

INFORMATION REPORT

August 22, 2000

SECY-00-0178

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0178 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 18, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA Debra J. Corley Acting for/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
C. Marschall, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING August 18, 2000

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

Contact: C. Marschall, OEDO by E-mail: csn@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

First Application of Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP)

On August 11, 2000, the staff published in the Federal Register a notice for comment for the first application of the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP). This initial application of CLIIP is for the elimination of requirements on post accident sampling systems (PASS). This issue is based on a proposal by the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) and Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG) as part of the technical specification task force (TSTF) effort. The proposed changes to the standard technical specifications (STS), which will allow the removal of PASS, are based on recent staff's approval of topical reports submitted by the WOG and CEOG. The CLIIP includes issuing a notice for comment on the staff's model safety evaluation and a proposed no significant hazards consideration determination (NSHCD). Following the comment period, the staff will publish a notice of availability, which will announce to licensees, that the staff's safety evaluation and the NSHCD may be referenced in site-specific license amendment applications. The CLIIP provides an avenue in improving the efficiency of the license amendment process and promotes standard adoption of the STS changes. The staff's development of the CLIIP is described in Regulatory Issue Summary 2000-06, "Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process for Adopting Standard Technical Specifications Changes for Power Reactors," dated March 20, 2000, and was originally proposed by the industry's licensing action task force (LATF).

Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel

On August 15, 2000, the staff forwarded to the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration the draft charter for the Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP). The IIEP is being formed in response to Commission direction in the Staff Requirements Memorandum from SECY-00-049, "Results of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process Pilot Program." The IIEP will function as a cross-disciplinary oversight group to independently monitor and evaluate the results of the first year of initial implementation of the Reactor Oversight Process. The Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region II has been selected as the IIEP Chairman. The staff has contacted potential committee members to confirm their interest and availability in supporting the IIEP. We anticipate the first meeting of the IIEP will occur in the late-October/early-November time frame. The staff plans on keeping the Commission informed of developments and progress associated with the IIEP through monthly hi-light reports.

Public Meeting with NEI's Working Group on the Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings with NEI's working group on the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). Key issues discussed included the proposed pilot program to test new performance indicators associated with the initiating events cornerstone (scrams and unplanned power changes), fire protection inspection and significance determination process (SDP) issues, NEI self-assessment program initiatives, physical protection SDP issues, and industry support for the upcoming Federal Advisory

Committee Act (FACA) panel being formed to evaluate the efficacy of initial implementation of the ROP. The next public meeting with NEI on the ROP is scheduled for August 30, 2000.

NRC Participation in the American Nuclear Society (ANS) 2000 Utility Working Conference

During the week of August 7-10, 2000, NRC staff from the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM), participated in the American Nuclear Society (ANS) - sponsored Utility Working Conference 2000, "Managing the Business of Nuclear Power." This working conference included several open sessions, breakout tracks, and professional development workshops dealing with regulatory relations, supply chain, maintenance, engineering, executive focus and business topics, with over 200 industry professionals participating.

DIPM staff gave presentations at a regulatory relations and operations track session, a separate breakout session, and a professional development workshop on several topics including: (1) the current status and future initiatives associated with the revised reactor oversight process; (2) the evolution and future of the Shift Technical Advisor; (3) the final revised maintenance rule, including changes to the maintenance rule dealing with on-line and shutdown safety assessments; and (4) the maintenance rule, an NRC perspective with emphasis on maintenance effectiveness and the reactor oversight process.

ANS hosted the working conference, which was attended by a diverse group, including the United States and international nuclear industry, State and Federal agencies, academia, news media, and members of the public. Multiple topics were presented on risk-informed, performance-based regulation as it relates to maintenance effectiveness. The intent of the conference was to address areas related to the industry and the future of nuclear power. The conference provided an overview of the progress of deregulation, from the industry's as well as the regulator's perspectives, and provided a forum for sharing ideas that will help the nuclear industry move into the future. This conference was very interactive with input, views, experience, and perspectives from the attendees.

