

# INFORMATION REPORT

February 6, 2003

SECY-03-0016

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-03-0016 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING JANUARY 31, 2003

## Contents

## Enclosure

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

\*No input this week.

**/RA by Melinda Malloy Acting For/**

John W. Craig  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
C. Glenn, OEDO

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Contact:  
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02/06/03

## WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31, 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](mailto:cjg1@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.

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>Page</b>
NRR	2	STP	*
NMSS	4	OPA	17
RES	8	IP	*
NSIR	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	*
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SB/CR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

\*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

NRC Information Notice 2003-03, Part 21 - Inadequately Staked Capscrew Renders Residual Heat Removal Pump Inoperable dated January 27, 2003

The NRC is issuing this information notice to inform addressees of recently observed inadequately staked capscrews on casing wear rings of residual heat removal pumps. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems.

Criteria for Review of Alternative Sites

On January 28, 2003, the staff of the Reactor Policy and Rulemaking Program held a public meeting to solicit public input on whether the NRC should conduct rulemaking to codify the criteria for review of alternative sites as part of the environmental review for a new plant. Input was provided by representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), prospective applicants, a law firm, and public interest groups. NEI has previously submitted petitions for rulemaking that are related to this question and are currently pending before the NRC (PRM-52-1 and PRM-52-2).

International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) Information System Publicly Available Online

The public now has direct access to authoritative information on the safety significance of events reported at nuclear installations across the globe. The Nuclear Events Web-based System (NEWS) is an online information service that communicates International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) reports for all significant events that are reported by its 60 participating countries involving nuclear power plants, research reactors, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, radiation sources and the transport of radioactive material. The NEWS web site is available at <http://www-news.iaea.org/news/>. This web site includes information (for the last six months) such as event descriptions, INES rating and any associated press releases as well as a context for gauging the severity of an event by ranking events on a scale of 1 (anomaly) to 7 (catastrophic accident).

The system is co-sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Association of Nuclear Operators. The site had been previously accessible to only registered users or logging in as guests. The upgrade to the system now allows direct access to the public.

2003 ISOE International ALARA Symposium

On January 12-15, 2003, the Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE) held its annual International ALARA Symposium in Florida. The purpose of this annual ALARA Symposium is for radiation protection professionals to exchange dose reduction practices and lessons learned globally to assure safe and efficient operation of nuclear power reactors around the world. The theme of this year's symposium was "Radiological Work Management Successes in Reducing Refueling/Service Outage Duration and Dose" and there were several

sessions devoted to French and U.S. experience with pressurized water reactor head inspection, repair and replacement. Commissioner Greta Dicus was the honored speaker and was awarded the 2002 Radiation Protection Professional of the Year award.

#### Recent Meetings Related to the Reactor Oversight Process

On January 21, 2003, a public workshop was held at the Two White Flint North Auditorium on the Mitigating Systems Performance Indicator (MSPI) Pilot. Participants of the MSPI workshop raised and discussed questions concerning program guidance at the mid-way point in the MSPI pilot implementation and licensee-specific MSPI implementation issues. Part of the workshop was devoted to a breakout session by vendor plant type to identify common threads involving high/low Fussell-Vessly values, the nature of invalid and/or insensitive performance indicators, and component/system boundary issues.

On January 23, 2003, a public meeting was held with the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Monthly Working Group. The ROP Working Group participants discussed proposed changes to the inspection manual chapters and inspection procedures, changes to significance determination process (SDP) manual chapter appendices, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the performance indicators (PIs). ROP discussions included a general status of staff activities on the draft Steam Generator Tube Integrity and Maintenance Rule SDPs as well as other SDPs under revision. Industry provided a status update on their self-assessment initiative with their next goal to provide the staff with a public version of the self-assessment inspection program document. The staff provided a status update of the Industry Trends Program. The ROP Working Group also discussed ongoing and new PI FAQs. A significant outcome of the FAQ PI discussion revealed that industry is concerned with the staff's position on the definition of what constitutes a scram with loss of normal heat removal for the initiating events PI. Industry plans to pursue this issue further with the staff.

The next public meetings of the MSPI and ROP Working Groups are scheduled for February 2003.

