

INFORMATION REPORT

April 8, 2004

SECY-04-0054

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-04-0054 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 2, 2004

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 and 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/

William M. Dean
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Bloomer, OEDO

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04/07/04	04/08/04

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2004

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

Contact: T. Bloomer, OEDO by E-mail: teb@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.

OFFICE	Page	OFFICE	Page
NRR	2	STP	16
NMSS	4	OPA	17
RES	8	OIP	*
NSIR	9	SECY	19
OGC	*	Region I	20
ADM	10	Region II	21
CIO	11	Region III	*
CFO	*	Region IV	23
HR	15	OEDO	*
SBCR	*	OCA	24
OE	*		

*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Vermont Yankee - Public Meeting on NRC's Review of Power Uprate Application

On March 31, 2004, a Category 3 public meeting was held in the vicinity of Vermont Yankee (VY) to present information and answer the public's questions about the NRC's review of VY's power uprate application. The meeting was held in response to a request from Vermont Senators Jeffords and Leahy.

The primary topic of discussion was the public's view that an independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee was needed. The Vermont State Public Service Board (PSB) approved the uprate, but only if certain conditions are met. One of these conditions is that the PSB request that the NRC conduct its analysis equivalent to an independent engineering assessment. Although the staff has not responded formally to the PSB letter, we indicated to the public that the NRC's response to the PSB was forthcoming.

Over 500 people attended the 3-hour meeting, including staff of Senators Leahy and Jeffords, several Vermont state and local officials, an aide to a Massachusetts State Representative, and representatives from the New England Coalition and other public interest groups. The elected officials gave prepared statements that supported the PSB's request for an independent assessment. A representative of the PSB read a new letter that will be sent to Chairman Diaz reiterating the PSB's previous request. In addition to numerous comments and questions received from the audience, an allegation was made that the NRC, Entergy, and General Electric (GE) were in collusion regarding GE's power uprate topical report. The documents supporting the allegation were provided to Senate staffers at the meeting. It was stated that the information was provided to the NRC's Inspector General.

Generic Safety Issue (GSI) -189 Susceptibility of Ice Condenser and Mark III Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During a Severe Accident

On March 31, 2004 the NRC staff held a public meeting with industry and interested stakeholders on GSI-189 alternatives and draft design criteria. Members of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group made a presentation on an alternative using the Division 3 High Pressure Core Spray (HPCS) diesel generator as the power supply for the hydrogen igniters. They reviewed generic data that suggest the HPCS generator was highly reliable, however specific plant Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) data from one plant shows a low availability time. Currently, the HPCS diesel is available to be cross tied to various loads during a Station Blackout (SBO) event. Other alternatives were discussed.

Representatives from Duke Power and the Tennessee Valley Authority discussed their alternatives, such as their safe shutdown diesel or the SBO diesel for their alternate unit in the dual unit plants. A discussion of PRA data from the McGuire and Catawba plants showed the percentages of the fast and slow SBOs which have an impact on the operators time to react to the event and power the igniter. The NRC staff and industry compared backup power design criteria and agreed on most issues with action items for both to consider the differences. A high

level schedule for rulemaking was provided and Industry indicated they will wait for more formal criteria before requesting another meeting.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) briefing on 50.46 Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident (LBLOCA) Redefinition Commission Paper

On April 1, 2004, members of the staff of the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis and the Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Sub-Committee on Regulatory Policies and Practices regarding the LBLOCA redefinition Commission paper. The briefing focused upon policy and technical issues that the staff had identified in the paper. The sub-committee was particularly supportive of the staff's proposal to maintain best estimate mitigative capability for breaks beyond some new defined large break size. Members of the sub-committee also emphasized the importance of maintaining defense-in-depth for LOCAs outside the design basis due to the possibility of breaks from non-fracture mechanics induced ruptures and other common cause events. The staff received valuable feedback in other areas as well, which staff will consider in developing resolution approaches for the technical issues needed for 10 CFR 50.46 rulemaking.

