

INFORMATION REPORT

March 7, 2002

SECY-02-0039

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-02-0039 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 1, 2002

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
H. Nieh, OEDO

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3/8/02

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 1, 2002

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

Contact: H. Nieh, OEDO by E-mail: hkn@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.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Public Meeting with Stakeholders Concerning Development of a Proposed Worker Fatigue Rule

On February 21, 2002, the staff held a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the development of a proposed rule intended to assure that personnel performing safety-related functions at nuclear power plants are not impaired by fatigue. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the Electric Power Research Institute, the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Professional Reactor Operator Society, the Union of Concerned Scientists, individual utilities, and members of the public. The staff provided an overview of the current regulatory framework, the proposed rulemaking option, and the guidance contained in the staff requirements memorandum that provided the Commission's approval for development of the proposed rule. Stakeholders identified the thresholds for initiating work hour controls and the scope of personnel to be covered by the proposed regulation as the priority areas for discussion and resolution. The participants set April 19, 2002, as the date for the next public meeting to discuss the rulemaking.

Reactor Oversight Process

The end-of-cycle (EOC) reviews for the assessment period that ended December 31, 2001, for all power plants were completed on February 13, 2002. The Regions performed their reviews in accordance with the guidance provided in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program." The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB), along with other NRC staff representatives, participated in the EOC reviews of all plants. An EOC Summary meeting was conducted on February 20, 2002, with the Director of NRR and other members of the NRR Executive Team, to summarize the results of all regions' EOC reviews for those plants that met the criteria specified in IMC 0305. The results of the EOC reviews will be issued via annual assessment letters for all plants on March 4, 2002.

KI Update

As of February 21, 2002, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York have received their KI shipments from Anbex, the NRC's KI contractor. FEMA has reviewed the KI requests submitted by Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Arizona, and tablets have been ordered for these states. Florida and Alabama have requested KI tablets and these requests have been forwarded to FEMA for population verification.

Public Meeting on Emergency Preparedness Issues

A public meeting was held at FEMA Headquarters on February 20, 2002. The meeting was between NRC/FEMA and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), nuclear utilities, and offsite response organizations (ORO) that support nuclear utilities. Members of the media also attended. Topics discussed during the meeting included: (1) the exercise evaluation methodology (EEM) for evaluation of capability to notify the public during rapidly developing scenarios; (2) whether the Alert and Notification System Reliability Performance Indicator

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should be changed to use availability vice reliability; and (3) the need to change FEMA-REP-10 surveillance reporting guidance in conformance with the change to the PI.

NRC Information Notice 2002-09: Potential for Top Nozzle Separation and Dropping of a Certain Type of Westinghouse Fuel Assembly dated February 13, 2002

The NRC is issuing this information notice to alert addressees of the recent nozzle separation and dropping of a Westinghouse fuel assembly during movement. Even though the nozzle separation affects only fuel of a type last manufactured almost 20 years ago, the fuel is perhaps being moved to dry storage or high-density racks.

Interim Compensatory Security Measure Orders for Power Reactor Plants

NRR issued orders to all 104 operating commercial power reactors on February 25, 2002. The orders pertain to plant physical security and are effective immediately. The Commission decided to issue the orders to require interim compensatory security measures to ensure the security enhancements are maintained within the established regulatory framework. The licensees have 20 days to provide a schedule for implementation, and must complete the security enhancements by August 31, 2002.

Power Upgrades - January 2002 Survey for Planned Future Applications

The staff conducted a survey in January 2002 to obtain information regarding industry's plans related to power upgrade applications. The survey requested information for planned power upgrades over the next 5 years. Based on this survey, licensees plan to submit 38 additional power upgrade applications in the next 5 years. These include 23 measurement uncertainty recapture power upgrades (i.e., power upgrades less than 2 percent), and 14 extended power upgrades (i.e., power upgrades greater than about 7 percent). One licensee did not report a magnitude for its planned power upgrade. Planned power upgrades are expected to result in an increase of about 4777 MWt (1590 MWe) (equivalent to more than one large nuclear power plant unit). Licensees also indicated that they are currently studying the feasibility of power upgrades for eight other units. In addition, the staff expects significant interest by pressurized water reactor licensees in large power upgrades as a result of ongoing work by pressurized water reactor vendors. The staff will utilize this information for planning purposes.