#### AP1000

On January 23 and 24, 2003, the NRC staff and Westinghouse representatives provided presentations to the Advisory Committee on Reactors Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment regarding the AP1000 probabilistic risk assessment (PRA). These presentations included discussions by Westinghouse on the design of the AP1000 and a background on the AP1000 PRA that was submitted to support the AP1000 design certification application dated March 28, 2002. The NRC staff's presentations focused on the issues raised in the requests for additional information (RAIs) that were already issued by the staff. The NRC staff and Westinghouse representatives also provided some discussions on the RAI responses provided by Westinghouse. The NRC staff is in the midst of its review of the application and RAI responses and plans to issue a draft safety evaluation report (DSER) in June 2003. Future meetings with the ACRS are planned including a full committee meeting in June or July at which the DSER will be discussed.

### Public Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on Early Site Permit Application Issues

On January 29, 2003, representatives from NEI met with the NRC staff to discuss issues related to early site permit (ESP) applications and reviews. Representatives from Dominion, Exelon and Entergy were in attendance. As a follow-up to the December 5, 2002, ESP meeting, the staff and industry continued a discussion on the use of a bounding approach for providing fuel cycle and transportation information as required by National Environmental Policy Act (10 CFR Part 51, Tables S-3 and S-4). In addition, the staff and NEI discussed (1) industry comments on the Draft ESP review Standard; (2) alternative sources review under 10 CFR 52.18; (3) the NRC nominal review timeline; and (4) guidance for ESP approval of emergency plans.

### North Anna Unit 2 Reactor Pressure Vessel Head (RPVH) Replacement

On January 27, 2003, the NRC staff started its inspections of the license's reconciliation and design change activities associated with the replacement of the RVPH at North Anna, Unit 2. Overall, the NRC staff found that the quality of the license's reconciliation report, manufacturer's data report, preservice inspection information, and design change packages had significantly improved since January 6, 2003, when the staff initially started inspecting these activities. As of January 29, 2003, no significant issues had been identified by the team. The NRC staff's preliminary assessment is that the replacement RVPH is of sufficient quality to provide reasonable assurance that safety will be maintained.

The NRC staff noted that the Framatome manufacturer's data report had been reviewed and accepted by an Authorized Nuclear Inspector (ANI). The ANI Inspector stated, "The contents of this report are accurate and, as far as possible, are equivalent to the requirements of Section III, Division 1, of the [American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code] ASME Code..."

The NRC staff identified minor issues which the licensee agreed to address in the reconciliation report. Issues were identified in design calculations, although they have no impact on the conclusions associated with the safe use of the RVPH and related design changes. In addition, the licensee will include an overview of their quality assurance processes and oversight activities.

The NRC staff continues to review the design changes from a 10 CFR 50.59 perspective and is reviewing the justifications for differences between the RCC-M (the French Standards) and ASME Codes for nondestructive examination requirements. Also, the staff continues to review the reconciliation between the code requirements for materials used in the fabrication of the replacement RVPH and related welding procedures. The staff's preliminary assessment of the friction welding process is that it produces high quality, repeatable welds of the nozzle adapters that can be safely used in commercial U.S. pressurized water reactors.

### Control Room Habitability

A public meeting was held with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on January 24, 2003, to discuss the staff's comments on the industry's revision to NEI 99-03, "Control Room Habitability Assessment Guidance." It appeared that over two-thirds of the staff's comments would be

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE A

incorporated by the industry. Issues remain but discussions between the staff and industry are continuing.

#### Shutdown Significance Determination Process (SDP)

On January 22, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch staff interfaced with industry in a continuation of a series of workshops on the shutdown Significance Determination Process (SDP). The discussion covered the SDP for Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs) and Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs), addressed the philosophy of the tools, and included examples to illustrate how the tools function. The staff received valuable input from industry and anticipates at least one more workshop in the future.

#### Meeting with the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project

On January 22, 2003, staff met with representatives of the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss non-destructive examination uncertainty as it relates to the BWRVIP guidelines and maintenance of American Society of Mechanical Engineers code margins. The staff and the BWRVIP representatives also discussed the BWRVIP's proposed resolution of safety evaluation report open items for several BWRVIP reports. Lastly, the staff discussed review schedules for high priority BWRVIP reports.

#### Meeting with Exelon Nuclear

On January 24, 2003, the staff met with Exelon Nuclear to discuss thermal power discrepancies between Byron, Unit 1 and its sister plant Braidwood, Unit 1. Higher fuel burn-up rates and electric power recorded at approximately 4 percent above expected values led the staff to request that Exelon re-evaluate methods used for determining correction factors applied to feedwater flow measuring ventures used in the calorimetric calculations. The licensee (Exelon) is expected to provide the staff with information on the ultrasonic instrumentation installed on the feedwater for determining the correction factors and further discuss plant configuration difference between Byron, Unit 1 and Braidwood, Unit 1.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Public Meeting, 21st Century Technologies, Inc.

