

INFORMATION REPORT

February 15, 2001

SECY-01-0025

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0025 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING FEBRUARY 9, 2001

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P
Region IV	P*
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Rosenberg, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 9, 2001

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

Contact: S. Rosenberg, OEDO by E-mail:SLR1@nrc.gov.

Use **GO TO** (Ctrl+Home) to advance to the page number for a specific Office.

PgDn and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	STP	*
NMSS	4	OPA	12
RES	7	IP	13
IRO	8	SECY	14
OGC	*	Region I	16
ADM	9	Region II	17
CIO	10	Region III	18
CFO	*	Region IV	*
HR	11	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	19
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

V. C. Summer

V. C. Summer has completed repair of the 'A' Loop hot leg nozzle-to-spool piece weld to the one-half thickness level. The licensee installed an Inconel-152 root weld and is completing the weld by filling in with 152. The licensee has performed a radiographic test (RT) and ultrasonic test (UT) of the weld with no recordable indications. The repair had a planned 48-hour hold to allow time for cooling before additional weld buildup can be applied. The licensee began completing the final weld on February 7, 2001. The final RT and UT is expected to be performed on February 8, 2001. The NRC Special Inspection Team is scheduled to conduct a public exit on February 15, 2001.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS)

On Monday, January 29, 2001, the Vermont Department of Public Service and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, at a Public Service Board (PSB) hearing, asked the PSB to dismiss the latest offer from AmerGen for VYNPS and place the plant in auction. This latest offer from AmerGen occurred in November 2000, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by AmerGen, Vermont Department of Public Service, and by Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation. The PSB has put a 10 day hold on the schedule for further discovery in the present AmerGen VYNPS sale case and it appears that a decision whether to proceed with this case will be made shortly.

Under Vermont law VYNPC and its utility owners have a duty to report what was in the best interests of Vermont ratepayers, regardless of their contractual agreements. If the PSB decides to dismiss the AmerGen case the PSB chairman stated that the board would need to consider whether any sale, early plant shutdown, or an auction is in the best interests of ratepayers.

As background information, the staff had issued an Order on July 7, 2000, approving the transfer from VYNPC to AmerGen, which is effective through July 1, 2001. The Order becomes null and void unless the licensee requests in writing an extension of the expiration date for good cause and it is approved by the staff in writing. The licensee on August 14, 2000, did file an application requesting that the NRC consent to potential interim direct and indirect transfers of the license depending upon four scenarios as to the formation of Exelon and the status of the 50% share of AmerGen owned by PECO. The review of this request has been on hold until the PSB decides on the AmerGen case and the licensee informs the staff whether to proceed with the review or that it will be withdrawn.

Millstone 1

On February 1, 2001, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Region I participated in a meeting of the Millstone 1 Decommissioning Advisory Committee (M1DAC). The M1DAC is a State-sponsored public citizen group that provides public input to the Millstone Unit 1 licensee regarding their decommissioning activities. The Region I

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

representatives provided a presentation on the NRC inspection program for decommissioning and the NRC perspective on the licensee's investigation into two missing fuel rods. The NRR representatives answered several questions from the committee on NRC regulations governing decommissioning and the Technical Working Group report on spent fuel pool accident risk study. The licensee also provided a status report on their investigation into the two missing fuel rods.

NRC/FEMA Meeting on Potassium Iodide (KI) Rule Implementation

On January 29, 2000, a meeting was held at FEMA Headquarters with the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee Co-Chairs and members of their staffs to discuss the formation of a subcommittee to develop proposed procedures, processes, and guidance for implementation of the KI rule. NRC reviewed the contents of the Commission SRM, the revised rule and Statements of Consideration. FEMA raised a number of questions that the NRC took from the meeting for follow-up. The NRC was asked to develop a draft charter and task outline for the KI subcommittee which will be reviewed and a final draft prepared at the first meeting of the subcommittee tentatively planned for late February. A draft action plan and milestone schedule will also be developed by the subcommittee at this meeting. These documents will be discussed and finalized at the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee meeting scheduled for March 1, 2001.

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Groundwater Contamination May Be Present Near Proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Site

On February 1, 2001, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) staff reported that the Department of Energy (DOE) may have measured groundwater contamination in excess of Environmental Protection Agency drinking water limits adjacent to the proposed mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility site at the Savannah River Site. DCS's Environmental Report (ER) currently states that there is no known contamination at the proposed MOX site. The possible contamination is believed to be from a settling basin formerly used for low-level waste disposal from 1950 to 1969. The settling basin is located about 500 feet west of the proposed MOX site and was recently remediated. The groundwater monitoring wells were recently installed and the results are from the first samples taken from them. DOE is undertaking additional measurements to confirm the results. If it is shown that elevated groundwater concentrations exist, DOE will prepare an appropriate action plan and DCS will amend the ER.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Meeting with Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor

On January 29 to February 2, 2001, as part of the continuing cooperation between the NRC and the Department of Energy (DOE) in providing regulatory/licensing support to the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN) associated with plutonium disposition, NRC personnel from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards participated in two meetings in Moscow. NRC participation at both meetings resulted from the annual NRC-GAN meeting held on December 4-8, 2000, described in the Memorandum of Meeting dated December 8, 2000, and was funded by DOE. The first meeting was a quadrilateral meeting with Russian, French, and German representatives to coordinate regulatory support being provided to GAN under the bilateral GAN-DOE and trilateral Russian-German-French programs with European Union assistance. At the meeting, NRC made a presentation about NRC's role in regulating mixed oxide fuel fabrication and use in the U.S. associated with the surplus weapons-grade plutonium disposition program. The purpose of the second meeting was to discuss regulatory/licensing issues relevant to the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program for which DOE is providing assistance to GAN, and to coordinate DOE and NRC regulatory assistance being provided to GAN.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting on the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On February 2, 2001, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), met with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) to discuss the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility project. NMSS staff provided an overview of the surplus plutonium disposition program and information on the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility licensing process, hearings, public participation activities, current issues, and licensing schedules. The ACRS were interested in a number of aspects of the staff's review, including risk insights, fuel certification and criticality.

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

Issuance of a Certificate of Compliance for Transportation of the Dual Purpose TN-68 Storage and Transportation Cask

On January 31, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) issued a Certificate of Compliance for transport of the TN-68 dual purpose transportation and storage cask. The TN-68 is predominantly a steel package that is used to transport up to 68 intact boiling water reactor (BWR) spent fuel assemblies. The storage certificate for the TN-68 dry cask storage system was issued by SFPO on May 10, 2000. The transport package generally consists of four components: (1) the fuel basket assembly; (2) a containment vessel within a forged steel cask body; (3) a radial neutron shield; and (4) impact limiters.

Interagency Coordination Meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

On January 31, 2001, managers and staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Office of the General Counsel met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officials at the Corps' Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to discuss and coordinate the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). USACE gave an overview presentation on FUSRAP, and participants discussed the Corps' program management and execution of FUSRAP. Senior USACE leadership were present at the meeting. USACE staff answered the NRC's questions on various aspects of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) site remediation process, and how the CERCLA process comports with the NRC License Termination Rule, 10 CFR Part 20 Subpart E. NRC staff described emerging interagency policy issues related to USACE's FUSRAP activities on NRC-licensed sites. Attendees from both agencies agreed that the meeting was productive and a step forward in forging a relation between the two organizations toward the mutual goal of safely remediating these sites and enhancing public confidence. The leaders present at the meeting committed to continuing and enhancing interagency dialogue.

Attendance at U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Meeting

On January 30-31, 2001, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses attended a public meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. The meeting focused on scientific and technical issues associated with the potential high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The NWTRB recommended that the Department of Energy (DOE) focus significant attention on four priority areas dealing with managing uncertainty and coupled processes. These areas, which in the NWTRB's view, are essential elements of any DOE site recommendation are: (1) meaningful quantification of conservatisms and uncertainties in DOE's performance assessments; (2) progress in understanding the underlying fundamental processes involved in predicting the rate of waste package corrosion; (3) an evaluation and comparison of the base-case repository design with a low-temperature design; and (4) development of multiple lines of evidence to support the safety case of the proposed repository. The NWTRB stated that these lines of evidence should be derived independently of performance assessment and thus not be subject to the limitations of performance assessment. The DOE described some proposed activities to address these four areas. The site recommendation process schedule has been extended to accommodate additional information garnered from these proposed activities.

On the first day of the meeting, the DOE's presentations responded to questions on the topics of waste package corrosion, unsaturated zone travel time, saturated zone travel time, total system performance assessment, and repository design. On the second day, the DOE provided a scientific and engineering studies update, a description of the new low-temperature design, an update on their uncertainties study, a philosophical discussion of decision-making in a learning environment, and a roundtable discussion of the repository safety strategy. The Nye County scientific program and an independent performance assessment of Yucca Mountain by the Electric Power Research Institute were also described.

Proposed Rule Signed by EDO

On February 8, 2001, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) approved a proposed rule that amends 10 CFR Part 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" revising the BNFL Fuel Solutions FuelSolutions™ cask system listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment will allow the Big Rock Point nuclear facility to store mixed-oxide fuel assemblies, partial assemblies, and damaged fuel assemblies (in a can) in the FuelSolutions™ cask system.

The proposed rule can be found in ADAMS at ML010220415.

Proposed Rule Signed by EDO

On February 8, 2001, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that amends 10 CFR 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," revising the Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates (PSNA) VSC-24 cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. This amendment will allow the holders of power reactor operating licenses to store CE16x16 spent fuel in the approved cask under a general license.

The proposed rule can be found in ADAMS at ML003777346 within ADAMS package ML003776417.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

RES Staffer Participates in National Risk Forum on Natural Hazards

On Feb 5-6, 2001, a RES staff member participated in the "Forum on Risk Management and Assessments of Natural Hazards." The Forum was organized/sponsored by the National Science & Technology Council, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology, and others. The Federal Emergency Management Agency served as the host. The Forum was held to develop a national strategy for risk assessment of natural hazards; this strategy would be the foundation for a 5-year plan.

The staff member made a presentation on probabilistic seismic hazard assessments, the NRC's approach to this issue, and participated in a discussion on the predictive modeling on the recurrence of natural events such as large earthquakes of storm surge from hurricanes. This was an opportunity to showcase the NRC's state-of-the-art activities in this arena so that other federal agencies could utilize the NRC's research.

Pebble-Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR)

On January 31, 2001, the staff met with Exelon Corporation, at their request, to discuss Exelon's plans to explore possible licensing of the PBMR in the U.S. The PBMR is a 110 mwe modular high temperature gas reactor based upon a design currently under development in South Africa. Approximately 80 people were in attendance at the meeting, including representatives from National Laboratories, ACRS, industry and the public. Exelon described the design and its desire for preapplication interactions with NRC for the purpose of establishing the feasibility of licensing the PBMR.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-01-006, BD Incorporated, REPORTED HIGH FILM BADGE READING.
2. PNO-III-01-004, Best Foods Co., MISSING GENERALLY-LICENSED GAUGE.
3. PNO-IV-01-004, Southern California Edison (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3), CIRCUIT BREAKER FAILURE AND FIRE, RESULTING IN REACTOR SHUTDOWN.
4. PNO-IV-01-005, GeoEngineers, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Prairie Island Coalition: Denial of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-72-4)

The denial of petition for rulemaking submitted by the Prairie Island Coalition (PRM-72-4) was published in the Federal Register on February 6, 2001 (66 FR 9055). The petitioner requested that the NRC undertake rulemaking to examine certain issues regarding spent fuel in dry cask storage. The NRC is denying the petition because there is an adequate technical basis for concluding that fuel integrity will be maintained during dry cask storage and that adequate assurances are in place to ensure safe cask unloading.

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
February 2, 2001 through February 8, 2001:

Self, all records, and Towers Perrin Forster & Crosby (Towers Perrin) all records.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0128)

Site assessment, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Rt. 1, Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0129)

Shearon Harris plant, all correspondence regarding health and safety concerns since 1995 to
present. (FOIA/PA-2001-0130)

San Onofre, OI report 4-2000-035. (FOIA/PA-2001-0131)

Vacancy announcement R0028003, complete file and NRC's Disabled Hiring Plan related to
Executive Order 13163. (FOIA/PA-2001-0132)

Self, personnel security file. (FOIA/PA-2001-0133)

Haddam Neck reactor, CT Yankee, records related to alpha contamination soil sampling plans
and results since 1998. (FOIA/PA-2001-0134)

OI report 1-1998-022. (FOIA/PA-2001-0135)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Arrivals		
HOEG, Timothy*	SENIOR RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RIV
Departures		
FREDETTE, Thomas	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RII
GOINES, Cheryl	SECRETARY (OA)	RIV
POOLE, Brooke	ATTORNEY	OGC
SMITH, Patricia	SITE SECRETARY (OA)	RIV

*Transferring from Region I

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Media Interest

Walt Schwink, NMSS, was interviewed by Office.com regarding the revised oversight program for fuel facilities.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-013	NRC Refines Process for Assessing Results of Security Exercises at Nuclear Power Plants
Regions:	
I-01-05	NRC to Discuss Apparent Violations With Pa. Civil Engineering Firm
II-01-06	NRC Special Inspection Team to Discuss Findings With Summer Plant Officials
III-01-05	NRC to Meet With Exelon February 13 to Discuss Radiation Protection Findings at Quad Cities Nuclear Plant
IV-01-05	NRC Special Inspection Team Sent to SONGS

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Japanese Visitors

On Thursday, a 12-member team from the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute toured the NRC Operations Center. Their visit to the U.S. also included a tour of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant where they had an opportunity to discuss emergency preparedness with the utility.