Tritium Production Program

On February 21, 2002, the NRC staff issued an amendment to the Final Safety Analysis Report and the licensing bases for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. This amendment changed Tennessee Valley Authority's spent fuel pool (SFP) cooling analysis methodology to increase the evaluated heat removal capacity of the SFP cooling system. The amendment also addressed the following Tritium Production Program Interface Issues:

- Issue 8, "Station Service Water System"
- Issue 9, "Ultimate Heat Sink"
- Issue 11, "SFP Cooling and Cleanup System"
- Issue 12, "Component Cooling Water System"

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Meeting with Industry on Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Cracking

On February 21, 2002, the staff met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Materials Reliability Program (MRP), EPRI, various utility representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss areas of mutual interest related to cracking of vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles. This meeting was a continuation of a public meeting held on February 20, in which the current status and action plan for the VHP cracking issue was discussed. The industry described its progress on several technical issues related to VHP nozzle cracking, including crack growth rate and probabilistic fracture mechanics analyses. Both the staff and industry representatives discussed plans for future collaborative work in these and other areas, with a goal of providing a technical basis for long-term management of this issue. This collaborative work will be carried out in public meetings to facilitate public participation.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Nuclear Material Reporting

On February 25, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Office of the Inspector General met with staff from the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss actions that DOE performed last year to resolve several reporting errors for facility data contained in the U.S. national nuclear material database, within the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System.

Meeting with Global Nuclear Fuel-America on Its Integrated Safety Analysis Plan

On February 26-27, 2002, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Risk Task Group met with Global Nuclear Fuel-America (GNF-A) at its uranium fuel fabrication facility in Wilmington, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss GNF-A's methodology for conducting an integrated safety analysis (ISA) for its Wilmington facility. During the meetings, GNF-A described a revised ISA methodology that will be included in the ISA Plan which GNF-A expects to resubmit to the NRC in early March 2002.

Meeting with U.S. Customs Service

On February 27, 2002, staff representing the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Office of International Programs, and Office of the General Counsel met with staff from the U.S. Customs Service. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information on organizational structure and functions, to discuss current programs and initiatives, and to establish staff level points of contact for ongoing items of mutual interest. A follow-up meeting to review existing NRC export and import control programs is being planned.

International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Committee Meeting

On February 18-21, 2002, staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research participated as the U.S. representatives in a technical committee meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency. The meeting was to discuss a draft Safety Guide on "Specification of Radionuclide Content in Commodities Requiring Regulation for Purposes of Radiological Protection." In addition to representatives from Member States, meeting participants included representatives from the European Union, Pan American Health Organization, International Labor Organization, World Health Organization, and Food and Agricultural Organization. The draft document was revised, based on comments from the participants. The revised Safety Guide will be discussed further at the joint Radiation Safety Standards Advisory Committee/Waste Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for March 2002.

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Observation of the Bechtel SAIC Company, LLC, Audit of Senior Flexionics, Incorporated

On February 19-21, 2002, Division of Waste Management staff observed the Bechtel SAIC Company (BSC), LLC, quality assurance (QA) audit of Senior Flexionics, Incorporated, Pathway Division (SFIPD) in New Braunfels, Texas. SFIPD is a supplier to BSC, which is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Maintenance and Operating Contractor for the Yucca Mountain Project. SFIPD fabricates weld samples simulating the weld-package closure weld for BSC's weld-test program.

Meeting to Discuss Status of Decommissioning Plan for Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority

On February 21, 2002, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Office of the General Counsel met with Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority (KVVWPCA) and contractors at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the decommissioning plan, which is due to NRC by the end of September 2002. KVVWPCA discussed the Remedial Investigation Report and the various options that are being considered. One of the options that was discussed was a disposal in a sanitary landfill (similar to a 10 CFR 20.2002 request). KVVWPCA provided the Remedial Investigation Report to both NRC and the State of Pennsylvania, for review and comment.

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Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Meetings with Representatives of the Coordination Center for the Office of Homeland Security

On February 22, 2002, the staff of Incident Response Operations (IRO) met with representatives of the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) Coordination Center to discuss NRC's event response capabilities and the transmission of necessary information to OHS. IRO provided OHS with an overview of the Operations Center and Incident Response capabilities, followed by initial discussions on the type of information OHS needs to support their mission.