Indian Point Unit 2

Consolidated Edison Company of New York (ConEd) is making preparations to off-load the core based on its August 8, 2000, decision to immediately enter the steam generator replacement outage at Indian Point Unit 2. At this time ConEd is working to finalize its schedule for the replacement activities.

The meeting between the staff and ConEd to discuss the licensee's recovery plan after being designated as an "agency focus" plant has been scheduled for the evening of September 11, 2000, at the plant site.

CE Nuclear Power

NRR has issued its safety evaluation (SE) for the CE Nuclear Power Common Qualified (Common Q) digital I&C platform topical report. This SE will become available in ADAMS under file No. ML003737664 after CE has completed their proprietary review of their advance copy of the SE. The Common Q is one of three such I&C platforms that have been developed by vendors preparing to supply components for the replacement or upgrade of obsolete analog

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ENCLOSURE A

I&C components. In March NRR issued an SE for the Siemens TELEPERM XS (TXS) platform. Presently the staff is reviewing a third platform that Triconex has partially submitted. The full submittal is expected shortly. These three vendors propose to market these digital I&C systems to the utilities that operate the over 100 nuclear power plants in the USA. These utilities may reference the applicable topical reports in their submittals to the staff for digital upgrades. Because there are plant-specific differences, additional review of the upgrades will be required by the staff over the coming months and years.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Meeting to Discuss Shutdown of Uranium Enrichment at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On August 14, 2000, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and Region III (Division of Nuclear Materials Safety) attended a meeting in Piketon, Ohio, to discuss the safety and safeguards implications of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation's (USEC's) plan to shutdown uranium enrichment activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant by June 2001 and the regulatory implications of the transfer of the enrichment facilities from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to the Department of Energy following the shutdown. The meeting was open to the public for observation and NRC staff members were available after the meeting to answer questions. An audience of about 75 individuals, mostly USEC employees, were very cordial and seemed pleased that NRC had scheduled the meeting to occur near the plant. Congressman Strickland (D-Ohio) made a short opening statement. He also participated, both by asking questions and by providing commentary on some of the NRC staff's responses and on the audience's questions. There were also representatives at the meeting from the office of the Governor of Ohio, and from the local offices of Senators DeWine and Voinovich of Ohio. Ohio-based reporters from four newspapers and one radio station were also present.

During the meeting, USEC provided a short presentation on their termination of enrichment operations at the Portsmouth plant. USEC's presentation included a short transition plan overview, an overview of the planned production shutdown and the transfer and shipping operations which USEC plans to maintain for 4-5 years, and workforce initiatives which USEC is implementing to ensure a safe transition to shutdown.

Emergency Safety and Safeguards Exercise at Nuclear Fuel Services

On August 16, 2000, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, with the cooperation of the Incident Response Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region II, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and the licensee conducted an emergency exercise to test NRC's incident response organization and procedures. The scenario included safety and safeguards components and consisted of: (1) an intrusion by two individuals with cooperation of an insider; (2) an explosion in an area of the plant containing high-enriched uranium; (3) theft of a critical mass of special nuclear material; (4) hostage taking; (5) plant evacuation; and (6) evacuation of neighboring areas outside the plant. The exercise tested the licensee's and NRC's ability to cooperate and communicate during an emergency event, to protect classified information during an event, and to coordinate activities with another agency, specifically the FBI.

The exercise began at about 8:30 a.m., and the NRC Headquarters Incident Response Center coordinated NRC's response until about 12:30 p.m., when NRC Region II Site Response Team assumed coordination responsibilities at the site. The NRC Executive Team was chaired by Commissioner Nils Diaz, and included the Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs and Directors of NRC's major offices. The exercise demonstrated that

communications during an event of this magnitude are complex, but that NRC's system works well.

