

QUARTER 2 - FY-02

REACTOR SAFETY ARENA

The following activities were completed as part of the Region's efforts to ensure reactor safety was maintained through the conduct of the Risk Informed Baseline Inspection Program:

On October 26, 2001, and January 17, 2002, Region IV conducted a backfit panel on a fire protection finding at Arkansas Nuclear One. The finding involved certain fire areas for which the licensee had not met the requirements of Sections III.G.2 (requiring protection of equipment required for safe shutdown). The licensee claimed that this finding imposed a new NRC interpretation of the requirements of Appendix R and that the finding did not recognize credit for manual operator actions. The backfit panel concluded that the finding was not a new interpretation or a change in policy. Associated with the finding, the Nuclear Energy Institute submitted a letter to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation claiming that the lack of credit for manual operator actions constituted a generic backfit. The disposition of the generic fire protection question awaits the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's disposition of the Nuclear Energy Institute letter and a Phase 3 significance determination.

Region IV conducted a regulatory conference on a preliminary significance determination finding of WHITE for the Comanche Peak Station Electric Station on January 23, 2002. The issue involved a loss of control of radioactive material and was assessed using the Public Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process. The meeting received more than ordinary public interest and was video conference with NRC Headquarters. On February 21, 2002, Region IV issued the final significance determination of a WHITE finding and a violation of the Technical Specifications. On March 6, 2002, the licensee appealed the staff's position. Subsequently, Region IV convened a panel to process the licensee's appeal. Panel members included representatives from Region IV, Region III, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Office of Enforcement. The appeal panel results are pending.

On February 7, 2002, Region IV conducted a regulatory performance meeting for the Cooper Nuclear Station. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the degraded emergency preparedness cornerstone that stemmed from two WHITE inspection findings: one for failure to identify a risk-significant planning standard issue (incorrect protective action recommendations) during an exercise critique and one for failure to correct the risk-significant planning standard issue. The second issue involved a violation of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Paragraph IV.F.2.g.

On February 21, 2002, Region IV conducted a regulatory performance meeting in the vicinity of the Columbia Generating Station. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss

UPDATED: 05-06-02

DOCUMENT: S:\DRP\OP PLAN INPUT\fy2q2\RX SAFE ARENA OP PLAN INPUT q2 02.wpd

T-1