

INFORMATION REPORT

August 10, 2001

SECY-01-0151

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0151 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 3, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Morris, OEDO

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/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 3, 2001

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

Contact: S. Morris, OEDO by E-mail: sam1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Hope Creek Generation Station

On July 30, 2001, the staff issued a license amendment to PSEG Nuclear LLC for Hope Creek Generating Station, approving a 1.4% power uprate. The amendment increases the licensed power level from 3,293 megawatts (MW) thermal to 3,339 MW thermal. The changes are anticipated to increase the unit's net electrical output by 15 MW electric. The changes are based on the installation of the CE Nuclear Power LLC Crossflow ultrasonic flow measurement system and its ability to achieve increased accuracy in measuring feedwater flow. The licensee is scheduled to implement the uprate before the end of September.

Power Uprate

On July 26, 2001, the staff met with Westinghouse Electric Company to discuss (1) lessons learned from prior power uprate submittals and reviews, and (2) future plans for power uprates. During this meeting Westinghouse Electric Company informed the NRC staff for the first time that they are considering submitting power uprate applications on the order of 10 to 20 percent for the Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering-designed plants.

On July 26, 2001, General Electric Nuclear Energy (GENE) submitted Revision 1 of its proprietary Constant Pressure Power Uprate topical report. Revision 1 includes major revisions to the approach originally proposed in a March 19, 2001 topical report; the review of that was placed on hold in June 2001 at GENE's request.

Virginia Electric Power Company (VEPCO) Meeting on CRDM Repair Processes (North Anna & Surry)

On August 2, 2001, representatives of VEPCO met with the NRC staff in Rockville, MD. The meeting was open to the public except for two occasions when it was closed for the discussion of proprietary information.

VEPCO stated that North Anna and Surry were evaluated using the Electric Power Research Institute/Material Reliability Program (EPRI/MRP) time-temperature susceptibility ranking model for primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) in control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles. VEPCO plans to inspect the CRDM nozzles at North Anna Unit 1, and Surry Unit 1, during refueling outages this Fall. These inspections will include the use of eddy current testing on the inside diameter of the penetration as well as the full "J - groove" weld. Ultrasonic testing will be performed if any eddy current indications are found. Representatives from Westinghouse, a consultant to VEPCO, presented information on repair techniques that VEPCO plans to use if PWSCC is discovered during these inspections. Representatives from EPRI/MRP also attended the meeting.

VEPCO will submit requests for NRC approval of two requests for relief from ASME Code requirements to use these repair techniques. The first relief would allow VEPCO to use technical criteria from a later version of the ASME Code to support an embedded flaw repair

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ENCLOSURE A

process, and the second relief would allow use of Code Case N-638 for an ambient temperbead weld repair technique. The NRC staff informed VEPCO that no relief request would be needed to use the Alloy 52 or 152 welding materials; this is a recent decision by the staff based on a review of the ASME Code. VEPCO expects to submit these requests for relief within the next two weeks and intends to request an expedited NRC review. Westinghouse and EPRI indicated that other PWR licensees will probably make similar requests.

The NRC staff indicated that approval of such relief requests will be dependent on the capability of the inspection techniques to accurately characterize and size the cracks. Westinghouse is working with EPRI to develop suitable inspection techniques.

NEI Petitions for Rulemaking

On July 19, 2001, the NRC received two petitions for rulemaking from NEI relating to the early site permit process and combined license process described in 10 CFR Part 52. These petitions have been docketed as PRM-52-1 & PRM-52-2. PRM-52-1 requests an amendment to 10 CFR Part 52, Subpart A, Early Site Permits, to add proposed Section 52.16 and an amendment to 10 CFR Part 52, Subpart C, Combined Licenses, to add proposed Section 52.80. These proposed sections would use any existing site information as baseline material, and treat that which was previously revised and approved by the NRC as resolved for the purposes of early site permitting. PRM-52-2 requests an amendment to 10 CFR 52.17 and 52.18 to eliminate the requirement for an early site permit (ESP) applicant to include, and for the NRC to review, alternatives to the site proposed in an ESP application.

