INFORMATION REPORT

October 11, 2001 SECY-01-0186

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/

Subject: SECY-01-0186 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 5, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/
John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
G. Smith, OEDO

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10/11/01	10/11/01

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 5, 2001

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: G. Smith, OEDO by E-mail: gas@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Staff Holds Public Scoping Meetings on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal at Surry Power Station

The NRC staff participated in a number of activities the week of September 17 related to the license renewal application for Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2. On September 19, 2001, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that is being prepared. The SEIS will be a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). Approximately 70 people attended the meetings, including representatives of the NRC staff, Dominion Energy, the nuclear industry, State agencies, the press, and members of the public. Twenty individuals spoke at the meetings, almost all of them supportive of extending the operating term for the two nuclear units at Surry. The scoping period ends on October 15, 2001.

In addition, on September 19 and 20, 2001, the staff and its contractors (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory) visited the site to gather additional information on the environmental aspects of the license renewal application. The team considered the full scope of environmental issues, including aquatic and terrestrial ecology, land use, human health, socioeconomics, etc., as well as Dominion's process for identifying significant new information on the Category 1 issues identified in NUREG-1437. The staff will use this information to supplement the Surry Environmental Report while developing the EIS.

Staff Holds Public Scoping Meetings on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal at McGuire

The NRC staff participated in a number of activities earlier this week related to the license renewal application for McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. On September 25, 2001, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the scope of the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that is being prepared. The SEIS will be a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). More than 80 people attended the meetings, including representatives of Duke power, the nuclear industry, State agencies, the press, and members of the public. Two dozen individuals spoke at the meetings, with a few expressing concerns with extending the operating life of the two nuclear units at McGuire. The scoping period ends on October 21, 2001.

In addition, on September 24, 2001, the staff and its contractors (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory) visited the site to gather additional information on the environmental aspects of the license renewal application. The team considered the full scope of environmental issues, including aquatic and terrestrial ecology, land use, human health, socioeconomics, etc., as well as Duke's process for identifying significant new information on the Category 1 issues identified in

NUREG-1437. The staff will use this information to supplement the McGuire Environmental Report while developing the EIS.

Major Milestone Achieved for Risk Informed Technical Specifications

On September 28, 2001, the NRC staff issued a Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) for a change to the improved Standard Technical Specifications designated as Risk Informed Technical Specification (RITS) Initiative 2. When a surveillance is missed, RITS Initiative 2 revises the Surveillance Requirement 3.0.3 specification by requiring that risk be taken into account in determining the correct course of action. This modification allows unintentionally missed surveillances to be treated as an emergent condition under the Maintenance Rule contained in 10 CFR 50.65 and therefore be rescheduled through the licensee's configuration risk management program. Licensees will have the flexibility to consider the plant conditions and other planned activities so that the risk of performing the missed surveillance can be managed. This is the first of the eight proposed RITS improvement initiatives and represents a major milestone in the joint NRC/industry project. Use of the CLIIP process provided a mechanism for public comment on this change and will allow individual licensees to adopt this change in an efficient manner.

FRPCC Potassium Iodide (KI) Subcommittee Meeting

The initial meeting of the Federal Radiological Protection Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) KI subcommittee was held on September 27, 2001, at NRC HQ. The purpose of this subcommittee is to expedite review and revision of the Federal KI Policy, encourage finalizing FDA guidance, and coordinate KI implementation issues. Representatives from FEMA, FDA and NRC met to discuss the objectives of the subcommittee, as well as discuss the current state of KI activities. FDA stated that their draft guidance internal comment period had closed and the final guidance was being prepared for internal FDA review and concurrence prior to publication (date unknown at this time). The subcommittee will meet in October 2001, to review the existing and proposed federal KI policies.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch conducted a public meeting on September 26, 2001, with industry's working group on Reactor Oversight Process to discuss revisions to NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline." During this meeting, the working group discussed incorporation of resolved frequently asked questions, changes to the safety system unavailability performance indicator, and web-based displays for performance indicator data.