Meeting with Department of Justice

On February 27, 2002, staff from IRO and the Office of State and Tribal Programs met with a representative of the Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs (OJP). The meeting purpose was to discuss radiological dispersal device (RDD) scenarios, and planning issues for the Top-Officials 2 (TOPOFF2) exercise to be conducted in May 2003. At OJP's request, the staff drafted concepts for three scenarios involving different types of RDD events. These scenarios are to be used in OJP's initiative to improve radiological emergency preparedness at Federal, state, and local levels. OJP found that the scenarios developed met its needs, and asked if the staff could provide technical review when the details of the final scenarios were developed by the OJP contractor. TOPOFF2 is the Congressionally-mandated, large-scale exercise involving multiple government agencies. OJP explained that TOPOFF2 will be conducted in May 2003, and involve separate locations across the country including an event at a commercial nuclear power plant. The extent of participation by NRC and, potentially, a licensee will be addressed in future planning meetings.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-02-005, Danbury Hospital, MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING A CESIUM-137 BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT.
2. PNO-I-02-006, Rhode Island Hospital, INTRA VASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION.
3. PNO-II-02-008, V. A. Medical Center - Birmingham, RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL PACKAGE.
4. PNO-II-02-009, McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company, DAMAGE TO FIXED GAUGE.
5. PNO-II-02-010, Nucor Steel, NUCLEAR GAUGE FOUND IN SCRAP METAL.
6. PNO-IV-02-013, ACS Engineering Group Construction, LOSS OF CONTROL AND RECOVERY OF A MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

New Federal-Wide Procurement Database

Division of Contracts and Property Management staff participated in an interagency group organized to complete the functional requirements necessary to fully re-engineer and replace the current federal-wide database on governmental agency procurement activities. A new federal-wide procurement database is part of the President's E-Government Initiative, also known as the Quicksilver Initiative. The current database, maintained by the General Services Administration, uses forms to collect data about procurement activities and accepts batch input. Procurement information is often not available for analysis for several weeks. The newly designed database will be based on relational database concepts, will allow instantaneous input of procurement activities, and will provide real-time data for analysis of procurement activities.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Release 4 of the Redesigned Public Web Site

On February 28, 2002, Release 4 of the redesigned public web site was activated. The release adds new sections to **What We Do**, additional information on **Nuclear Reactors** including power uprates and Fitness for Duty information, and additional information on **Nuclear Materials** including information about Sealed Source and Device Registration, Medical Uses, Veterinary Uses, Industrial Uses, Academic Uses, Orphan Sources, and Licensee toolkits for all categories of material licensees. Also additional document collections were placed in the **Electronic Reading Room** including the Electronic Hearing Docket, Regulatory Issues Summaries issued in 2001 and selected Regulatory Guides in Division 1. A detail listing of additions to the public web site in Release 4 can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/new-content.html>.

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of February 22, 2002 through February 28, 2002:

Personnel manual, handbooks and directives since 03/2001. (FOIA/PA-2002-0146)

Moab Uranium Millsite, Moab, UT, transfer agreement (Settlement Agreement between NRC, State of Utah, Atlas Corp., et al.). (FOIA/PA-2002-0147)

OI report no. 3-2000-009 and supporting documents. (FOIA/PA-2002-0148)

Security procedures for citizens regarding nuclear safety. (FOIA/PA-2002-0149)

NRC employees, all records for last 5 years related to employees experiencing heart attacks while performing their occupational duties. (FOIA/PA-2002-0150)

Availability of Official Records, final rule. (FOIA/PA-2002-0151)

Daily plant status reports, 10/1/01 through 12/31/01. (FOIA/PA-2002-0152)

Records regarding previous requests/appeals, scientology, 9/11/01 terrorists, anthrax, and Columbine High School shootings. (FOIA/PA-2002-0153)

Site assessment, Medford 3, 30 North Dunton Avenue, Medford, Suffolk County, NY. (FOIA/PA-2002-0154)

James Inhofe, Representative 1/1/86-12/3/94; Senator 1/1/95 to present, all correspondence to/from NRC. (FOIA/PA-2002-0155)