On January 27, 2003, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff met with representatives of 21st Century Technologies, Inc., at NRC Headquarters, to discuss 21st Century's license amendment application to add new tritium gunsight designs to its sealed source and device registration certificate. The licensee also discussed options for making its license more flexible and less restrictive by registering a series of designs instead of individual models, to allow it to distribute different gunsight designs that have small variations from each other.

National Nuclear Security Administration and NRC Staff Meeting with Staff of the Russian Federation's GOSATOMNADZOR to Discuss Licensing Activities in the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program

On January 20-24, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) staff and management, and contractor staff of the National Nuclear Security Administration met with staff of the Russian Federation's GOSATOMNADZOR (GAN) in its Headquarters in Moscow. GAN is responsible for regulating nuclear facilities in Russia, including the proposed Russian Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. A staff member from FCSS presented the status of licensing reviews for the U.S. MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility. Another FCSS staff member presented U.S. radiation protection program requirements and a summary of NRC's environmental protection requirements. Both NRC presenters provided responses to the questions raised by experts from GAN and other Russian ministries. The next meeting will be held March 17-20, 2003. Issues on the agenda for the next meeting include the identification of key specialists to support the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program, GAN's requirements for nuclear criticality safety, and an NRC staff presentation on configuration management.

Louisiana Energy Services Application Delayed

On January 29, 2003, Louisiana Energy Services announced that it would delay the submittal of its gas centrifuge enrichment plant license application for six to eight weeks to further firm up customer contracts.

NRC/DOE Quarterly Quality Assurance and Management Public Meetings

On January 22-23, 2003, the staff met with Department of Energy (DOE) representatives to discuss quality assurance (QA) and management issues concerning the DOE Yucca Mountain program. Both meetings were three-way video conferences hosted at NRC Headquarters, with connections to the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses in San Antonio, Texas. Various stakeholders, including representatives from the State of Nevada, Nye County, and industry attended at the NRC and DOE meeting locations. Staff at NRC Region IV and various stakeholders also

participated via teleconference. The next quarterly NRC/DOE meetings are scheduled for April 2003 in Las Vegas.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the status of the program at the potential repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Presentations included the status of: (1) the DOE QA Program; (2) implementation of DOE's Management Improvement Initiative (MII); (3) Key Technical Issue (KTI) agreement resolution; (4) DOE's Safety Conscious Work Environment Program; and (5) the license application. During each meeting, the DOE representatives presented the status of previous action items. Action items from the January meetings included DOE agreeing to provide the following items: Quality Assurance Requirement Description documents; status of electronic media migration; graded QA results; KTI agreement interaction schedule; and high-level results of the MII for the next quarterly meetings.

#### Commissioner Merrifield Tours Yucca Mountain

On January 28, 2003, NRC's On-Site Representatives for Yucca Mountain led Commissioner Merrifield, members of his staff, the Director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Regional Administrator of NRC Region IV on a tour of Yucca Mountain. The tour included an entrance into the exploratory studies facility (main tunnel) with stops that included the drift-scale thermal test, moisture-monitoring stations for infiltration studies, and areas of fracture and fault studies. They also visited weapons test areas of the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

#### Meeting with AEA Technology QSA, Inc.

On January 23, 2003, staff of the Spent Fuel Project Office met with AEA Technology QSA, Inc. (AEA) to discuss a new transportation package design -- Model No. 983. AEA estimated that the application for package approval could be submitted to NRC in mid-2003.

#### Meeting with Packaging Technology Inc.

On January 29, 2003, the Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Packaging Technology Inc. (PACTEC) to discuss its certification testing strategy for the TRUPACT-III transportation package, which would be used for Department of Energy shipments to the waste isolation pilot plant. The testing strategy proposed the use of existing test results from a half-scale TN GEMINI package, which is similar in design, but has different seal material. The staff discussed with PACTEC the potential need for either finite-element analysis or additional testing to demonstrate compliance with 10 CFR Part 71.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Public Meeting with General Atomics on GT-MHR

On January 28-29, 2003, the NRC staff conducted a public meeting with General Atomics Company (GA) and interested stakeholders to discuss selected topics related to the Gas Turbine Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) pre-application review. The meeting was the second in a series of planned meetings between the staff and GA on the GT-MHR. The purpose of these meetings is for the staff to receive information from GA on selected topics within the scope of the pre-application review and for GA to obtain feedback from the staff on the information provided.