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

By letter dated September 27, 2001, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (MYAPC) appealed to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff determination dated July 30, 2001, regarding two MYAPC backfit claims. The July 30, 2001, determination was in response to backfit claims dated January 4, and March 8, 2001, related to a January 4, 2001, MYAPC Physical Security Plan

exemption request. NRR staff will evaluate the backfit appeal in accordance with office procedures.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

U.S. Enrichment Corporation Press Release

On October 2, 2001, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) issued a press release announcing that USEC is taking steps to move forward with an advanced uranium enrichment technology. USEC stated that, after 2 years of evaluation, it is ready to go forward with the demonstration of U.S. centrifuge technology. USEC will continue to develop SILEX laser enrichment technology. No schedule for these projects was provided.

Review Closed for Department of Transportation Review of TN-UO_2 Package

On September 26, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office closed the review for the Department of Transportation, regarding a recommendation to revalidate French Certificate of Approval No. F/361/AF-85 for the Model No. TN-UO_2 fresh fuel transportation package. The review was closed for deficiencies found during the staff's acceptance review regarding the documentation of the thermal analysis of the package, and the justification for use of a polyethylene containment vessel.

Government-to-Government Meeting between Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Native American Government Representatives

On September 26-27, 2001, members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and the Commission took part in a Government-to-Government meeting with representatives of Native American Tribes. The Tribes invited were those with cultural ties to Yucca Mountain who may be impacted by the potential siting of a high-level waste geological repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The meeting began a dialogue with the Tribal governments and entities, described in SECY-01-0064, on health and safety issues associated with a possible licensing decision on a high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Commissioner Merrifield welcomed the Native American representatives and gave them an overview of NRC's mission and activities, during an evening session on September 26, 2001. Representatives of some of the Tribes expressed concerns about Yucca Mountain, frustrations experienced in working with other Government organizations, and issues they wanted addressed at the next day's meeting. On September 27, 2001, staff explained NRC's high-level waste regulatory process and its regulatory role; provided information on the hearing process and NRC's regulatory roles for a possible waste repository at Yucca Mountain and the transporting of spent nuclear fuel; and fielded many questions, from Tribal representatives, on these issues, and on the Department of Energy's Environmental Impact Statement.

International Nuclear Materials Policy Forum

On September 25-28, 2001, the Division of Waste Management attended the International Nuclear Materials Policy Forum in Washington, DC. The presentations included an update of the U.S. and Russian plutonium disposition programs; an assessment of the highly enriched uranium purchase agreement and disposition programs; an assessment of the economic effect, on nuclear markets, of the fissile materials disposition program; and an update of Russian

government and independent proposals to store foreign spent fuel in Russia. Speakers included members of Congress; the National Nuclear Safety Administration; the Departments of Energy, Defense, and State; the International Atomic Energy Agency; the Russian ministry; and industry.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Quarterly Meeting

On October 1, 2001, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) held its quarterly meeting at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Judiciary Square Offices. Among those entities attending and participating were: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the Departments of Energy, Defense, Transportation, and Health and Human Services; EPA; the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the Office of Management and Budget; and representatives from the States of New Jersey and Illinois. A representative from the State of Pennsylvania gave a presentation on the State's new regulations for dealing with radioactivity in solid waste. ISCORS members also received reports from its various Subcommittees. The Federal Guidance Subcommittee is addressing whether Federal agencies should adopt the newer International Commission on Radiation Protection recommendations in ICRP60/66/68. This topic will be addressed in some detail at the next meeting on January 8, 2002. The Cleanup Subcommittee outlined a strategy for improving consistency in using modeling tools for cleanup assessments and decision making.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Public Meeting on Sorption Modeling