Oregon, identified State representatives and senators, all communications to/from NRC for period 1/1/99 through 2/21/02. (FOIA/PA-2002-0156)

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St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, all nuclear power sources located on or stored on the island. (FOIA/PA-2002-0157)

Atomic testing, all manner of associated records. (FOIA/PA-2002-0158)

Power plant discharges made into Lake Ontario, 1968 to 1984 by Nine Mile Point One and Fitzpatrick plants. (FOIA/PA-2002-0159)

Site assessment, Edison 8, Route 287 Southbound and Exit 3, Mile Marker 3.2, Township of Edison, Middlesex County, NJ. (FOIA/PA-2002-0160)

Site assessment, NY-East Houston 2, 262 East 2nd Street a/k/a 15-16 Avenue C, New York, NY County, NY. (FOIA/PA-2002-0161)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Arrivals		
MALONE, George	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RI
Retirements		
PLEASANT, Eugenia	PROJECT MANAGER	ADM
RIANI, Louis	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	ADM
SHOEMAKER, Jeannie	CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW OFFICER	SECY
Departures		
SHOARS, Esther	SECRETARY	RII

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Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Media Interest

Chairman Richard A. Meserve was interviewed by CNN-TV regarding nuclear power plant security.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
02-025	NRC Orders Nuclear Power Plants to Enhance Security
Regions:	
I-02-008	NRC Releases Report on Special Inspection into Missing Millstone Fuel
I-02-009	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against N.J. Firm over Loss of Nuclear Gauge
I-02-010	NRC Issues "Yellow" Finding on Indian Point 2 Operator Training Issue
I-02-011	NRC to Meet with Public on Maine Yankee License Termination Plan And Partial Site Release Request
IV-02-006	NRC Proposes \$6,000 Fine For Decisive Testing, Inc.

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Visit of Alain Bucaille

Mr. Alain Bucaille, Special Assistant for Strategy, Communications, and Marketing to the Chairman of AREVA Group of France, visited the NRC on February 22, to obtain views on the role of nuclear power in future U.S. electricity generation. Mr. Bucaille met with Chairman Meserve, Commissioner Dicus, and Commissioner McGaffigan, where he focused on issues facing the future of the French nuclear industry. He indicated that France's main issues are nuclear waste and the safety of operating power stations--primarily the prevention of core meltdown. He also discussed the obstacles to improving public perception of nuclear power in France. AREVA plans to conduct a large-scale survey in order to gauge the public's perception of nuclear power and determine causes for public opposition. Throughout the meetings, Mr. Bucaille complimented the U.S. on its ability to propagate public acceptance.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0025	2/5/02	Submission of the Annual Freedom of Information Act Report
2. SECY-02-0031	2/21/02	SECY-02-0031 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 15,2002
Memoranda		
1. M020219	2/28/02	Meeting with the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Representative Edward J. Markey, dated February 19, 2002, concerns regulations and requirements used to ensure that radioactive materials are properly and legally shipped into the U.S. from abroad.
2. Letter to Congress dated February 20, 2002, provides the December 2001 report on the status of NRC's licensing and regulatory duties.
3. Letter to Joe F. Colvin, NEI, dated February 20, 2002, advises of results of the joint NRC/industry effort to develop and test replacement performance indicators (PIs) for the existing "unplanned scrams per 7,000 critical hours" and "unplanned scrams with loss of normal heat removal" PIs.

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 1, 2002

Interim Reorganization of the Executive Leadership at Exelon

On February 27, 2002, Mr. John Rowe, Exelon Corporation, announced that, as a result of Corbin A. McNeill's impending retirement, a number of organizational changes are being made on an interim, transitional basis. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr., Executive Vice President (EVP) Exelon Corporation, President & Chief Nuclear Officer is appointed EVP Exelon Corporation, President & CEO, Exelon Generation. Mr. Kingsley will also provide broad oversight to Exelon Enterprises and Business Services Company. In that capacity, George H. Gilmore, Senior Vice President (SVP) Exelon Corporation and President Exelon Enterprises, will report to Mr. Kingsley as will Honorio J. Padron, SVP Exelon Corporation and President Exelon Business Services Company. Messrs. Gilmore and Padron will continue in their roles as members of the Executive Management Committee, accountable to Mr. Rowe. In addition, John L. Skolds, SVP Exelon Generation and Chief Nuclear Operating Officer is appointed to SVP Exelon Generation and President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Exelon Nuclear.