GA has formally submitted the information on which the presentations were based so the staff can conduct a formal review. During the meeting GA provided presentations on: (1) Overview of the GT-MHR Source Term; (2) High Quality Fuel Fabrication Process; (3) Validation of Fuel Performance; and (4) Validation of Radionuclide Transport Methods. Stakeholder comments were also received during the meeting. The next meeting, not yet scheduled, will continue discussions on new topics within scope of the pre-application review.

NRC-MIT Meeting on Cooperative Agreement

On January 29, 2003, a meeting was held between NRC staff and personnel from the Center for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss work being performed under a cooperative agreement with MIT that came into effect a few months ago and will last for three years. MIT made formal presentations on the four research areas in which they are currently using NRC funding under the cooperative agreement. Two of these (fuel performance modeling and analysis of air ingress accidents) are associated with gas reactors, one (high burnup fuel) with light water reactors, and one (a risk-informed regulatory framework) with technology-neutral regulatory approaches.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Virginia Outreach Meeting on Incident Response

On January 23-24, 2003, the Director of the Division of Incident Response Operations joined representatives of Region II and other Federal agencies at a Commonwealth of Virginia Outreach Meeting on incident response to a radiological emergency. Federal participants included the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Energy's Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center, and United States Department of Agriculture. The audience (about 75) included Commonwealth and local responders associated with North Anna and Surry, licensee representatives, and attendees from adjacent states. The purpose of the meeting was for Federal agencies to provide an overview of their respective response programs and the support available. In addition to radiological issues, the meeting included issues relating to terrorist response. The Commonwealth and Dominion Virginia Power are using this forum as part of their preparations for the Surry ingestion pathway exercise to be held in July 2003.

BUSRIDE II Tabletop Exercise

On January 29, 2003, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, in concert with the Department of Energy, conducted BUSRIDE II, the second of two tabletop exercises designed to examine NRC responsibilities and interfaces with other Federal agencies for a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD)-type terrorist event. BUSRIDE II involved facilitator-led discussions, and participant interactions, to address emergency response issues related to an RDD-event scenario. Approximately 100 representatives from the NRC and other government agencies attended the tabletop exercise conducted in the NRC Headquarters' Auditorium.

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee Meeting

On January 28, 2003, representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and the office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Division of Incident Response Operations (DIRO) attended the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) meeting at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C. The FRPCC addresses interagency coordination issues for peacetime radiological emergencies in the United States. The goal of this meeting was to update all participating agencies on the work of the subcommittees, such as the Federal response, transportation, protective action guides, exercises, and potassium iodide ad hoc subcommittees. Representatives from the Department of Energy, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Centers for Disease Control, and Food and Drug Administration participated in this interagency meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the April/May 2003 time frame.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-03-005, Giles Engineering Associates - STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE D

2. PNO-IV-03-006, STP Nuclear Operating Company - MAINTENANCE OUTAGE GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.
3. PNO-III-03-003, William Beaumont Hospital - MEDICAL EVENT (OVERDOSE).

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Contract Awards

As a result of a competitive simplified acquisition set aside for small businesses, a fixed price type purchase order no. DR-10-03-157 was awarded to Techniarts Engineering, Inc. of Silver Spring, MD on January 27, 2003, for an assessment review and report of the audiovisual condition of the NRC Commissioner's Conference Room and the NRC Auditorium. The purchase order runs for 60 days and is priced at \$15,000. The purchase order contains an option for additional audiovisual expertise and consulting support, if needed, valued at another \$15,000. The contract was awarded in 90 days without discussions, using the simplified acquisition waiver of procurement synopsis, electronic submittal to the Division of Contracts by the program office of the Statement of Work and a one member Source Evaluation Panel.