Issuance of Browns Ferry License Renewal Application Review Schedule

On March 31, 2004, the staff issued its schedule for reviewing the Browns Ferry Nuclear Units 1, 2 and 3, license renewal application (LRA). The 36 months schedule (28 months if no hearing is involved) is six months longer than the normal LRA review schedule. The applicant had agreed to a review schedule that exceeds the standard 30 months (22 months without a hearing) schedule, and has acknowledged the 36 months schedule. The extended schedule was necessary due to the complexity of the application, the need to conduct additional reviews to evaluate the extended effects of the Unit 1 shut down, the need to coordinate Unit 1 restart items, and the need to consider the effects of the extended power uprate evaluations on the renewal. The Federal Register Notice for acceptability and opportunity for hearing for the application was published on March 10th. The opportunity for hearing ends on May 9th.

Combined Construction and Operating License (COL) Proposals

On March 30, 2004, the NRC staff was informed by an Entergy official, that an agreement in principal had been reached by five companies on the possible pursuit of a combined construction and operating license (COL) for advanced nuclear power reactors. The five companies are Entergy, Exelon, Southern, Constellation Energy, and Electricité de France (EDF). They intend to make a proposal to the Department of Energy (DOE). The vendors considered are Westinghouse and General Electric for the AP1000 and the economic and simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR), respectively. They are currently reviewing a business case for each design and plan to develop a COL application for each design. They will select a site 12 to 14 months after DOE acceptance. They currently project the COL applications will be submitted in the 2008 timeframe, with regulatory approval of the COL desired late in 2010 or 2011.

NRC Information Notice 2004-06: Loss of Feedwater Isokinetic Sampling Probes at Dresden Units 2 And 3

On March 26, 2004, the NRC issued the subject information notice to alert addressees to a recent experience in which feedwater isokinetic sampling probes were broken off and lost in feedwater spargers. It is expected that recipients will review this information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate.

Participation at the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Advisory Group Meeting

On March 23-25, 2004, staff from the Division of Engineering participated in a NERC meeting held in Nashville, TN. The purpose of the meeting was to review the corrective actions which had been performed in response to the August 14, 2003, Blackout Event.

The meeting participants reviewed the audit reports and presentations describing the status of corrective actions taken by First Energy, the Midwest Independent System Operator, and the Pennsylvania, Jersey, and Maryland (PJM) Interconnection. Further, it was recommended that the NERC Board approve the corrective actions plan which reflects steps currently completed and planned to be completed by June 30, 2004.

The staff's participation in the subject meeting is part of its ongoing activities to gain knowledge of the industry efforts and planned actions to provide more reliable electrical offsite power to nuclear power stations.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/NRC Steering Committee Meeting

On March 30, 2004, Emergency Preparedness Project Office (EPPO) staff participated in a quarterly FEMA/NRC Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee serves to implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FEMA and the NRC. Topics discussed included: current and upcoming organizational changes in the FEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Section and within EPPO; future reactor licensing and FEMA's role in the review process; rulemaking; the status of two studies (1) Planning and Implementation of Public Evacuation Processes and (2) Evacuation Time Estimate (ETE) NUREG update; proposed work concerning protective action guidelines; Alert and Notification System (ANS) issues, including the FEMA-REP-10 update; the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) conference; and the progress/status on NRC requests for assistance.

Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Video Conference

On March 30, 2004, EPPO and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response staff participated in a video conference held between members of the FRPCC and staff of the Emergency Preparedness & Response group within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Department of State hosted the video conference. EPPO management gave a presentation which focused on the new Project Office organization, and the expected activities and work associated with the five EPPO Teams: Communications, Inspections, Regulatory

Improvements, Licensing and Security Interface. This video conference followed a video conference held on January 21, 2004 between the FRPCC members and the IAEA.

April 2, 2004

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Meeting on the Shallow-Land-Disposal-Area Decommissioning

On March 24-25, 2004, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff and Environmental Protection Agency staff attended a Interagency Partnering Meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Argonne National Lab; URS (USACE's consultant); and BWX Technologies (BWXT), the licensee. The meeting was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During the meeting, URS reviewed the results of its recent field-sampling analysis and its assessment of previous site characterization information, prepared by ARCO (the former licensee) in the mid-1990s. USACE plans call for issuance of a Record of Decision by June 2006, and initiation of remedial action by October 2008. The current license for the Shallow-Land-Disposal-Area site, held by BWXT, authorizes the licensee and USACE to jointly request that the license be put into abeyance 6 months before issuance of the Record of Decision.