NRC Future Licensing Public Workshop

The New Reactor Licensing Project Office held a public workshop July 25 through July 26, 2001. Workshop topics included: (1) NRC readiness to support future licensing activities; (2) 10 CFR Part 52 licensing processes; (3) reactivation of the construction inspection program; (4) applicable rulemakings; (5) ongoing pre-application reviews; and (6) nuclear waste and transportation issues. The workshop presentation materials were made available on the New Reactor Licensing Activities web page on July 18, 2001, to facilitate public participation. The workshop attracted 83 non-NRC participants. The staff will issue a meeting summary within the next two weeks to highlight the issues raised.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-14: Position on Reportability Requirements for Reactor Core Isolation Cooling System Failure, dated July 19, 2001

The NRC issued this regulatory issue summary to notify BWR addressees of its position regarding the reportability of reactor core isolation cooling system failure.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Revision to Certificate of Compliance for the TRUPACT-II Shipping Package

On July 27, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued Revision 11 to the Certificate of Compliance for the TRUPACT-II shipping package. This package is used by the Department of Energy to transport transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. This amendment revises the allowable contents to include additional waste streams, including allowing matrix depletion, mixing of shipping categories, and implementation of a flammability-assessment methodology.

Meeting with the Department of Energy on Pre-Closure Safety at the Potential Yucca Mountain Repository

Between July 24-26, 2001, staff and contractors from the NRC Division of Waste Management and the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a technical exchange in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting focused on safety during repository operations and before permanent closure of the proposed repository at the Yucca Mountain site. Because this was the first technical exchange on pre-closure safety, and because acceptance criteria had not been provided to DOE, categorization of the status of issue resolution for the pre-closure topics will be considered at future meetings. DOE provided a general overview of the Integrated Safety Analysis process. Other DOE presentations included: (1) preliminary identification of external hazards and initiating events such as aircraft hazards and tornado hazards; (2) identification of event sequences; (3) methodologies for calculating doses; (4) identifying and categorizing items important to safety and waste isolation for quality assurance purposes; (5) levels of design detail appropriate for the different stages of a potential license application; (6) pre-closure design issues such as burn-up credit and criticality related to waste form; and (7) pre-closure design issues pertinent to the engineered barriers. Based on these discussions, the NRC and DOE reached agreement on the additional information that DOE will provide.

Meeting of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors E-5 Committee on Waste Management

On July 24-25, 2001, staff from the NRC Division of Waste Management attended the annual meeting of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) E-5 Committee on Waste Management, in Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition to receiving updates from all the participants on their programs, the purpose of the meeting was for the DOE to provide responses to the CRCPD E-5's comments on its "Mixed Waste Radiological Control Criteria" (which consists of a method for determining which mixed wastes can be disposed of in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste facilities), and for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory to describe its program for waste-form testing to demonstrate compliance with the NRC's waste-form stability requirements.

PermaFix Environmental Services Requests Special Nuclear Material Exemption

In a letter dated July 23, 2001, PermaFix Environmental Services (PermaFix) requested an exemption from the 350-gram mass limit for possession of special nuclear material (SNM) contained in 10 CFR 150.11. PermaFix has nuclear processing facilities in Tennessee and Florida, both of which are NRC Agreement States. Under such an exemption, rather than relying on the current mass-based standard in the regulation, a concentration-based limit would be established, thereby allowing possession of greater mass quantities of SNM. This exemption request from the SNM possession limits is similar to one granted to Envirocare of Utah, and one being considered for Waste Control Specialists. PermaFix cites problems with the current mass limits in limiting its ability to receive waste from contracts with the Department of Energy. PermaFix noted that safety is further enhanced by its treatment processes.

Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Meeting

On July 26, 2001, staff from the NRC and Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) met to discuss and clarify NRC's June 21, 2001, request for additional information related to the mixed-oxide fuel fabrication facility application for construction approval. This meeting was held in North Augusta, South Carolina, to give individuals near the proposed site an opportunity to observe an NRC technical meeting. NRC staff clarified the requests for additional information in the areas of health physics, instrumentation and control, ventilation filtration, and safety analysis approaches. In addition to NRC and DCS staff, individuals representing the State of South Carolina, Senator M. Cleland's (GA) office, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, The Augusta Chronicle, the Department of Energy (DOE), and DOE contractors attended this meeting.

Meeting with 10 CFR Part 70 Licensees

On August 2, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) and the Risk Task Group met with stakeholders to discuss Chapter 3 of the draft Standard Review Plan (SRP) for 10 CFR Part 70. Chapter 3, Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA), addresses guidance for staff reviews of ISA's for facilities licensed under Part 70. Meeting attendees included representatives from the fuel fabricators, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Department of Health of the State of Washington. A transcript of the meeting will be posted on the NRC web site. FCSS staff will revise Chapter 3 as agreed to in the meeting and post it on the web as a final draft in September 2001.

Following discussions on the draft SRP, at the request of stakeholders, the remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussions on the status of staff's development of guidance for requirements contained in the new Part 70 concerning change control in Part 70.72, backfit in Part 70.76, and event reporting in Part 70.74. Stakeholder input on the content and need for this guidance was mixed. Some stakeholders stated that the rule is sufficiently self-explanatory and that additional guidance is not needed, while other stakeholders felt that some guidance did need to be developed for specific applications. The staff will continue to work with stakeholders to determine the need for and scope of additional guidance.

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Stakeholder Meetings on Storage and Gaseous Diffusion Plant Case Studies

On July 31, 2001, staff of the Risk Task Group (RTG) conducted stakeholder meetings in support of the Department of Energy's TMI-2 Fuel Debris Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and Paducah Seismic Upgrade case studies. The meetings were attended by a variety of internal and external stakeholders and had a two-part focus. The first objective of the meetings focused on presenting and obtaining feedback on RTG's draft case study reports. The second objective focused on soliciting stakeholder recommendations and comments on how RTG should proceed with the case studies, apply or revise the draft screening criteria, and develop safety goals. At both meetings, feedback was obtained from industry representatives, a public citizen group, governmental representatives, and NRC staff members.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Public Meeting on Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR) Sump Performance During Recirculation

On July 26 and 27, 2001, RES and NRR held a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the three PWR Owners' Groups to discuss the draft technical report, "GSI-191: Parametric Evaluation for PWR Recirculation Sump Performance." The results documented in the report indicate that loss of Net Positive Suction Head (NPSH) margin for Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) pumps during the post-accident recirculation phase is a generic concern for PWRs; however, the parametric evaluation suffers from a number of limitations that make it ill-suited for determining whether a specific plant is vulnerable to loss of NPSH margin. The draft report was made publicly available three weeks prior to the meeting to ensure external stakeholders had an opportunity to read the report prior to the meeting. After the meeting many of the attendees stated they had a better understanding of the methodology used to generically assess sump blockage and would like more complete documentation of work performed during the nearly-completed GSI-191 study. NEI and the three PWR Owners' Groups plan to provide written comments on the GSI-191 parametric evaluation.

Future Licensing Workshop

On July 24-26, 2001, RES participated in NRR's Future Licensing Workshop. The Workshop provided both internal and external stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the licensing process and activities associated with future licensing. During the workshop, representatives from General Atomic and Westinghouse discussed their proposed schedules for pre-application reviews. Representatives from General Atomic stated that they planned to submit their Gas Turbine-Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) design for pre-application review in October 2001. Additionally, Westinghouse representatives indicated that their International Reactor Innovative and Secure (IRIS) reactor design would be ready for pre-application review in the first quarter 2002. Both applicants met with the NRC staff earlier this year to describe their designs and to obtain feedback on future pre-application review.