On January 29, 2003, delivery order no. DR-02-03-006 under GSA MOBIS contract no. GS-23F-8100H was awarded to Acton Burnell, Inc. The contractor will provide support to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) to operate the Regulatory Product Development Center and, through issuance of work orders, provide support to facilitate NMSS process change implementation, organizational development, team building, and general product-oriented collaborative work efforts. The total value of the order for the 1-year base period of performance is \$1,042,144 with an optional 1-year period available at \$1,087,452.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of  
January 24 through January 30, 2003:

Ford Nuclear Reactor, University of Michigan, decommissioning plan, dated between 12/2001 and 01/2003; characterization report (FOIA/PA-2003-0140)

Seabrook, license owner (FOIA/PA-2003-0141)

Contracts with CPA firms performing financial statement audits as listed in OMB Bulletin 01-02; contract, expirations (FOIA/PA-2003-0142)

Davis Besse, Chairman's 1-8-03 memo response to IG's inspection deferral event inquiry, all documents and records; records relating to the possibility of NRC issuing order to use 3<sup>rd</sup> party to assess safety culture and/or safety conscious work environment (FOIA/PA-2003-0143)

IBM's San Jose, CA site, 5600 Cottle Road, all records (FOIA/PA-2003-0144)

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Campaign Management Feedback Session Attended

On January 31, 2003, the NRC CFC Manager attended a Campaign Management Feedback session at the CFC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the session was to obtain effective strategies used by campaign managers for successful campaigns. In addition, campaign managers provided recommendations for improvements in future campaigns. Topics included training sessions and materials, communications, reporting mechanisms, awards and recognitions, and loaned executives.

<b>Arrivals</b>		
DUDEK, Michael	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
KLETT, Audrey*	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	RIII
MCINTYRE, David	OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	OPA
MONTGOMERY, Burnetta	STUDENT HR SPECIALIST	HR
<b>Retirements</b>		
BISSETT, Paul	SENIOR OPERATIONS ENGINEER	RI
BOEHNERT, Paul	SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER	ACRS
FOSTER, James**	EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR	RIII
JONES, Richard	SENIOR MAIL CLERK	ADM
LARRICK, Donald	SENIOR COMMUNICATION SPEC.	OCIO
ROSENBERG, Charlotte	LICENSING ASSISTANT	NRR
TELFORD, John	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
<b>Departures</b>		
NORRIS, Michael	NUCLEAR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	NSIR

\*Effective 1/27/03

\*\*Effective 2/03/03

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Media Interest

Chairman Meserve conducted an interview on dirty bombs with a correspondent from the PBS "NOVA" program. The show is scheduled to air in late March.

Significant media interest continues in the future of the Indian Point nuclear facility in Westchester, New York, particularly in the wake of Governor Pataki and local counties rejecting a proposed emergency evacuation plan.

An interview with the Chairman was aired as part of a feature that ran on WABC-TV in New York, regarding the controversy about security guards at Indian Point.

Media coverage continued on the latest developments at the troubled Davis-Besse facility, including a meeting between NRC officials and FirstEnergy managers on plans of the owners of the plant for assessing the safety culture.

There was coverage of a higher-than-normal release of radioactive gas from PPL's Susquehanna nuclear plant in Pennsylvania, which prompted a low-level emergency declaration.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
03-015	NRC Licensing Board Decides To Rule On Three Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Amendment Applications At One Time
<b>Regions:</b>	
II-03-004	NRC Staff To Hold Public Meeting With FPL January 31 To Discuss Second St. Lucie License Renewal Inspection
IV-03-002	NRC Draft Report Finds Fort Calhoun License Renewal Environmentally Acceptable; Public Input Sought At February Meetings

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. COMSECY-03-0002	01/08/03	Rulemaking Plan and Proposed Schedule for Rulemaking Effort on Control of Solid Materials
SRM on COMSECY-03-0002	01/27/03	(same)
Commission Voting Record on COMSECY-03-0002	01/27/03	(same)
2. Commission Voting Record on SECY-02-0214	01/22/03	Guidance on the Use of Effective Dose Equivalent in External Dose Assessments
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-03-0010	01/27/03	SECY-03-0010 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 17, 2003
2. SECY-03-0006	01/14/03	Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes - Results of the October 28, 2002, Meeting

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated January 22, 2003, provides NRC's Annual Report of the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2002.
2. Letter to Congress dated January 21, 2003, concerns issues related to nuclear power plant security.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ASLBP Notice of Evidentiary Hearing - Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company.
2. ACRS Meeting of Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy and on Plant Operations - Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Meeting of the Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels - Notice of Meeting.
4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Safeguards and Security - Notice of Meeting.

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE O

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Status of Union Negotiations at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

The contract between the licensee and approximately 230 bargaining unit workers at Oyster Creek is scheduled to expire at midnight on January 31, 2003. The union has agreed with AmerGen (the licensee) to continue the current contract on a day-to-day basis unless either party provides 48 hours advanced written notice of an intent to strike or lock out. Earlier this week, AmerGen provided a new contract proposal to union negotiators; the proposal currently is under review by the union. Region I has reviewed AmerGen's strike contingency plans and has prepared a watchbill for round-the-clock on-site coverage by inspectors in the event of a strike at the facility. The contract affects all bargaining unit workers at the plant, including reactor and auxiliary operators, but does not impact the security guards.