Panel Sessions on Public Information and Outreach at the 14th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference

On March 22-25, 2004, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety staff participated in the 14th Annual Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, on a panel of invited speakers devoted to issues of Public Information and Outreach. Staff made a presentation on one of six "Case Studies of Effective Communications." This session, along with two other invited sessions, "Theory and Methods of Nuclear Communications," and "How to Communicate with the Public," highlighted the importance of effective stakeholder communications at this bi-annual conference, sponsored by the American Nuclear Society. Staff also chaired a fourth session of contributed papers, "Public Acceptance and Communication." Opening plenary speakers at the conference included former NRC Commissioners; Pacific Nuclear Council President and President elect; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Nuclear Energy Agency Director General; Tennessee Valley Authority Chairman; and American Nuclear Society Vice President. It was announced that the 15th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference will take place in Sydney, Australia, in October 2006.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Workshop on the Role of the Operator in Advanced Reactor Systems

On March 15, 2004, RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff participated in a workshop in Granbury, Texas, near the Comanche Peak site. The workshop was conducted to identify and preliminarily prioritize research issues related to the role of operators in advanced reactor systems. These research issues had been developed in a research project, "Development of Insights Report on the Role of Human Performance in Advanced Reactors." Five external subject matter experts (three with US industry experience and two from other countries) participated in the workshop. The attendees concluded that (1) the research was comprehensive and identified most major issues, (2) the human performance issues should be regrouped to better reflect a preliminary judgment of their priority, and (3) while the BNL preliminary prioritization was appropriate, there was a consensus among the experts that the development of methods, models and tools for human performance evaluation is crucial to the success of NRC's review of advanced reactor design processes. Additionally, participants recommended that a formal, prioritization workshop with a larger group of subject matter experts be conducted as soon as possible.

Issuance of Research Information Letter (RIL) No. 0401 on Postulated Reactivity-Initiated Accidents

On March 31, 2004, the staff issued the subject RIL, which describes an assessment of postulated reactivity-initiated accidents for operating reactors in the U.S. This report provides the confirmatory assessment that was called for in the Updated Program Plan for High-Burnup Light-Water Reactor Fuel of August 21, 2003, and it summarizes ten years of research on this subject. Tables of test reactor data are presented, and an analysis is described that utilized calculations from NRC's FRAPTRAN fuel rod code to estimate the experimental bias in some of the data. Cladding failure threshold curves are given for pressurized water reactor (PWR) and boiling water reactor (BWR) hot reactor conditions and for BWR cold conditions (these accidents will not occur in cold PWRs). The results show that cladding failure might occur at energy levels well below those currently assumed in Regulatory Guide 1.77 (Assumptions used for Evaluating a Control Rod Ejection Accident for PWRs). However, neutronic analyses have been performed for a range of light water reactor conditions with NRC's Purdue Advanced Reactor Core Simulator 3-dimensional neutron kinetics code, developed by Purdue University, and these analyses demonstrate that sufficient energy cannot be inserted in the fuel rods to reach the new cladding failure thresholds. Without cladding failure, coolable geometry is ensured and steam explosions cannot occur, thus indicating compliance with General Design Criterion 28 (Reactivity Limits). This conclusion applies to Zircaloy-2, Zircaloy-4, Zirloy, and M5 cladding alloys as well as to UO₂ and mixed oxide fuel, all of which were included in the database.

Westinghouse Owners Group Common-Cause Failure Workshop

On March 16-17, 2004, RES staff participated in a common-cause failure (CCF) data workshop sponsored by the Westinghouse Owners' Group (WOG). About 15 users of the Agency's CCF

April 2, 2004

ENCLOSURE C

Database were present. The purposes of the workshop were to: discuss the review of the 2002 CCF events, better understand how CCF events were selected, understand the basics of CCF analysis, and share experiences in using the CCF Database.