Indian Point 2

Region I staff and NRR representatives met with Entergy Nuclear Operations, NorthEast (L. Temple, G. Schwartz, et al) on February 27, 2002, in the Region to discuss Entergy's progress on its 2002 IP2 Fundamentals of Improvement Plan. The meeting was a useful exchange of information about Entergy progress to date on its improvement plan, including a review of its performance indicators.

Calvert Cliffs

On February 28, 2002, Constellation Generation Group (CGG) President Mike Wallace announced several management changes that affect the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. Charlie Cruse, currently Site Vice President, will become Senior Vice President of CGG. Pete Katz, currently Plant General Manager, will become Site Vice President. Kevin J. Nietmann, currently Manager of Calvert Cliffs' Nuclear Performance Assessment Department, will become Plant General Manager. In addition, Tom Pritchett, currently Manager of Nuclear Engineering, will become Vice President - Business Services for CGG. These changes will not take effect until completion of the Unit 1 refueling outage in May.

Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) Site Visit

The Region I Director, DNMS, and Project Manager for the HMI site, met with HMI licensee and contractor staff at the site in Lakewood, NJ, on February 26, 2002, to discuss issues related to final site remediation. Licensed site areas requiring further cleanup were identified during the December 2001 confirmatory survey performed by the NRC's contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). A tour of selected indoor and outdoor areas around the site followed the discussions. This site is listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list due to extensive contamination from thorium in monazite sand piles and abandoned buildings from prior processing operations.

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Region IV
Items of Interest
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Predecisional Enforcement Conference with High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc.

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety Division, and members of the Region IV staff held a Predecisional Enforcement Conference with the President of High Mountain Inspection Services, Inc., along with a staff member and a consultant, on February 27, 2002, in Casper, Wyoming. The meeting, open to the general public, was conducted to discuss several apparent violations of NRC requirements including failures to: (1) limit the annual occupational dose to two adult radiographers to 5 rem, total effective dose equivalent (TEDE); (2) investigate all instances where personnel exceed 500 millirem (mrem) in any one month and an average of 350 mrem per month in a calendar year; and (3) submit a written report to the NRC within 30 days after learning of doses in excess of the occupational dose limits.

Augmented Inspection Team Public Exit Meeting at the Callaway Plant

The Regional Administrator and members of the Region IV staff conducted an exit meeting, open to public observation, with licensee representatives at the plant site on February 27, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) results. The AIT, which was conducted during the period January 31 through February 6, 2002, reviewed the circumstances surrounding the failure of a motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pump. There was significant media interest in the meeting.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 43

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	Mid-March	TBA	DOE and others	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Keeling Closed Briefing	03/05/02 S-407	3:00	Chairman Meserve*, NNSA, Cal Tech, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore	Radiological Dispersal Devices	Senators Biden/Helms Foreign Affairs
Combs	03/06/02 SD-419	10:00	Chairman Meserve, NNSA, Cal Tech, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore	Waste Convention**, Radiological Dispersal Devices	Senators Biden/Helms Foreign Affairs
Gerke	03/06/02 SH-216	9:30	TBA	Monitoring of the Federal and Service Contract Workforce	Senators Lieberman/Thompson Governmental Affairs
Gerke	03/06/02	10:00	OMB	Government Information Security Reform Act	Reps. Horn/Schakowsky Gov't Efficiency Government Reform
Portner	03/06/02 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE Secretary Abraham	DOE's FY03 Budget	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/07/02 2154 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Encourage Contracting Out of Federal Services	Reps. Davis/Turner Technology & Procurement Policy Government Reform

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Combs	03/14/02 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY03 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste Management and Disposal	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/15/02 SD-138	10:00	DOE: ONE & OCRWM	Nuclear Energy and Yucca Mountain	Senators Reid/Domenici Energy and Water Appropriations

* Chairman Meserve is present as a resource, he is not presenting information. ** Chairman Meserve is speaking only on the Waste Convention, which is expected to be just a short session to satisfy Committee hearing requirements.

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