Special Inspection at Peach Bottom Unit 2

A special inspection (per Management Directive 8.3) was conducted by Region 1 at Peach Bottom Unit 2 for an automatic reactor scram with loss of normal heat sink that occurred on December 21, 2002. On January 30, 2003, inspection team conducted an exit interview with the licensee (Exelon). The team informed the licensee that although initial operator response and the licensee's investigation were adequate, numerous equipment inadequacies caused significant challenges to the operators during the transient. The inspection findings will be processed in accordance with the Significance Determination Process.

Management Review Board for Maine IMPEP Review

On January 22, 2003, the Management Review Board (MRB) approved the recommendations made by a three-member team for the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review conducted October 29 through November 1, 2002 of the Maine Radiation Control Program. The MRB found the State's program adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC regulations. The State's performance in all six indicators was found satisfactory, with no specific recommendations. The next IMPEP review for the Maine program is scheduled to be conducted in 2007.

Public Meetings Related to the Cabot Corporation Reading Site

A meeting, open to the public, was held on January 29, 2003, in the NRC Region I Office, between NRC and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to discuss technical and process issues related to the termination of the NRC license for the Cabot Corporation's Reading, Pennsylvania, site. The site is listed on the NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Plan. Representatives from the licensee and a representative from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) also participated in the meeting. No members of the public attended.

On January, 30, 2003, NRC Headquarters and Regional staff attended a public meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, to discuss issues related to remediation of the Cabot Reading site.

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

The meeting was hosted by the Reading City Council. Also in attendance were representatives from PADEP, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3, and ATSDR. Approximately 40 members of the public attended and asked questions pertaining to site remediation and health issues during the three-hour meeting.

January 31, 2003

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

Tennessee Valley Authority - Browns Ferry Site Visit

On January 31, 2003, the Deputy Regional Administrator toured the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and discussed current issues with the NRC resident inspectors and licensee management. The Deputy Regional Administrator participated in providing good practices and operator license certificates to new operators at the facility during the Browns Ferry Operators Certification Presentation.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Management Meeting

On January 28, 2003, representatives from the Duke Energy Corporation were in the Region II Office to attend a management meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Oconee's (1) recent management changes; (2) design basis review initiatives; and (3) future steam generator and reactor vessel head replacements.

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba Nuclear Plant Exit Meeting

On January 30-31, 2003, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety attended major team inspection exits at the Catawba nuclear plant site in the areas of safety system design and radiation protection. This is part of an initiative for senior managers to observe and obtain feedback on the reactor oversight process.

Florida Power and Light Company (FP&L) - St. Lucie License Renewal

During the week of January 27-31, 2003, the regional office completed the second inspection of the FP&L, St. Lucie license renewal program. The scope of the inspection included a review of the adequacy of the licensee's programs to manage the aging of the materiel condition of the plant's systems, structures and components.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 31, 2003

License Renewal Aging Management Review Inspection at the Fort Calhoun Station

On January 23, 2003, representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Region IV completed the License Renewal Aging Management Review Inspection for the Fort Calhoun Station. This inspection was conducted to verify with reasonable assurance that the Omaha Public Power District's aging management review processes have identified all the effects of aging and that these aging effects are being properly managed consistent with the requirements of the License Renewal Rule.

Commissioner Merrifield Visits the Nevada Test Site, Region IV Offices, and Comanche Peak

Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by his staff and the Regional Administrator, visited the Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain on January 28, 2003. He then visited Region IV on January 29, including discussions with the management team, a presentation to the staff, and a tour of Region IV facilities. On January 30, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by his staff and the Regional Administrator, visited the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station. He toured the facility with an emphasis on security and met with the plant staff and management.

Management Changes Affecting Palo Verde

Bill Stewart is retiring effective December 1, 2003. Jim Levine, currently Arizona Public Service Executive Vice President of Generation, will replace Mr. Stewart as Chief Executive Officer of Pinnacle West Energy in addition to his current responsibilities.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 31, 2003

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 2**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	02/13/03 TBA	A.M.	NRC	Oversight of the NRC	Senators Voinovich/Lieberman Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Portner	02/25/03 SD-366	10:00	Secretary Abraham	FY04 Budget: Energy Department	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources