEC in an open meeting on August 1, 2000, to discuss the upcoming reviews. NRC plans to conduct the review in a risk-informed and efficient manner.

Meeting with Department of Energy Staff on Adversary Characteristics List

On July 25, 2000, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with staff from the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Security and Safeguards, to discuss the DOE Adversary Characteristics List (ACL), dated June 29, 2000. The DOE criteria for selecting adversary characteristics, the types of threat data used, and the specific characteristics DOE has selected were discussed. Differences between the DOE ACL and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Adversary Characteristics Document were also noted and discussed. NRC staff has identified the DOE ACL as a topic for discussion at an upcoming meeting between NRC and DOE management.

Meeting with the Department of Energy to Discuss Nuclear Regulatory Commission Material Protection, Control, and Accounting Support to Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan

On July 27, 2000, representatives of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with Department of Energy (DOE) representatives to discuss areas of possible Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) activities under the Material Protection, Control, and Accounting Interagency Agreement with DOE signed by NRC on July 7, 2000. The discussions focused on regulatory areas where NRC could assist DOE in their ongoing efforts in Russia, as well as possible areas of future NRC assistance to Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Other program elements, such as financial reporting requirements, were also discussed. DOE will provide information to NRC in the near future that will assist NRC in determining specific candidate regulatory, licensing, and training activities for DOE's consideration.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

More Realistic Offsite Dose Estimated from Postulated Dry Storage Cask Leakage

Supporting NMSS's assessment of risk associated with normal operation of the Private Fuel Storage Facility and preparing for the upcoming probabilistic risk assessment for dry storage of spent fuel and related activities, RES has completed an in-house evaluation of offsite dose from dry storage cask leakage under design basis conditions. The primary objective of the evaluation was to provide a more realistic quantification, with uncertainty bounds, of offsite doses associated with cask leakage by taking into account aerosol deposition in the cask. A more realistic evaluation of offsite dose from postulated cask leakage showed a factor-of-400 reduction over the current licensing-basis offsite dose. For this evaluation, RES used the RADTRAD (Radionuclide Transport and Removal and Dose Estimation) reactor accident analysis code, together with values for cask parameters such as volume and leak rate, from the Safety Analysis Report for the HI-STORM cask. The HI-STORM cask was chosen for this analysis because it also was selected for the upcoming probabilistic risk assessment for dry storage of spent fuel. RES used the radioactive material releases from the fuel into the cask from NMSS Interim Staff Guidance-5 (consistent with the Safety Analysis Report).

Regulatory Guide on Alternative Source Terms

RES has issued Regulatory Guide 1.183, "Alternative Radiological Source Terms for Evaluating Design Basis Accidents at Nuclear Power Reactors." Regulatory Guide 1.183 has been developed to provide guidance to licensees of operating power reactors on acceptable applications of alternative source terms; the scope, nature, and documentation of associated analyses and evaluations; consideration of impacts on analyzed risk; and the content of related licensee submittals.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

State Outreach in Richland, Washington

A senior staff member and a summer intern from IRO and two staff members from NRC Region IV, conducted a State Outreach session in Richland, Washington on July 19, 2000. Representatives from DOE, USDA, EPA, FDA, and FEMA also participated as speakers. Presentations were also made by representatives from WA State Radiation Health and Emergency Services. This Outreach session was conducted in preparation for the upcoming post plume phase, 6-year cycle exercise to be conducted with the Columbia Generating Station in mid-September. Representatives from these Federal agencies and NRC will be participating. The Outreach session is a part of the IRO continuing program of working with the State, local, and utility responders to enhance their ability to access Federal resources if an event at a nuclear power plant or other NRC licensed facility were to occur.

ETS Workshop with Region III

On July 21, 2000, IRO conducted a workshop with industry representatives to discuss the Emergency Telecommunications System (ETS) changes discussed in RIS 2000-11. The meeting was held at the Region III office. IRO discussed the voluntary initiative through which utilities could provide ETS functionality using corporate telecommunications systems. OCIO provided a description of the FTS 2000 to FTS 2001 conversion process. Licensees are evaluating their options. Responses to the voluntary initiative are expected between July 31 and August 15, 2000.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-00-021, Novartis Pharmaceutical, POTENTIAL OVEREXPOSURE TO FINGERTIP. (Reissued)
2. PNO-II-00-028, Florida State University, RADIOACTIVE SPILL.
3. PNO-II-00-029, Qore, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
4. PNO-III-00-028, Nth Consultants, STOLEN MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Wang Government Services, Inc.

DCPM awarded a competitive contract to Wang Government Services, Inc., to provide service support for the NRC Operations Center Information Management System (OCIMS). The period of performance is one year with four one-year option periods. The total value with options is \$2,425,978.08. This action was conducted under NRC's Focused Source Selection Procedures. The contract type for this work is Cost-Plus-Fixed Fee Requirements. Streamlining initiatives utilized to shorten the procurement lead time included: NRC Focused Source Selection Procedures; electronic transmittal of SOW; established a deadline for proposers' questions; reduced proposal preparation time; used less than three SEP technical members; utilized oral presentations; limited number of pages in the proposal; and electronically coordinated the final evaluation report.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
July 21, 2000 through July 27, 2000:

MLTS database, Louisiana identified zip codes. (FOIA/PA 2000-0299)

Bidders list for government surplus auctions. (FOIA/PA 2000-0300)

San Onofre, OI report 4-1999-037. (FOIA/PA 2000-0301)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

2000 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Leadership Conference Attended

On July 28, 2000, Henry Rubin attended the 2000 CFC Leadership Conference held at the Marriott Metro Center Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference included useful presentations on such topics as Motivating Keyworkers, Managing Special Events, Putting Fun in Your Campaign, and Leadership Support. At the end of the conference, there was a CFC Charity Fair, where qualified charities disseminated information about their organizations.

Arrivals		
JOHNSON, Robert	SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ANALYST	NMSS
PECK, Michael	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIV
McGLOTHLIN, Douglas	INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST	NMSS
SMITH, Stephanie	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
YOUNG, Ann	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE (Legal)	ASLBP
YOUNG, Sheila	CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR
Retirements		
KIRK, Isaac	SR. COMPUTER SPECIALIST	OCIO
Departures		
ALBRIGHT, Jennifer*	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	NRR
LACKNER, Flora	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
YANG, Vicky	ACCOUNTANT	OCFO

* Extended LWOP

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending July 28, 2000

Media Interest

OPA staff attended the public meetings in Salt Lake City and Grantsville, Utah, on the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Private Fuel Storage spent fuel facility. Governor Leavitt and Congressman Hansen spoke at the meetings, which attracted local print, television and radio coverage.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-115	NRC Revises Policy Statement on Medical Uses of Certain Radioactive Materials
00-116	NRC Revises Regulations for Special Nuclear Material Licensees
00-117	Final NRC Spent Fuel Cask Fabrication Regulations to Provide Additional Flexibility, Efficiency and Consistency
00-118	NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research to Hold Public Meeting in Maryland on August 16-17
Regions:	
I-00-53	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Near Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant on Changes in Reactor Oversight
I-00-54	NRC to Meet With Con Ed Regarding Indian Point 2 Steam Generators
I-00-55	NRC to Hold Public Meetings Near Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant on Changes in Reactor Oversight
I-00-56	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Near Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant on Changes in Reactor Oversight
I-00-57	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Near Seabrook Nuclear Plant on Changes in Reactor Oversight
I-00-58	Note to Editors: Letter to Consolidated Edison Re: Indian Point 2
I-00-59	NRC to Hold Public Meeting Near Three Mile Island 1 Nuclear Plant on Changes in Reactor Oversight
IV-00-32	NRC to Meet With Public to Discuss New Reactor Oversight Process for San Onofre Nuclear Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Meeting with Ukrainian Officials

On July 20, 2000, OIP staff attended a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with DOE and representatives of Energoatom of Ukraine, the owner and operator of all Ukrainian NPPs. Nikolai Steinberg, Energoatom, Vice President, led the visiting delegation.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review activities between Energoatom and DOE, although energy economics dominated much of the discussion. Steinberg summarized the most important cooperation activities as the preparation of safety analyses and the development of simulators and safety parameter display systems for NPP control rooms.

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Office of the Secretary
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-00-0134	6/23/00	Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 72 -- Clarification and Addition of Flexibility
Commission Voting Record on 00-0134	7/25/00	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 00-0111	7/25/00	Final Rule to Amend Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material
2. SECY-99-0012	4/8/99	Use of Uranium Mill Tailings Impoundments for the Disposal of Waste Other than 11e.(2) Byproduct Material and Reviews of Applications to Process Material Other than Natural Uranium Ores
Commission Voting Record on 99-0012	7/26/00	(same)
SRM on 99-0012	7/26/00	(same)
3. SECY-99-0013	3/12/99	Recommendations on Ways to Improve the Efficiency of NRC Regulations at In Situ Leach Uranium Recovery Facilities
Commission Voting Record on 99-0013	7/26/00	(same)
SRM on 99-0013	7/26/00	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0157	7/20/00	SECY-00-0157 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 14, 2000
2. SECY-00-0137	6/23/00	Response to Staff Requirements Memorandum Dated December 21, 1998 - SECY-98-232 - Seaman Nuclear's Application to Distribute Portable Gauges to General Licensees
3. SECY-00-0152	7/12/00	OIP-Administered International Arrangements and Letters of Agreement

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Memoranda		
1. M000725	7/25/00	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session, Tuesday, July 25, 2000: I. SECY-00-0111 - Final Rule to Amend Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material; II. SECY-00-0134 - Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 72-- Clarification and Addition of Flexibility
2. M000710B	7/27/00	Staff Requirements-Briefing on Proposed Export of High Enriched Uranium to Canada

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Joe F. Colvin, President & CEO, NEI, Regis Matzie, Senior VP, Nuclear Systems, Westinghouse Electric Company, and Dr. Theodore Marston, Vice President, Nuclear & Chief Nuclear Officer, EPRI, dated July 17, 2000, concerns the combined license review process.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Part 50; Docket No. PRM-50-64; Atlantic City Electric Company, Austin Energy, Central Maine Power Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, and Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Denial of Petition for Rulemaking.
2. Application for a License to Import Radioactive Waste (Philotechnics, Ltd.).
3. Medical Use of Byproduct Material; Policy Statement, Revision.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Indian Point 2

On July 27, 2000, the NRC issued a letter to Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) operator of the Indian Point 2 reactor, that provided the NRC's preliminary findings from a special inspection team review of the circumstances that led to the February 15, 2000, steam generator (SG) tube failure at Indian Point 2. The team concluded that the licensee's technical direction and execution of its 1997 steam generator inspection was deficient in several respects in 1997. As a result, Con Ed did not recognize and take appropriate corrective actions for significant conditions adverse to quality that increased the likelihood of SG tube degradation and the likelihood of not identifying detectable flaws. At the July 20, 2000, team exit meeting, Con Ed disagreed with the team's conclusions. This letter recognized Con Ed's differing viewpoints and stated that the NRC will consider these points as part of the inspection report finalization process.

Meeting with SteriGenics

On July 20, 2000, Region I technical staff and Chief of Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 2 met with management and engineering staff of SteriGenics, a large irradiator licensee in Somerset, NJ. The purpose of the meeting was to review the current configuration of the irradiator and to understand and review proposed changes to the safety system. A better understanding of the NRC regulations as they apply to this facility resulted from the meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba Full Scale Exercise

During the period July 24-27, 2000, the State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee, Chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the evaluation of the Catawba full scale exercise involving officials of the States of South Carolina and North Carolina and the applicable local governments.

The results of this evaluation indicate that all exercise objectives were met, and no deficiencies were noted. Subsequent to the exercise, the Committee conducted an exit critique with State and local officials, and a public meeting to discuss the exercise findings.

Payroll Records/Time and Labor Hours Reporting Audit

On July 25-26, 2000, the Team Leader and another Chief Financial Officer representative of the Payroll Operations Team in Headquarters conducted an audit of Payroll Records/Time and Labor Hours Reporting in the Region II office.

Georgia Tech

On July 27, 2000, the Director, DNMS, and a Human Resources representative met with the Director of the Neely Research Center, the Georgia Tech Radiation Safety Officer, and Health Physics faculty to discuss NRC opportunities for health physics student employment in cooperative education and entry level positions.

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Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

DNMS Holds Three-Day Seminar

The region's Division of Nuclear Materials Safety held a three-day seminar for staff members July 25-27. The seminar included sessions on cardiovascular brachytherapy - a new treatment of a heart artery after an individual has angioplasty, current issues at the gaseous diffusion plants in Kentucky and Ohio, an update on activities involving the extremity overexposures discovered at Mallinckrodt's St. Louis area facility, and an update on activities involving americium-241 contamination at Southeast Missouri State University.

AEP Revises D.C. Cook Unit 1 Restart Schedule

American Electric Power Company on July 26, 2000, announced that it had revised the estimated restart date for its Cook Unit 1 plant in Michigan to the first quarter of 2001. Primary activities for restart include the restoration of the ice condenser system, structural modifications in the containment building, refurbishment of motor operated valves, and system testing.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

Regional Administrator Visits Fort Calhoun Station

The Regional Administrator (RA) visited the Fort Calhoun Station on July 28, 2000. The RA met with NRC staff and licensee management, and toured the facility.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 Steam Generator Outage Status

ANO Unit 2 is stable in Mode 5 in mid-loop while the inspection of the steam generators continues. As of 5 a. m. on July 28, the inspection of Steam Generator A was 39 percent complete and Steam Generator B was 60 percent complete. Approximately 200 tubes in each generator have been identified for more detailed inspection. Fifteen percent of the more detailed inspection in Steam Generator B has been completed and 13 repairs were confirmed as being needed. NRR personnel are onsite observing the inspection. The licensee plans to complete the outage and take the reactor critical on Friday evening (August 4), if the inspection continues as planned.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 28, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 27

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	September	TBA	NRC Staff and others	Moab	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy & Power Commerce

Note: Congress is in recess, with the Senate returning on September 5, and the House returning on September 6.