On September 26-27, 2001, a public meeting was held at NRC headquarters on the modeling of sorption processes in soils and other geologic media of radionuclides released to the environment from decommissioning, uranium recovery, and low- and high-level waste facilities. The subject of the meeting was progress toward finding practical chemistry-based alternatives to current methods for modeling sorption. RES-funded projects on stability, adsorption and transport potential of radionuclide-chelating complexes from decontamination waste (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory); field testing of sorption models (US Geological Survey); and theoretical aspects of sorption modeling (Sandia National Laboratories); and sorption work done for NMSS at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses were discussed with respect to the progress and results of ongoing work, and insights on the state of the art with regard to sorption processes. At the conclusion of the meeting, a discussion session focused on the most important topics that should be addressed to continue to make progress toward more realistic sorption modeling in performance assessments. On September 28, 2001, participants from the previous two days' meeting who are members of modeling teams participating in the OECD/NEA Sorption Project (Phase 2), met to discuss the project's sorption-modeling exercises.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-025, Department of the Army, LOSS OF CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR CONTAINING 30-MICROCURIES SEALED SOURCE IN WISCONSIN

2. PNO-II-01-033, Task Laboratories, Inc., STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE.

3. PNO-III-01-032, University of Wisconsin, LOST AMERICIUM-241 SOURCES.

4. O-I-O1-025, Department of the Army, LOSS OF CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR CONTAINING 30-MICROSCURIES SEALED SOURCE IN WISCONSIN.

5. O-I-01-028, Accurate Technologies, Inc., POTENTIAL RADIOGRAPHY OVEREXPOSURE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Contract Awards

On September 28, 2001, a contract (NRC-27-01-001) entitled, "Managing Diversity" was awarded to Ivy Planning Group in the amount of $236,215 for a 2-year base period with three 1-year options. The period of performance is October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2003 (base period). The contractor shall provide qualified personnel and materials to support the NRC's Managing Diversity follow-up process as ordered by NRC through full-day sessions at NRC Headquarters and regional offices. The sessions are to be designed to help all employees better understand how managing diversity will link to NRC's strategies, initiatives, leadership commitment, work environment, supervision, recruitment, learning and development, mentoring, advancement, personal understanding and commitment, and external relations. Streamlining procedures implemented: combined CBD/RFP; simplified evaluation criteria employed; electronic transmittal of SOW; competitive range not required as the contract went straight to award.

On September 28, 2001, a performance-based fixed-price requirements contract (NRC-38-01-284) was awarded on a competitive basis to Business Management Research Associates, Inc., for “Acquisition Training for Project Managers.” The period of performance is October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002, with four one-year options. The base period ceiling amount is $62,050 and the total estimated ceiling, inclusive of all options is $265,086. Procurement streamlining methods implemented were: electronic transmittal of the statement of work, combined synopsis/solicitation, less than three members on the Source Evaluation Panel, and the use of simplified evaluation criteria.

On September 28, 2001, a performance-based fixed-price requirements contract (NRC-38-01-285) was awarded on a competitive basis to Source Production and Equipment Company (SPEC), for “Safety Aspects of Industrial Radiography Course.” The award amount is $164,500.00, and the period of performance is from September 30, 2001 through September 29, 2006. Procurement streamlining methods implemented were: electronic transmittal of the statement of work, competitive range report, and the final evaluation report; less than three members on the Source Evaluation Panel; and reduced the proposal preparation time for Commercial Items.

On September 29, 2001, a performance-based fixed price contract (NRC-38-01-283) for "Diagnostic and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine and Teletherapy and Brachytherapy Training Courses" was awarded on a competitive basis to The Advanced Health Education Center. The period of performance is October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002, with four one-year options. The base period ceiling amount is $108,902 and the total estimated ceiling, inclusive of all options is $384,110. Procurement streamlining methods implemented were: electronic transmittal of the statement of work, less than three Source Evaluation Panel members, set deadline for proposer's questions, and utilized simplified evaluation criteria.