Public Meeting on 10 CFR Part 71 Rule

On August 10, 2000, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a roundtable public meeting at NRC Headquarters to solicit input on a 10 CFR Part 71 issues paper which addressed NRC's efforts to revise Part 71 (Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material) to harmonize with the latest International Atomic Energy Agency standards (ST-1), and implement other NRC-initiated changes. There was broad participation from citizen and environmental groups, Agreement States, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, industry (including oil, gas, minerals and nuclear industry representatives including the Nuclear Energy Institute), and the Airline Pilots Association. The stakeholders expressed wide ranging views on the various Part 71 issues. The staff will consider these comments and develop a proposed rule, due to the Commission in March 2001. In addition, the staff plans to hold two town hall meetings, scheduled for September 20, 2000, in Atlanta, Georgia, and September 26, 2000, in Oakland, California.

Staff Meets with Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry Concerning the Molycorp, Washington, Pennsylvania, Facility

On August 8-9, 2000, Division of Waste Management staff attended two meetings with the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR), the state of Pennsylvania, and Molycorp, Inc., (a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensee on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list). These meetings were held at the Pennsylvania State offices in Pittsburgh and at the licensee's facility in Washington, Pennsylvania. The ATSDR is an affiliate of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and has a mandate to examine the public health risk for sites that have been designated Superfund sites and sites that are on the National Priorities List. When petitioned by the public, the agency will also examine the health risk associated with other contaminated sites such as Molycorp. ATSDR asked for these meetings to obtain information from the licensee and state and federal regulatory agencies in order to address a petitioner's concern that operations at the Molycorp site may have resulted in increased cancer risk to members of the public. The petitioner has expressed concerns regarding the quality of drinking water in the area, the placement of air sampling and monitoring stations to detect radiological and chemical releases, and the perceived high risk of liver and kidney cancer in the area of the Molycorp facility. As part of their review, the ATSDR has asked for a large number of documents associated with NRC's review of Molycorp's decommissioning plan and has requested copies of any NRC and licensee correspondence generated by the review. If the study is approved by ATSDR management, ATSDR will review data available from regulatory agencies, prepare a report, and make follow-up recommendations following its review. Such a report would be normally be completed within a year of the site visit.

Meeting Regarding Transportation Packages for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

On August 17, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) regarding transportation of transuranic waste materials to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The EEG provides technical oversight of the WIPP project for the state of New Mexico. The discussion centered on the amendment request

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that the Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission-certified TRUPACT-II package used to transport wastes to WIPP and on recent initiatives by the DOE to use other types of containers for shipments to WIPP.

Meeting Regarding Shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

On August 9, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss transport of defense wastes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The discussion centered on use of the TRUPACT-II package and the ATMX railcar for the transport of plutonium-contaminated wastes currently located at DOE facilities. The TRUPACT-II package was certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and meets package performance standards in 10 CFR Part 71. The ATMX railcar is authorized for shipments between various DOE sites by an exemption issued by the DOT. DOE is required to use NRC-certified packages for all shipments to and from WIPP. The agencies agreed to meet periodically to discuss issues related to the transport of transuranic wastes to WIPP.

Meeting with Foster Wheeler on Second Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

On August 11, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWEC) to discuss their plans to license a second Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The facility would be designed, built, licensed and operated by FWEC for the Department of Energy (DOE), with the DOE retaining the title to the spent fuel stored there and also providing the necessary financial assurances to support the project. The facility would store spent fuel currently in DOE's possession at INEEL from the Peach Bottom, Unit 1 and Shippingport reactor operations. FWEC indicated that an application will be submitted in November 2001.

Meeting Regarding Shipments of Irradiated Fuel from Oak Ridge National Laboratory

On August 9, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding its plans for a series of shipments from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. DOE is planning to modify the Model No. TN-FSV cask (Certificate of Compliance No. 9253) for shipment of various irradiated fuel elements and fuel parts. The modifications consist of a new inner containment vessel and fuel basket. The shipments will begin late in 2001. DOE plans to submit an application for approval of the modifications in September 2000.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Charles T. Gallagher, Gammatron, Inc.: Receipt of a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-30-64)

A document that requests public comment on a petition for rulemaking submitted by Charles T. Gallagher, Gammatron, Inc. was published in the Federal Register on August 11, 2000 (65 FR 49207). The petitioner requests that the NRC amend its financial assurance and recordkeeping requirements for decommissioning to require financial assurance from all licensees, expand the method for payment of decommissioning for small business operators, and exempt licensees whose radioactive materials are categorized as greater than Class C waste. The comment period for this action closes October 25, 2000.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of August 11, 2000 through August 17, 2000:

