

INFORMATION REPORT

January 27, 2003

SECY-03-0010

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/
Subject: SECY-03-0010 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JANUARY 17, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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C. Glenn, OEDO

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C. Glenn, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17, 2003

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

Contact: C. Glenn, OEDO by E-mail: cjg1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Unit 2

Information Notice 2003-02, dated January 16, 2003, was issued. This notice discussed recently observed reactor coolant leakage at Sequoyah Unit 2 and Comanche Peak Unit 1. The notice discussed leakage of borated water which may lead to degradation of the low alloy steel reactor vessel head by boric acid corrosion. At Sequoyah Unit 2, the leakage resulted in relatively minor degradation of the reactor vessel head. At Comanche Peak Unit 1, the leakage resulted in no apparent degradation of the reactor coolant system (RCS) pressure boundary.

RCS leakage onto a hot surface, such as the reactor pressure vessel head, which causes corrosion is the subject of ongoing research. Usually, small quantities of water coming into contact with a surface as hot as the reactor vessel head would be expected to flash and leave a noncorrosive dry boric acid residue on the surface. However, at Sequoyah Unit 2 the resulting condition produced an environment which caused minor corrosion of the vessel head. This experience challenges current assumptions with respect to the potential effects of RCS leakage.

This information notice requires no specific action or written response.

North Anna, Unit 2 Reactor Vessel Head Replacement

On January 14, 2003, the staff approved a relief request to support the replacement of the reactor vessel head at North Anna, Unit 2. In order to transport the heads inside and outside the containment, a portion of the containment wall was removed. Following containment repairs, the regulations require the licensee to perform a Type A leakage test to verify the integrity of the repaired area. The relief request allows the licensee to perform a calculated peak containment internal pressure test and a local leak rate test in lieu of the Type A test.

On January 12, 2003, the licensee completed the installation of concrete onto the containment wall. Region II staff observed this activity and indicated there were no problems associated with this work.

SWR-1000

In a January 9, 2003, letter, Framatome ANP provided schedule information regarding their SWR-1000 passive boiling water reactor design. The letter indicates that a 10 CFR Part 52 design certification application is planned for sometime after calendar year 2005. In a previous

letter, Framatome ANP had targeted a design certification application by the end of calendar year 2005. Framatome ANP still expects to provide some selected documentation in calendar year 2004. Framatome ANP also requested that discussions continue regarding their test program.

Steam Generator Counterparts Call

On January 8, 2003, staff in the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch (NRR/DE) led a steam generator counterparts call between staff in NRR, RES and Regional offices.

Conference calls are periodically scheduled to provide staff involved in steam generator issues an opportunity to maintain open communications on steam generator issues and to discuss recent generic developments and specific steam generator inspection findings. Some of the topics discussed during the most recent conference call were: inspection findings from several Fall 2002 steam generator inspections; the generic tubesheet inspection issue; ongoing NRC/RES work, through Argonne National Laboratories, on steam generator issues; and the status of the draft significance determination process for steam generator inspection findings.

January 17, 2003

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Visit to Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and Honeywell Conversion Facility

On January 8, 2003, Commissioner Dicus and the Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, toured both Paducah and Honeywell to familiarize themselves with the current plant layout and to inspect the implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs). The General Managers of both sites gave a comprehensive overview of facility operations, and explained how the ICMs had affected site performance. After each site tour, the Commissioner and Deputy Director met with the licensee, to receive feedback on staff interaction during the process of ICM implementation, and to allow the licensees to discuss their issues and concerns.

Meeting with Holtec International Corporation

On January 9, 2003, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with Holtec International Corporation to discuss boral hydrogen generation, lid weldability, and missed ultrasonic test issues associated with the HI-STORM 100 storage system. The public meeting was well-attended, including staff from SFPO and Region IV, and other dry storage system vendors and Holtec customers. Staff is evaluating the information discussed in the meeting and will be determining the next course of action.

Advanced NUHOMS Certificate of Compliance No. 1029

On January 9, 2003, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued the final Certificate of Compliance (CoC) and Safety Evaluation Report for the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS-24PT1, CoC No. 1029. The NUHOMS-24PT1 is a Transnuclear, Inc. design, and the cask has improved shielding and the ability to withstand higher seismic spectra than other NUHOMS designs. The effective date is February 5, 2003.

Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Holds Quarterly Meeting

On January 14, 2003, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) held its quarterly meeting to discuss a variety of issues related to its charter to promote:

- (a) completeness and coherence of Federal standards for radiation protection; and
- (b) consistent and scientifically sound risk assessment and risk management approaches for implementing these standards.

The meeting was held at the Headquarters of the Department of Energy (DOE). ISCORS members from NRC, DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, and the Food and Drug Administration participated, as well as representatives from the States of Pennsylvania and Illinois, staff from the member agencies, and the new president of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP).

EPA staff provided a status report on its revisions to the Protective Action Guides, and its considerations for establishing doses for each of the phases after an event. For the late phase of an event, a process for reaching a consensus on the acceptable dose after the event occurs

is being considered. The new president of the NCRP described current and planned activities, including a workshop in mid-2003 on the clearance of solid materials, the issuance, soon, of a report entitled, "Waste Classification Based on Risk," and the preparation of a commentary for NRC on risk management for decommissioned nuclear sites under NRC and EPA regulations.

Staff Meeting with French Representative, to Discuss Radiation Protection Issues

On January 15, 2003, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with Mr. Jean-Pierre Degrange, Senior Researcher with the Centre d'étude sur l'Evaluation de la Protection dans le domaine Nucléaire (CEPN) of Fountenay Aux Roses Cedex, France, to discuss several issues related to radiation protection programs. A key topic of the discussion was the radiation risk computing software, Assessment System for the Quantification of Radiation Detriment (ASQRAD). The project to develop this software was a joint effort between the CEPN and the National Radiation Protection Board (NRPB) from the United Kingdom. The software is based on radiation risk coefficients developed by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the NRPB, the Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation, and the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. ASQRAD is able to evaluate somatic and genetic risks to individuals and population groups from either acute or extended exposures. The staff discussed, with Mr. Degrange, various methods by which radiation risk can be expressed – in particular, views were exchanged on the concepts of the loss of life expectancy and years of life lost if death occurs.

An additional topic discussed with Mr. Degrange was CEPN's proposed Radiation Protection Events Scale. Such a rating scale could provide a simple tool to communicate with the public about radiation accidents and being able to put their severity into the perspective. Several European countries are pilot-testing it, with an eye toward suggesting that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopt the Radiation Protection Events Scale to replace the IAEA's International Nuclear Events Scale.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Agreement with Westinghouse on Testing ZIRLO Cladding

Westinghouse and NRC exchanged letters dated December 11, 2002, and January 2, 2003, agreeing to terms for cooperative testing of Westinghouse-supplied ZIRLO cladding. The testing will be done at Argonne National Laboratory under conditions of a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). These tests are part of a larger series of tests involving five unirradiated zirconium-based cladding alloys (Zircaloy-2, Zircaloy-4, E110, M5, and ZIRLO). The tests are being performed to confirm that ZIRLO and M5 have embrittlement characteristics similar to the Zircaloy alloys. Embrittlement criteria for LOCA assessment are given in 10 CFR 50.46 and were derived from data on Zircaloy. Test results will supplement earlier test results from Westinghouse and Framatome that indicate that ZIRLO and M5, respectively, behave like Zircaloy under these conditions. ZIRLO cladding arrived at the laboratory on January 6, and testing is now underway. The tests will be completed later this year.

Safety Goal Meeting

On January 16-17, 2003, Materials and Waste Safety Goal Working Group met to discuss the status of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) draft safety goal development and comments from the NMSS Risk Steering Group. The objectives of this meeting were to discuss the comments on Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) report entitled, "Draft Safety Goals for the Materials and Waste Arenas, November 26, 2002," potential policy issues associated with the proposed safety goals, approaches for comment resolution and report revision, and a joint Commission paper and a rollout plan. The meeting participants included the staff from the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research, NMSS, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and contractor personnel from BNL.