On September 28, 2001, a competitive performance-based fixed-price delivery order under the GSA Multiple Award Schedule Program, was awarded to Computer Temporaries, Inc., for

"Temporary Clerical Support Services." The award amount is $370,518.00, and the period of performance is from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002. The purchase order requires the contractor to furnish qualified secretaries and word processors on an as-needed basis.

Infrastructure Services Support Contract (ISSC) Award

On September 28, 2001, a competitive order was placed with EER Systems, Inc for a single Seat Management Contractor to provide the planning, staffing, supervision, management, and Information Technology (IT) hardware and software resources necessary to ensure the effective and efficient support, administration and control of the NRC IT infrastructure and desktop computers. The Seat Management Contractor will operate, maintain, and upgrade the NRC Distributed Computing Environment (DCE) . The period of performance is thirty-six months which includes options for additional services. The order also includes six renewal option periods and option for additional services. The total award amount is $25,529,277 for the base period. The estimated amount for the base period and all option periods which includes estimates for optional services, if exercised, is $80,288,093. This procurement was completed pursuant to FAR 16.505 in which a task order was awarded for the ISSC program under the General Services Administration Seat Management Services Contract which is a Government-wide agency contact. The statement of work was electronically submitted and coordinated, proposal preparation time was reduced, the solicitation was issued to a limited number of sources that participate in the GSA Seat Management Contract, oral presentations were used, a limit was placed on the number of pages in the proposals, and a deadline was set for offerors' questions.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of September 28, 2001 through October 4, 2001:

Cabot Corp. and/or Cabot Performance Materials, all documents related to the Cabot facility. (FOIA/PA-2001-0378)

International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (Band Card) program, various categories of purchase data for the period FY 1998 - 2001. (FOIA/PA-2001-0379)

South Texas Project, most recent "moc terrorism drill" records. (FOIA/PA-2002-0001)

Contract, NRC-33-97-171, Data General Corp.'s GSA schedule. (FOIA/PA-2002-0002)

Millstone Power Station, informational report regarding missing fuel rods. (FOIA/PA-2002-0003)

L3 Communications/EER Systems contract, Infrastructure Services & Support, copy of Task Order #DR-01-0290 and Source Selection Statement. (FOIA/PA-2002-0004)

Materials Licensing Tracking System, active licensees. (FOIA/PA-2002-0005)

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Debt Collection Procedures

On October 5, 2001, NRC published in the *Federal Register*, proposed amendments to Part 15 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Debt Collection Procedures" seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the regulations used to collect outstanding debts. The changes would make it easier for the NRC to collect its outstanding debts including enabling the agency to refer any debt over 180 days delinquent to the Department of Treasury for collection. The proposed change would ensure conformity with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the amended procedures of the Federal Claims Collection Standards issued by the Department of Treasury and the Department of Justice. Under current practice, NRC sends three progressively stronger demands for payment to a debtor at 30 day intervals. Under the proposed change, NRC would make two written demands and contact the debtor before pursuing administrative remedies, which can include license suspension and revocation.

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Arrivals		
BONAR, Alicia	STUDENT CLERK	RI
HALL, Patricia	COMPUTER SPECIALIST	RIV
LYER, Shri	REACTOR ENGINEER	RI
*MOORE, Marilyn	MANAGEMENT ANALYST	NMSS
ZACK, Michael	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
Retirements		
BELL, Irene	SECRETARY (OA)	RIII
CAREY, Margaret	SECRETARY (OA)	STP
HOU, Shou-Nien	SR. MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
JONES, William	SR. NUCLEAR ENGINEER	RES
LABARGE, David	SR.PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
NIELSEN, Lisa	SECRETARY	OCFO
PICHUMANI, Ramen	GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER	NRR
Departures		
GRAHAM, John	CONSULTANT	NMSS
HARRIS, Deresse	CONSULTANT	HR
KEARFOTT, Kimberlee	CONSULTANT	ACNW
**LITTLE, Linda	ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE	ASLBP
PETROVICH, Zbigniew	CONSULTANT	NMSS
SWANSON, Dennis	CONSULTANT	NMSS
WACHTEL, Jerry	CONSULTANT	RES

*Transferring from RI to HQ
**Effective 6/30/01

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Media Interest

There was media interest in the results of OSRE inspections, reflecting continued concern about the security of the nation's nuclear power plants.