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. COMSECY-00-0036	10/18/00	Safeguards Performance Assessment Issues Associated with the Revised Oversight Process
SRM on 00-0036	1/25/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 00-0036	1/25/01	(same)
2. COMSECY-00-0040	12/21/00	Request to Receive Maywood and Wayne, New Jersey, FUSRAP Material for Disposal
SRM on 00-0040	1/25/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 00-0040	1/25/01	(same)
3. COMJSM-00-0003	10/31/00	Staff Readiness for New Nuclear Plant Construction and the Pebble Bed Reactor
SRM on 00-0003	2/9/01	(same)
Commission Voting Reactor on 00-0003	2/9/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0017	2/2/01	SECY-01-0017 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 26, 2001
2. SECY-01-0024	2/7/01	SECY-01-0024 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 2, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010201	2/6/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of OCFO Programs, Performance and Plans
2. M010131B	2/9/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of OCIO Programs, Performance, and Plans

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Mr. Paul Leventhal, President, and Dr. Edwin S. Lyman, Scientific Director, Nuclear Control Institute, dated February 9, 2001, concerns the nuclear power plant physical protection oversight program.
2. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey dated February 1, 2001, responds to questions concerning the accountability for two irradiated fuel rods presumed missing from the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 (Millstone 1).
3. Letter to Governors dated February 1, 2001, requests each state to appoint a single person to act as liaison to NRC for the purpose of improving Federal/State cooperation.
4. Letter to Earl Hayes, Department of Education, dated January 30, 2001, provides the NRC's Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Federal Performance Report on Executive Agency actions to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).
5. Letter to Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the State of Utah, dated January 29, 2001, provides update regarding request for an extension of the public comment period on NUREG-1714, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County Utah.
6. Letter to Senators Robert F. Bennett and Orrin G. Hatch, dated January 26, 2001, provides update regarding request for an extension of the public comment period on NUREG-1714, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County Utah.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Michael L. Piasecki; Docket No. 55-22136-SP; Designation of Presiding Officer

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

Fox Chase Cancer Center Enforcement Center

NRC Region I conducted an enforcement conference with Fox Chase Cancer Center on February 5, 2001 to discuss apparent violations associated with the installation of a High Dose Rate Afterloader facility. In an inspection of the facility in March, 2000, Region I identified that the facility had insufficient shielding at a ventilation penetration, resulting in the potential for dose rates in public access areas that would exceed the regulatory limit. The licensee provided additional information which is being considered in the enforcement decision.

Indian Point 2

On Wednesday, February 7, 2001, Ms. Linda Puglisi, Supervisor, Town of Cortlandt, and two of her staff members were given a plant tour by Consolidated Edison. Subsequently, Ms. Puglisi met privately with Brian Holian (Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety), the resident inspectors, and Jeff Shackelford, Team Leader for the 95003 Supplemental Inspection Team, to discuss NRC oversight and inspection.

The 95003 inspection team completed its third week of onsite inspection on February 9. A date for the public exit meeting with the licensee has not yet been finalized.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

1. Incident Investigation Training (IIT) Course

On February 5, the Regional Administrator gave a presentation at the IIT course in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The purpose was to provide insights into the Regional Office role during incident investigations.

2. Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee

On February 8, the Regional Administrator visited the Oconee nuclear power plant site. The visit included a tour of the three nuclear units and discussions with managers to obtain feedback on NRC regulatory activities. In the evening, the Regional Administrator participated in the presentation of NRC operator license certificates to individuals who recently passed their examinations.

3. Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Lessons Learned Meeting

On February 7-8, the Region continued with an initiative to hold a workshop with the senior residents at the Region II sites to obtain ROP Lessons Learned. The Region II Senior Resident Inspectors provided feedback on ROP procedures and processes that will be forwarded to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). NRR had a Branch Chief participate in the workshop.

4. Fundamentals of Inspection Course

On February 6-8, Region II conducted a Fundamentals of Inspection Course for new inspectors. Those Regions who had a need for this course also participated. The course was updated to reflect the concepts from the reactor oversight program.

5. State Outreach Program - West Virginia

On February 6-7, the Regional State Liaison Office held a seminar with senior emergency management officials from the State and local counties of West Virginia. Topics included a request for feedback on issues that NRC needs to address and a discussion of future directions in the NRC and industry emergency planning area.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

NRC Sponsors Outreach Meeting in Ohio

Region III staff members on February 7 and 8 participated in an outreach meeting in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss federal participation in a May 22 and 23 plume and ingestion exercise at Ohio's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. The meeting drew 83 participants, including representatives from Ohio state and local offices, the Province of Ontario, Canada, and the states of Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Indiana. The first day of the meeting featured presentations on federal response capabilities by the NRC, DOE, USDA and the FDA. The second day included training on Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center activities.

Region III Staff Meets with FirstEnergy Officials

Region III staff members on February 8 met with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. officials in the Region III office to discuss the Perry (Ohio) Nuclear Power Plant's upcoming refueling outage and the licensee's corrective action program.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 2

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	02/14/01 2123 RHOB	10:00	N/A	Committee's Oversight Plans	Rep. Tauzin/Dingell Energy and Commerce
Gerke	02/15/01 2322 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Electricity Deregulation and California Experience	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce

February 9, 2001

ENCLOSURE R