Executive Committee Meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research

Staff from RES, Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Defense participated in an executive committee meeting with Russian Federation counterparts under the auspices of the Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER), on July 25-26 at The Hague, Netherlands. JCCRER was established in 1994 to support and facilitate cooperative research on health and environmental effects of nuclear contamination in Russia. The Executive Committee coordinates the work of U.S. and Russian Federation organizations and ensures the effective and efficient implementation of the JCCRER's cooperative research program. The purpose of the July 2001 meeting was to (1) receive technical updates for projects funded by NRC and DOE, (2) discuss the potential expansion of research efforts to include occupational workers at two uranium production facilities located in Tomsk and

Krasnoyarsk, (3) review a draft data access agreement for an integrated clinical and dosimetry database for the Mayak Production Association, and (4) review efforts by DOE staff and the DOE and Russian Federation Scientific Review Groups (SRGs) to develop a five-year research plan.

Significant observations were that (1) SRG review of a draft five-year research plan should be completed by September 2001 and the research plan could form the basis for scientific discussion and technical cooperation with European Union scientists; (2) a joint workshop with European Union funding agencies is tentatively planned for late-2001 or early 2002, (3) feasibility studies for expanding JCCRER studies to facilities located in Tomsk and Krasnoyarsk will be completed by Spring, 2002 and (4) the next JCCRER meeting is tentatively scheduled to convene in the U.S. in September 2002.

NRC Meeting in Germany on High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor Technology (HTGR)

On July 23-26th, representatives from RES, NRR, NMSS and IP staff met with German senior technical representatives at the Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS) in Cologne and at the Institute for Safety Research and Reactor Technology (IRS) in the Jülich Research Center. The meetings opened up channels of communication on the technology of high-temperature gas-cooled reactors (HTGR), including the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR). Discussions were held on operating and test experience with pebble bed HTGRs, non-proprietary reports and documents were exchanged, and insights were received on a broad range of technical topics involving the safety aspects of HTGR design and technology. Discussions focused on (1) HTGR development in Germany, (2) the German safety assessment of the HTR-Module and the Thorium High-Temperature Reactor (THTR), (3) safety research and development at Jülich related to HTGR technology, (4) industrial production and irradiation and post-irradiation testing of pebble fuel in Germany, (5) HTGR nuclear graphite production and testing, (6) pebble bed heat transfer and fluid flow, (7) operating experience and lessons learned from the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Versuchsreaktor (AVR) and the THTR, (8) THTR core physics and pebble flow, (9) the AVR spent fuel intermediate storage facility, the hot cells for irradiated fuel examination, and the experimental facilities for pebble-bed passive decay heat removal, air ingress, and graphite oxidation at the Jülich Research Center, (10) German HTGR codes and standards, (11) German transfer of HTGR information to ESKOM for development and safety assessment of the PBMR design, and (12) safety aspects of HTGR spent fuel management. Many follow-up documents were requested and international agreements are being planned to expand NRC's technical understanding of HTGR technology.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee Meeting

Staff from Incident Response Operations (IRO) and NRR participated in the bimonthly Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) meeting held August 1, 2001. The FRPCC is composed of the 17 signatory agencies to the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan and is a forum for discussion of inter-agency roles and responsibilities during a radiological emergency. Subcommittee activities included (1) a review of accomplishments and future actions for the "One Voice" subcommittee which is co-chaired by NRC; (2) a discussion of the Protective Actions Guidelines (PAGs), including the decision made by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to revisit the water PAGs; (3) a vote on the "Environment, Food, and Health" subcommittee charter and mission statement; and (4) the development of an ad-hoc subcommittee on Federal Potassium Iodide (KI) Policy consisting of representatives from NRC, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), EPA, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). NRC and FEMA provided a status on KI implementation activities. Representatives from FDA provided an update on its work to develop guidelines on KI, informing the FRPCC that responses to comments on the guidelines were being prepared, and the final guidelines would be ready for publication shortly. The Department of Energy requested a special FRPCC meeting dedicated to discussing each FRPCC Agency's level of commitment to the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center. It was agreed that the next FRPCC meeting, scheduled for October 2001, would be dedicated to that discussion.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-01-024, Mallinckrodt, Inc., ADDITIONAL EXTREMITY OVEREXPOSURES AT MALLINCKRODT'S MISSOURI FACILITY.
2. PNO-III-01-025, Quad Cities 2, REACTOR SCRAM AFTER MAIN TRANSFORMER DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING.
3. PNO-III-01-026, NTH Consultants, Inc., MISSING MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Industry Codes and Standards; Amended Requirements

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations to incorporate by reference a later edition and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code was published in the Federal Register on August 3, 2001; 66 FR 40626 (Part 50).

Acquisition Training

On July 31, 2001, the Division of Contracts and Property Management sponsored a mandatory Acquisition for Certification and Training Program module entitled, "Preparing Statements of Work (SOW)" with 41 attendees. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete performance-based SOWs that ensure contractors and Department of Energy laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
July 27, 2001 through August 2, 2001:

D. C. Cook plant, Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) by Ross Landsman regarding
containment integrity (FOIA/PA-2001-0324)

Materials licensees for medical sites under identified program codes. (FOIA/PA-2001-0325)

Parks Township, PA, BWX Technologies, Inc., Civil Action 99-0413, records after 2/25/99
regarding remediation and/or clean-up of contamination. (FOIA/PA-2001-0326)

Core Design Trends on Anticipated Transients Without Scram (ATWS) Rule Basis, 6/12/87
letter from A. Thadani to R. Newton. (FOIA/PA-2001-0327)

Yucca Mountain, Nevada, high-level waste repository. (FOIA/PA-2001-0328)

Peach Bottom plant, various information related to license expiration date, fines, problems, and
financial information. (FOIA/PA-2001-0329)

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Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending August 3, 2001

NRC Headquarters Health Center Awarded Accreditation By The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

Whole Health Management, prime contractor providing services for NRC's Wellness Program, announced that 27 of its on-site employee health care clinics, including the NRC Headquarters Health Center, have been awarded accreditation by the JCAHO, the nation's preeminent standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Each clinic was individually accredited after an extensive review that included JCAHO surveyors visiting the clinics to evaluate Whole Health's personnel and performance, and interviewing employer clients and patients.

Arrivals		
FEIZOLLAHI, Lisa	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
KEYSER, William	LAW CLERK	ASLBP
SCHULTZ, Michelle	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
WARD, Julie	SECRETARY (OA)	HR/SPAC
Retirements		
BOARDMAN, John	SR. REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
MURPHY, Thomas	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE	ASLBP
VAN CLEAVE, Virginia	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR	RIV
WEINS, Sue	SECRETARY (OA)	OPA
Departures		
KOHLHEPP, Katherine	ENGINEERING AIDE	NMSS
PALGUTA, Jennifer	STUDENT PHYSICAL SCIENTIST	STP
RINI, Bret	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR
THOMSON, William	STUDENT ENGINEER	RII

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Media Interest

The Hartford (CT) Courant is working on a story about medical misadministrations.

National Geographic TV is working on a story about high-level waste.

The Dallas (TX) Morning News is working on a story about the nation's nuclear fuel supply.

There was media interest in the shipment of low-level waste from the West Valley, N.Y. reprocessing plant to the Nevada Test Site.

There was media interest in the lightning strike at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station which caused one of the plant's two reactors to shut down.

Chairman Meserve is expected to be interviewed next week by U.S. News & World Report regarding the physical security of nuclear power plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-094	NRC Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel to Meet August 8 in Las Vegas
01-095	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey
01-096	NRC Asks for Information From Certain Nuclear Plant Licensees on Reactor Vessels
Regions:	
I-01-049	NRC Assigns New Resident Inspector to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant
II-01-033	NRC Holds Public Meetings at Global Nuclear Fuel Plant Aug. 7
IV-01-041	Donald B. Allen Named NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Comanche Peak
IV-01-042	NRC Discrimination Task Group to Hold Meeting in San Luis Obispo

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0133	7/23/01	Status Report on Study of Risk-Informed Changes to the Technical Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 (Option 3) and Recommendations on Risk-Informed Changes to 10 CFR 50-46 (ECCS Acceptance Criteria)
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-01-0121	7/5/01	Industry Initiatives in the Regulatory Process
2. SRM on SECY-01-0121	8/2/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0136	7/27/01	SECY-01-0136 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 20, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010730	7/30/01	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0122-International Uranium (USA) Corporation (Source Material License Amendment, License No. SUA-1358) Docket No. 40-8681-MLA-8; Review of LBP-01-08
2. M010719C	7/31/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Readiness for New Plant Applications and Construction
3. M010719B	8/1/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Results of Agency Action Review Meeting - Reactors (SECY-01-0111)
4. M010720A	8/2/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Results of Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation
5. M010720B	8/2/01	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Risk-Informing Special Treatment Requirements

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice.

August 3, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) Request Denied at Salem

On July 19, 2001, PSEG Nuclear LLC requested that the NRC exercise discretion not to enforce compliance with the actions required by Technical Specification (TS) 3.0.3 related to possible actions to address a packing leak on a valve within an emergency core cooling system (ECCS) injection line. The NRC staff discussed the request with PSEG representatives in a telephone conference, and on the basis of its evaluation of the verbal request and an associated email, the NRC staff concluded that an NOED was not warranted. The request was verbally denied on July 19. The staff determined that enforcement discretion was not the most appropriate means to resolve the issue given (1) the expectation that there was time available for PSEG to pursue a license amendment, and (2) that the supporting risk assessment was not thorough and convincing to the NRC staff. Subsequently, PSEG identified another method to address the leaking valve, and the valve was repaired without a plant shutdown. The staff's denial of PSEG's request for enforcement discretion was documented by letter dated July 31, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML012130088).

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with South Pittsburgh Cancer Center

Region I staff held a closed predecisional Enforcement Conference with South Pittsburgh Cancer Center of Pittsburgh, PA on Tuesday, July 31, 2001. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the findings of the investigation conducted by the NRC Office of Investigations surrounding the acquisition and possession of depleted uranium in 1994 and the attempt to transfer/dispose of depleted uranium in 1998 and 2000. Enforcement action is pending.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Westinghouse Electric Corporation - Commercial Nuclear Fuels

On August 3, 2001, the Chief of the Fuel Facilities Branch, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, participated in pre-decisional enforcement conference for the subject facility at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The conference was led by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and included a discussion of apparent violations related to the licensee's nuclear criticality controls.

Region II's Federal Women's Program presents Teenage Forum

On July 31, 2001, the Region II's Federal Women's Program presented a "Teenage Forum." The forum was a session during which Region II employees asked questions of teenage children to gain insight into how teenagers think and act in response to various situations.

Southampton Memorial Hospital

On August 1, 2001, the staff issued a Severity Level III violation to Southampton Memorial Hospital located in Franklin, VA. The violation was for failing to secure licensed material from unauthorized removal and control.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 3, 2001

Staff Meets with Mallinckrodt Licensee for Quarterly Meeting

Staff members met with Mallinckrodt officials in the Region III office on Tuesday, July 31, to discuss the status of corrective actions pertaining to the radiation protection program at the company's Maryland Heights, Missouri facility. The corrective actions were established to address issues identified in an independent assessment of the radiation protection program.

Korean Nuclear Safety Officials Visit Region

Four members of the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety visited the region Wednesday, August 1, and Thursday, August 2. About 25 regional staff members met and prepared information for the visitors who are researchers and inspectors for Korea's nuclear regulatory agency. The visitors met with regional staff members in the regional office, then traveled to the Braidwood (Illinois) Nuclear Power Plant where they met with NRC resident inspectors and licensee officials.