There was interest in a report filed by Dominion Resources regarding lost fuel rods at Millstone Unit 1.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-116	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Rule Concerning Debt Collection Procedures
01-117	NRC Amends Regulations to Allow Use of Simulators to Fulfill Portion of Reactor Operator Training Requirements
01-118	Commissioner Dr. Nils J. Diaz to be sworn in for second term
01-119	29th Annual Nuclear Safety Research Conference To Be Held October 22 - 24 in Washington, D.C.
01-120	NRC Issues Final Rule on Storage of Certain "Greater than Class C" Waste in an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility
Regions:	
I-01-060	NRC to Send Special Inspection to Millstone 1 to Evaluate Investigation into Missing Spent Fuel
II-01-040	NRC Proposes $2,750 Civil Penalty Against Puerto Rico Laboratory For Violation of NRC Radiological Safety Requirements
III-01-046	NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector At Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Visit of New UNVIE Ambassador Kenneth Brill to NRC

On October 4, 2001, the newly appointed Ambassador to the U. S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna (UNVIE), Kenneth C. Brill, had a series of courtesy calls with the Chairman and other Commissioners. Ambassador Brill wished to meet officials of the U.S. agencies most concerned with activities at the IAEA, and to learn what were the topics of interest to NRC. The discussions covered possible roles for the IAEA in addressing terrorism, the IAEA budget, and topics of interest to the NRC in nuclear safety and safeguards.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0125	7/10/01	Final Rulemaking to Amend 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," Regarding Operator License Eligibility and the Use of Simulation Facilities in Operator Licensing; and, Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.149, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulation Facilities for Use in Operator Training and License Examinations"
M010928A	9/28/01	SRM-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0125 - Final Rulemaking to Amend 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," Regarding Operator License Eligibility and the Use of Simulation Facilities in Operator Licensing; and, Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.149, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulation Facilities for Use in Operator Training and License Examinations"
Commission Voting Record on 01-0125	9/28/01	(same)
2. SECY-01-0134	7/23/01	Final Rule Amending the Fitness-for-Duty Rule
SRM on 01-0134	10/3/01	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 01-0134	10/3/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0175	9/20/01	Spent Fuel Missing from Millstone Unit 1
Memoranda		
1. M011004	10/4/01	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. COMSECY-01-0027-Duke Energy Corporation License Renewal Application for Catawba, Units 1 and 2, and McGuire, Units 1 and 2; Licensing Board Referral and Scheduling Order

Commission Correspondence

1. Letters to Congress dated September 28, 2001 concerns legislative proposals that will better enable the Commission to respond to terrorist attacks.

2. Letters to Senator Barbara Boxer dated September 27, 2001 concerns expressed objection to the NRC's proposed changes to its procedures for the conduct of agency hearings.

3. Letter to Congress dated September 25, 2001 provides the July report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. International Uranium (USA) Corporation; Docket No. 40-8681-MLA-10; Designation of Presiding Officer.

2. ACRS Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal; Notice of Meeting.

3. 10 CFR Parts 30, 70, 72, and 150; Interim Storage for Greater Than Class C Waste; Final Rule.

4. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-74]; Nuclear Energy Institute; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

5. 10 CFR Part 50 [Docket No. PRM-50-73]; Robert H. Leyse; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking.

6. Duke Energy Corporation; McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Docket Nos. 50-369-LR, 50-370-LR, 50-413-LR, and 50-414-LR; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

Peach Bottom

During the Peach Bottom Unit-3 refueling outage, Exelon's ultrasonic examination of the reactor vessel head identified 5 closely spaced indications inside a weld. There were no indications on the weld surfaces in these 5 areas. Exelon applied the ASME Section XI proximity rules for analysis of these 5 closely spaced indications and, as a result, combined these 5 closely spaced indications into a single flaw with an aspect ratio of 0.311" x 33" to complete further analyses. These were not seen on original radiographs or prior ultrasonic examinations. These indications were discovered by Exelon using an improved inspection technique which was an outcome of the NRC's required performance demonstration for ultrasonic examination. These indications appear to be a tight lack-of-fusion that most likely has existed since original manufacture. Exelon has consulted with General Electric, is applying the ASME code rules, and is performing fracture analysis. Exelon expects the analysis will show that the reactor vessel head is acceptable for continued operation. Exelon expects to provide its analysis for NRC staff review during the week of October 8.

Maine Yankee Decommissioning Progress

During the week of September 24, 2001, Maine Yankee and its contractor, Controlled Demolition Inc. (CDI), used explosives to fracture and soften the 20 million pound turbine pedestal at the Maine Yankee site. Maine Yankee concluded that use of controlled explosives for demolition of the turbine pedestal was safer for workers, would create less prolonged noise and dust, and was a more efficient demolition process. The "percussive" softening effort was performed over a two-day period and included a total of eight blasts. During blasting operations, ground vibrations that could affect the storage of spent fuel were closely monitored and Maine Yankee's Security Department maintained close oversite and control of the use of explosives. At the conclusion of the blasting, Maine Yankee determined that no personnel injuries were sustained; all ground vibrations were less than allowable limits; and no damage was detected to the fuel, safety related equipment or the 345 KV switchyard.

Prior to blasting, Maine Yankee briefed representatives from the State of Maine, NRC, and local officials, held a public information meeting, notified local residents by mail and provided a call-in number for people to obtain an updated blasting schedule. The blasting was observed by a Region I Health Physics inspector.

Maine Yankee plans to conduct additional blasting at a later date to bring down the Turbine Building roof.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

State of South Carolina - Barnwell Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site

On October 3, 2001, the State of South Carolina, Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, Division of Waste Management issued a letter to the operator of the Barnwell radioactive waste site. The letter instructed the operator (Chem-Nuclear Systems) to temporarily suspend shipments of radioactive waste from the Millstone Power Station to the site until certain actions are completed regarding the follow up to the potential loss of reactor fuel rods from the Millstone facility.

STERIS - Panoramic pool irradiator facility in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico

On October 1-2, 2001, Region II inspectors monitored the licensees loading of an additional 384,400 curies of cobalt-60 sources into the irradiator's source racks. The inspection included verification that the licensee's safety systems remained operational as designed prior to restart of the irradiator.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc - Potential overexposure to radiation

On October 5, 2001, the licensee reported a potential overexposure of a worker to radiation. The worker was working with uranyl nitrate solution, enriched in uranium-235, on September 14, 2001, and received an external and internal exposure when the material was accidently sprayed onto the worker. On October 5, the licensee reported a potential total dose equivalent exposure in excess of NRC requirements. The licensee is investigating the event and Region II is sending a special inspection team to the site.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

FEMA V Special Meeting on Agencies' Responses to Sept. 11 Attack

On October 2-3, 2001, the regional State Liaison Officer attended a specially called meeting by FEMA Region V to review federal agencies' response to the September 11, 2001, attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. About 30 people representing multiple regional federal agencies including the Department of Defense, the NRC, the General Services Administration, the American Red Cross, Health and Human Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency, met in the regional FEMA V office in Chicago.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 5, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 33					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	10/10/01 2318 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Computer Security Research	Reps. Boehlert/Hall Science
Gerke	10/10/01 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Oversight of Debt Collection Improvement Act	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency, Financial Mgmnt, and Intergovernmental Relations Government Reform
Combs	10/11/01 2123 RHOB	10:00	Markup	Price-Anderson Act	Reps. Tauzin/Dingell Energy and Commerce