Public Workshop on DG 1122 (and associated SRP) "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of PRA Results for Risk-Informed Activities"

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research held a public workshop on January 9, 2003 to further discuss and solicit comments on the approach and guidelines in the draft regulatory guide (DG)-1122, "Determining the Technical Adequacy of PRA Results for Risk-Informed Activities" and the associated SRP Chapter 19.1 which were issued (November 2002) for public review and comment. The workshop was well attended by the representatives of nuclear industry and other stakeholders. The purpose of DG-1122 and SRP Chapter 19.1 is to address the issue of "PRA Quality" to support risk-informed regulatory activities and to provide staff position on PRA consensus standards (e.g., "Standard for Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications -ASME RA-2002") and industry PRA programs (e.g., NEI 0002, "NEI PRA Peer Review Process"). The staff received a number of comments from the industry representatives. A representative of ASME requested a meeting with the staff to resolve the NRC's comments. The staff plans to hold a followup workshop on March 11, 2003. ASME intends to issue an addendum in May 2003. There was also significant discussion regarding Pilot plant participation with several licensees expressing interest. The final regulatory guide and associated SRP are scheduled to be issued in June 2003.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

NSIR Provided RASCAL Training to Midwestern States

On January 15-16, 2003, in Columbus, Ohio, Nuclear Security and Incident Response provided training to emergency responders and utilities, from Midwestern States, on using the RASCAL computer program. The RASCAL program is used to make dose projections due to a release of radioactive material during an emergency.

NSIR Training Sessions on NRC's Response Technical Manual

Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) is conducting several training sessions on the NRC's Response Technical Manual (RTM). The RTM is a compilation of technical tools and references for assessing reactor plant conditions, licensee event classification, and offsite dose consequences from a reactor emergency and release of radioactive materials. Thus far, two training sessions have been conducted on the revised RTM. NSIR has scheduled eight additional training sessions that will be conducted in Headquarters and the Regions from February through April 2003.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-03-001, BWX Technologies - INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ACCIDENT RESULTING IN WORKER DEATH.
2. PNO-I-03-002, Pennsylvania Hospital - DAMAGED IODINE-125 SEED DURING PROSTATE IMPLANT PROCEDURE.
3. PNO-I-03-001, Allegheny General Hospital - IODINE-131 CONTAMINATION EVENT RESULTING IN A SKIN EXPOSURE LIKELY TO EXCEED 50 REMS (0.5 Sv).
4. PNO-IV-03-002, St. Francis Hospital - LOST BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Contract Award

Contract No. NRC-03-03-039 entitled "Technical Assistance for the Support of Rulemaking" was awarded to ICF Consulting, effective January 15, 2003. The period of performance is January 15, 2003 through January 14, 2006, with a three-year base and one two-year option period. The total estimated cost, including the option is \$865,450 (\$575,877 base period and \$289,573 option period). The following streamlining initiatives were used in awarding this contract: waiver of CBD notice for technical assistance requirements; electronic coordination for the Statement of Work and final evaluation report; and award without discussions.

January 17, 2003

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of
January 10 through January 16, 2003:

IG report, "Event Inquiry Regarding NRC's Regulation of Davis Besse and Damage to the Reactor Vessel Head," dated 12/30/02, all transcripts and background documents (FOIA/PA-2003-0118)

IG report on NRC's Regulation of Davis Besse regarding Damage to the Reactor Head, Case No. 02-03S, dated 12/30/02, all records used as basis/backup for report (FOIA/PA-2003-0119)

Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford, Southington, or North Haven, CT, all records (FOIA/PA-2003-0120)

Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, lessons learned from mock attacks under the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation Program (FOIA/PA-2003-0121)

Depositions, case no. NRC-02-04 or EEOC case no. 120-2002-01647X, dated December 6 and 16, 2002, and January 9 and 13, 2003 (FOIA/PA-2003-0122)

MLTS, active and retired facilities (FOIA/PA-2003-0123)

Nuclear power plants, footage or stills, exterior or interior (FOIA/PA-2003-0124)

Correspondence between named individual and NRC (FOIA/PA-2003-0125)

OIG investigative file 03-12H, all records including RIV DRMA files (FOIA/PA-2003-0126)

FOIA/PA-2003-0025, 0026, 0027, 0028, and 0029, handling and processing records (FOIA/PA-2003-0127)