E-mail addresses for agency employees. (FOIA/PA 2000-0313)

Contract, NRC-26-00-307, Operation and Management Services Support.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0314)

Vacancy announcements 9828001, 9949015, 0028002, and R994-90025, all applications, crediting plans and scores not previously addressed under FOIA/PAs 2000-0009 and 2000-0015. (FOIA/PA 2000-0315)

Security drill performance memo, OGC to T. Quay, NRR, dated 11/9/98. (FOIA/PA 2000-0316)

Contract, NRC-33-96-194, Network Services. (FOIA/PA 2000-0317)

Self, IG investigation. (FOIA/PA 2000-0318)

IMPAC credit card, contracting officers, prime contractors, and Information Resource Managers within NRC, lists. (FOIA/PA 2000-0319)

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 18, 2000

Arrivals		
RICHARDS-JENKINS, Melissa*	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
JOHNSON, Anna**	SITE SECRETARY	RIV
MAXEY, Ronnie	REACTOR INSPECTOR INTERN	RII
Departures		
BLACKWELL, Laura	SUMMER CLERICAL	HR
CLARK, Leigh	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
COBLENTZ, Laban	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	NRR
DINKFELD, Daren	SUMMER INTERN	RI
POLLACK, Debra	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
HORACE, Eddie	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
JONES, Jamil	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	ADM
PRUETT, Timothy	INFORMATION MGMT SPECIALIST	OCIO
REITER, Monica	SUMMER CLERK	RIII
WILLIAMS, Shawn	SUMMER INTERN	RI

*Effective 08/11/00

**Effective 08/16/00

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Media Interest

Local media, including radio and print reporters, attended the meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio, regarding the planned closure of the uranium enrichment plant.

Region IV received press calls on the commitments by Entergy to improve physical security at Waterford; the (New Orleans) Times-Picayune is working on a story.

NRC headquarters reported several calls from the press regarding assertions in the Union of Concerned Scientists' report on nuclear power plant risk studies.

Press Releases	
Regions:	
II-00-54	NRC to Meet With Duke Energy to Discuss Inspection Finding at Oconee Nuclear Plant
III-00-45	NRC Staff Proposes \$5,500 Fine Against Minneapolis Firm
III-00-46	NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve Available to the News Media August 23 & 24 at Illinois Plants

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Chinese Vice Minister Song Visits NRC

On Friday, August 18, 2000, Vice Minister Song Ruixiang, Chinese State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), met with the Chairman, Commissioner Diaz and Executive Director for Operations William Travers, and toured the Emergency Operations Center. During his meetings, the Vice Minister remarked on the growth of China's nuclear program (three units are operating and eight units are under construction) and expressed appreciation for the important safety collaboration between NRC and the National Nuclear Safety Administration which reports to SEPA.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0171	8/10/00	SECY-00-0171 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 4, 2000
2. SECY-0163	7/28/00	Summary of International Safeguards Activities Performed by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Revised Meeting Notice.
2. 10 CFR Part 2; Licensing Proceedings for the Receipt of High-Level Radioactive Waste at a Geologic Repository: Licensing Support Network, Design Standards for Participating Websites; Proposed Rule.
3. 10 CFR Part 72; Clarification and Addition of Flexibility; Final Rule.

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Molycorp, (York) PA

The first phase of decommissioning activities began at the Molycorp, Inc. York, PA facility. Region I staff met onsite with the licensee's contractor to discuss initial remediation efforts, which include consolidation and staging of waste packages, final survey of buildings and further characterization of subsurface soils in certain areas. The licensee estimates these tasks to be completed in two-three months followed by the second phase of major decommissioning, expected to begin Spring 2001. Staff from the Commonwealth of PA accompanied this inspection of a site on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan.