Document providing a description of action taken against Wyoming Valley Health Care System as a result of an 11/01 incident at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital (FOIA/PA-2003-0128)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Arrivals		
BUSSARD, Victoria	SECRETARY (OA) SPAC	HR
DEWEY, Lee	CONSULTANT	ASLBP
Retirements		
ATHAVALA, Shashikant*	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	NRR
DAVIS, Michael*	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
LIU, Wen-Cheng*	MECHANICAL ENGINEER	NRR
SKELTON, Robert*	SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER	NSIR
Departures		
BAKHSH, Sarah	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII
NEUNER, Burton	STUDENT ENGINEER	RIII

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Media Interest

Chairman Richard Meserve was interviewed by PBS' "Now With Bill Moyers" television program on the NRC's role in the controversy surrounding the Davis-Besse plant in Ohio. The show is scheduled to air a 15-minute segment on the issue next Friday, January 24.

A crew from CBS' "60 Minutes" show filmed the entire Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force session at NRC headquarters, as part of a possible show on the aging of nuclear plants.

The Federal Times interviewed the NRC's Chief Financial Officer on Congress' continuing resolution and its impact on the agency's budget.

Significant media interest continues in security-related issues at nuclear facilities, particularly Indian Point in New York.

There was press coverage of the draft report by James Lee Witt Associates on emergency preparedness at Indian Point and Connecticut's Millstone nuclear plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-008	NRC Finds No Significant Environmental Impact From Extended Operation of Catawba and McGuire Nuclear Plants
03-009	NRC's Initial Reaction To Witt Report
Regions:	
I-03-002	NRC Special Inspection Team Begins Work At Beach Bottom
II-03-001	NRC Staff To Hold Public Meeting To Discuss Recent Extra Inspection Of Oconee Nuclear Power Plant
II-03-002	NRC Staff Proposes \$3,000 Civil Penalty Against Puerto Rico Firm For Violation of NRC Radiation Safety Requirements
IV-03-001	NRC Staff To Hold Public Meeting In Omaha To Discuss Inspection Of Plant's License Renewal Program

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Visit by Japanese to Spent Fuel Project Office

On January 15, Hiroyuki Naito, Assistant Section Chief, Nuclear Fuel Transportation and Storage Regulation Division, Japan Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), accompanied by a representative from the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI) and Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation (NUPEC), met with Spent Fuel Project Office representatives to discuss spent fuel storage casks, reliability and licensing criteria. NISA expects that in addition to spent fuel storage in pools at nuclear power plants, by 2010, there will be a need for storage outside the plants in interim facilities. The fuel will be stored in casks in above ground concrete storage facilities.

Visit of Hugh Collum, Chairman, BNFL

On January 16, 2003, Hugh Collum, Chairman, BNFL, met with the Chairman and Commissioners. Mr. Collum commented on the energy review underway in the UK and the need for a balanced energy supply. If nuclear power is to continue to play a role in the UK, decisions on new designs will have to be made relatively soon. The Chairman and Commissioners commented on the certification review by NRC of the Westinghouse AP 1000 design.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-02-0227	12/31/2002	Litigation Report - 2002 - 04

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated January 10, 2003, concerns report of the NRC's Inspector General concerning the staff's safety decision to allow a slight delay in the shutdown of the Davis-Basse reactor in Ohio.
2. Letter to Howard Ris, UCS, dated January 8, 2003, concerns security at the Nation's nuclear power plants.
3. Letter to Dr. Carol S. Marcus, Research and Education Institute of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, dated January 6, 2003, concerns the development of a comprehensive list of specific gamma ray dose constants for adults and children of different builds for a variety of radio nuclides.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Peer Review Committee for Source Term Modeling - Notice of Meeting.
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures - Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Materials and Metallurgy - Notice of Meeting.
4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena - Notice of Meeting.
5. 499th ACRS Meeting - February 6-8, 2003 - Notice of Meeting.
6. ASLBP Hearing in the Matter of PG&E (Diablo Canyon Power Plant Independent Storage Installation) - Notice of Meeting.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Commissioner Visits Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station

On January 16, 2003, A Commissioner, the Region I Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) and the Commissioner's Technical Assistant for Reactors visited the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station, which is owned and operated by the First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC). The Commissioner toured the facility and met with a number of senior managers of FENOC. Following the site visit, the Commissioner traveled to Westinghouse Nuclear Fuels in Monroeville, Pennsylvania and made a presentation to the local American Nuclear Society Chapter.

Heritage Minerals, Inc. Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On January 8, 2003, staff and management from Region I, Office of Enforcement, and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards held a predecisional enforcement conference with licensee representatives from Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) at the Region I office. The purpose of the conference was to discuss HMI's failure to complete decommissioning of the Lakehurst, New Jersey site within the required two-year period following NRC approval of the decommissioning plan. The site is on the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list of contaminated sites. Discussions related to HMI's plans to complete necessary remediation of contaminated areas in soil and mill buildings. HMI committed to provide the NRC, in writing within 60 days, plans and a schedule for additional remediation of both the monazite sand pile and mill buildings. Representatives from the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection and the public attended the conference.

Meeting with General Accounting Office

On January 8, 2003, Region I management from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety met with representatives of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) to discuss the Region I materials safety program. GAO is charged with preparing an assessment of the domestic nuclear materials safety program including controls over security of radioactive material. In that regard, GAO has been and will be accompanying NRC and Agreement State staff on Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) reviews of selected Agreement State and Regional materials programs, and conducting interviews with HQ management and staff. As part of their visit to Region I, the GAO representatives also visited the Ethicon irradiator in northern New Jersey.

Entergy Nuclear Organization Senior Management Changes

Jerry W. Yelverton, Chief Executive Officer for Entergy's nuclear businesses, will retire on March 31. Upon his retirement, Gary Taylor will serve as his replacement. Mr. Taylor is currently Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Entergy Nuclear South.

Meanwhile, Michael R. Kansler, currently COO for Entergy Nuclear Northeast, has been appointed to the newly created position of President for the Northeast region. Mr. Kansler's

replacement will be John Herron, currently senior vice president of the Indian Point Energy Center. Other management changes were also made at Indian Point, including the naming of Fred Dacimo as the site's senior vice president.

Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory Panel Meeting

Region I staff attended the Maine Yankee Citizen's Advisory Panel meeting on January 16, 2003. Licensee presentations included information on the termination of the contract with NAC International, Inc. for business reasons (NAC is the contractor responsible for transferring spent fuel from wet storage in the spent fuel pool to dry storage at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation), the donation of 200 acres (Eaton Farm) to Chewonki, a not-for-profit research institution, the status of the decommissioning effort, licensing and environmental issues, and the development of the License Termination Plan.

NRC Region I staff provided an overview of NRC's inspection and oversight efforts for the past six months, covering the activities of NRC program offices and Region I. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Examiners Conference

On January 14-15, 2003, Region II and NRR hosted an Examiners Conference in the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center to discuss Operator Licensing issues. Members from the operator licensing, NRR staff and NRC examiners from all the Regional Offices were in attendance. Discussion topics included the implementation of the pilot program for the Draft of the Revision 9 to the Examiner's Standards and tools to increase efficiency in the operator licensing and requalification inspection programs.

Reactor Oversight Process Meeting

On January 16, 2003, the Director, Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM), Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Chief of the Inspection Program Branch, NRR, and the Technical Assistant for Enforcement and Regional Interface, NRR visited the Region II Office to discuss the Reactor Oversight Process and Operating Plan issues with Senior Managers and the Division of Reactor Projects (DRP) and Division of Reactor Safety (DRS) Branch Chiefs.

Rio Construction - Enforcement Action

On January 15, 2003, a Severity Level III violation and proposed Civil Penalty of \$3000 were issued to the licensee. These actions were taken in response to the licensee deliberately assigning an inadequately trained individual to use a portable gauge containing licensed material.

Delta Consulting Engineers - Enforcement Action

On January 14, 2003, a Severity Level III violation was issued to the licensee for failure to adequately secure a portable gauge.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending January 17, 2003

Entergy Nuclear South Management Changes

On January 14, 2003, Entergy Corporation announced the planned March 31 retirement of Jerry W. Yelverton, the chief executive officer of Entergy Nuclear. Mr. Yelverton will be replaced by Gary J. Taylor, currently the chief operating officer for Entergy Nuclear South. Mr. Taylor's current position will be filled by W. R. Campbell, currently the vice president of engineering for Entergy Nuclear South. Mr. Campbell will report to John R. McGaha, the president of Entergy Nuclear South, who will report to Mr. Taylor.

January 17, 2003

ENCLOSURE P