Enforcement Conference with Temple University Hospital

On August 14, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., an enforcement conference was held with Temple University Hospital staff in Region I. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the apparent violation identified in NRC OI Report No. 1-1998-147. This involved the licensee's management allegedly discriminating against an employee for engaging in protected activities by not allowing her to rescind her resignation. The licensee provided information indicating that they did not discriminate against the employee and had legitimate business reasons for their actions.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Reactor Oversight Process Lessons Learned Meeting

On August 16-17, 2000, the Region II Senior Resident Inspectors participated in a workshop to discuss lessons learned from the implementation of the reactor oversight process. The workshop developed a list of problems and successes which will be used to evaluate the program.

On August 16, 2000, the Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, ONRR, visited the Region II office to observe the workshop. The Chief of the Inspection Program Branch, ONRR, also participated in the workshop.

Florida Power and Light Company - Engineering Interface Meeting

On August 14, 2000, the Region held a meeting with representatives from the Florida Power and Light Company. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss St. Lucie and Turkey Point Engineering programs and activities.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) - Emergency Exercise

On August 16, 2000, the NRC, NFS, the FBI, and state and local government agencies participated in the "Volunteer Victory" emergency exercise. Commissioner Diaz lead the NRC Executive Team and the Deputy Regional Administrator lead the Site Team. Representatives from FEMA and DOE also observed the exercise. The exercise was a success in practicing the concept of operations for responding to terrorist or criminal threats/incidents involving NRC licensed material and in practicing the interface between the NRC and these other agencies.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. - Farley nuclear plant site

On August 16, 2000, the licensee declared an ALERT emergency classification due to the detection of smoke in a service water pump at the Farley nuclear power plant site. The basis of the ALERT classification was the potential for a fire that could affect an emergency core cooling system. The ALERT was terminated within 1 hour and 11 minutes, following a determination that any related fire was extinguished promptly by the onsite fire brigade and the remaining four Unit 2 service water pumps were operable and in service. The licensee retracted the ALERT classification on August 18, based on the fire being contained within the motor and did not affect an emergency core cooling system.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

NRC Staff Meet with USEC Officials to Discuss Portsmouth Plant Closure

About 75 people, including members of the local media, attended an August 14 meeting between NRC staff members and USEC officials in Piketon, Ohio to discuss the planned shutdown of uranium enrichment activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The meeting was open to public observation. U.S. Representative Ted Strickland of Ohio, also attended the meeting. USEC officials told the NRC that they expect to have a detailed plan in place by November regarding the plant closure which they predict will occur in June 2001.

NRC's Mobile Lab Open for Public Visits Near Savanna, Illinois

Members of the Region III Decommissioning Branch and the NRC mobile laboratory visited the Savanna Army Depot near Savanna, Illinois on August 15 and 16 to verify that low level radioactive contamination at the site has been successfully removed. Team members identified a small area that contained licensed material. The licensee will do additional surveys and clean-up. The mobile lab was open to the public for one-and-a-half hours on August 15.

Stork/Twin City Testing Corp. Predecisional Enforcement Conference

NRC officials met with officials from the Stork/Twin City Testing Corp. of Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 16 in a predecisional enforcement conference to discuss the apparent violations of NRC regulations which require two qualified individuals to be present during radiographic operations at temporary job sites. The conference was closed to the public.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 18, 2000

Visit by Regional Administrator to the Callaway Plant

On August 8, 2000, the Regional Administrator visited the Callaway Plant to meet with the resident inspectors and tour the facility. The Regional Administrator also met with the Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer for the Callaway Plant, and other members of his management staff, to discuss general topics of interest.

Meeting with Southern California Edison Company

The Director, Division of Reactor Safety and other members of the NRC staff, participated in a meeting on August 8, 2000, with the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station staff to discuss the status of the emergency preparedness program. This meeting was open to attendance by members of the general public.

Meeting with Energy Northwest

The Director, Division of Reactor Safety and other members of the NRC staff, conducted an open public meeting on August 17, 2000, with the Washington Nuclear Project-2 staff. This meeting was held at the request of the licensee and involved the revisions to their Quality Program.