Feedback regarding the database was very positive. Participants stated that the database has been useful and appreciated the face-to-face discussions on event coding and demonstration of the software. Suggestions by licensees for enhancing the database were provided and these suggestions will be formalized in a WOG letter to the NRC. The WOG stated that it would like to continue to participate in the quality assurance reviews of the CCF events.

Stabilizing the Probability Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality Expectations and Requirements

On March 24, 2004, NRR and RES staff held a second public meeting to present a draft of the staff's action plan for the phased approach introduced in the Staff Requirement Memorandum, COMNJD-03-0002 "Stabilizing the PRA Quality Expectations and Requirements," and to solicit feedback from stakeholders. This meeting was attended by licensees, nuclear vendors, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and consultants. A draft version of the action plan was discussed and the major feedback included concerns on the staff position of assigning a low priority to staff reviews for applications where the licensee's PRA scope is not supported by currently available standards; it was expressed that the staff position will serve as a disincentive to licensees to be pro-active in developing broader scope PRAs, and concerns were expressed with the needed industry resources to achieve Phase 3. Several attendees expressed the desire to have more time to review the draft plan to provide comments before it is finalized.

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) meeting on Stabilizing the PRA Quality Expectations and Requirements

On March 25, 2004, NRR and RES staff met with the ACRS Subcommittee on PRA to solicit comments on the staff's draft action plan for the phased approach introduced in the SRM COMNJD-03-0002 "Stabilizing the PRA Quality Expectations and Requirements." The feedback from the ACRS was, in general, favorable. Some concerns were raised which included: the staff's plan if the standards developing organizations do not develop a needed standard and that the plan does not clearly indicate that technical issues that are essential to accomplishing Phase 3 are recognized as essential such that their schedule is tied to the Phase 3 schedule. The staff will brief the ACRS, full-committee, in April 2004 and again when the action plan is finalized.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Health Physics Society's Symposium on the Three Mile Island Accident

On March 29, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) presented the opening presentation at the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the Health Physics Society's 25th Anniversary Symposium on the Three Mile Island Accident. The location of the symposium was the Three Mile Island training facility. About 75 symposium participants presented utility, State, local, and Federal perspectives of the accident.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-III-04-004, D.C. Cook Unit 1 - SHUTDOWN OF D.C. COOK UNIT 1 FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS, Amendment 3, Revision: Confirmation of Effective Date (AH25 - Part 72)

On March 31, 2004, a document confirming the March 31, 2004, effective date of a direct final rule revising the NAC International NAC-UMS (Amendment 3) cask system listing of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 16769).

Acquisition Training for Project Managers

On March 29, 2004, the Division of Contracts conducted the Overview Refresher course for 30 participants. This half-day workshop satisfies the requirement that Project Managers receive refresher training every three years to maintain their Project Manager certification. Presenters included staff from the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), the Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR), and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Also, on March 29, OGC conducted the Organizational Conflict of Interest (COI) Workshop for 17 participants; and on March 30, the Division of Contracts conducted the Closing Out the Contract Workshop for 16 participants. These two workshops are two of the twelve workshops offered under the Acquisition Certification and Training Program. The COI is one of five core mandatory workshops required for certification.

Best Workplaces for Commuters Program

On March 24, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Transportation recognized NRC as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters for providing our employees with outstanding commuter benefits which meet the National Standard of Excellence and help reduce traffic and air pollution in the community. NRC joins a nationwide effort of more than 1800 employers representing more than 800,000 employees to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and fuel consumption through the provision of commuter benefits. The Best Workplaces for Commuters program began in 2000 to address the impacts of growing traffic congestion and traffic-related pollution across the country. The program was highlighted as an effective tool to address environmental, energy, traffic congestion, and safety concerns.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

New Contract Awarded for Electronic Information Exchange

On March 26, 2004, the General Services Administration (GSA) and Northrop-Grumman Information Technology (NGIT) agreed to a new contract for the upgrade and maintenance of NRC's Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system. The original EIE system was designed to provide proof of concept and pilot services for the electronic submission of digitally signed documents to the NRC. The new contract will provide for the re-engineering of the EIE system to better align with the Agency's Enterprise architecture and new requirements of the electron rule (E-Rule) and High Level Waste and result in a more robust and efficient process.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of March 26 through April 1, 2004:

Contract NRC3303341, basic contract	FOIA/PA-2004-0179
Wackenhut Corporation. (or Wackenhut Services Inc.) correspondence between NRC from 1-1-2000 to 3-25-2004	FOIA/PA-2004-0180
Office of Inspector General (OIG) 02-A-14, Review of Security at NRC's Headquarters, 8-15-2002	FOIA/PA-2004-0181
Vermont Yankee's Power Uprate Project, conversations between named Entergy and named NRC staff on 1-8-2003, all documentation	FOIA/PA-2004-0182
Office of Investigation (OI) Report 4-2002-001, Inspection Report 030-07710/01-001, EA-03-126, transcript of Pre-Enforcement Conference of November 18-19, 2003, all records	FOIA/PA-2004-0183
Vermont Yankee's Power Uprate, discussions between General Electric named individuals and NRC on 1-22-2003	FOIA/PA-2004-0184
SECY-99-006, December 17, 1998 comments from Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) to general counsel & January 19, 1999 comments from ASLBP to the Commission re: hearing process & Atomic Energy Act	FOIA/PA-2004-0185
Eighty-first meeting of the Working Group/Cabinet Committee to combat terrorism, April 1975 (Referral by Department of State)	FOIA/PA-2004-0186

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Arrivals		
Tracey Denning	Senior Information Management Analyst	OCIO
Susan Dickerson	Team Leader	RES
Emmanuel Omotosho	Student IT Specialist (Co-Op)	NSIR
Darani Reddick	Legal Intern	OGC
Ronald Rolph	Health Physicist	R-I
Selim Sancaktar	Reliability and Risk Analyst	RES
Retirements		
Anthony J. Dipalo	Senior Project Manager	NMSS
Teresa Darden	Senior Health Physicist	R-I
Gerald R. Klingler	Senior Reactor Operations Engineer	NRR
James Liberman	Special Counsel	OGC
Louis L. Wheeler	Senior Project Manager	NRR
Departures		
Randall Brown	Agency Safety and Health Manager	HR
Brian Gonsoulin	Criminal Investigator	OI

April 2, 2004

ENCLOSURE I

Office of State and Tribal Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Public Meeting on the National Materials Program (NMP) Pilot Project

On March 31, 2004, NRC staff conducted a meeting to inform stakeholders of the status and progress of the NMP pilot projects and receive feedback on a range of issues involving the NMP. Organizations represented at the meeting included the Health Physics Society, American College of Radiology, Sierra Club, licensees, associations, Organization of Agreement States, Inc.(OAS), and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.(CRCPD). Areas of discussion and feedback included the future structure and framework of the NMP, role and responsibilities of NRC, Agreements States, OAS, and CRCPD, and challenges that must be overcome to make the program a success. The discussion and feedback will be used by the staff in the overall assessment report on the pilot projects for the Commission.

April 2, 2004

ENCLOSURE L

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Media Interest

Office of Public Affairs (OPA) responded to significant media inquiries on the following:

The announcements by two consortia of power companies that they intend to test the NRC's streamlined licensing process for new nuclear power plants.

The Chairman's announcement of sweeping changes in the agency's top management positions.

Controversy over a proposed power uprate for the Vermont Yankee plant.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA provided support at annual performance assessment meetings for the Vermont Yankee, Vogtle and Browns Ferry nuclear power plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-038	NRC Makes New Management Assignments to Expand its Focus on Safety, Security and Preparedness (3/31)
Regions:	
I-04-016	NRC to Discuss Annual Performance Assessment of R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (3/30)
I-04-017	NRC to Discuss Annual Performance Assessment of Limerick Nuclear Power Plant (4/2)
II-04-021	NRC to Hold Open Regulatory Conference to Discuss Surry Nuclear Plant Operations (3/31)
III-04-017	NRC to Meet with Nuclear Management Company to Discuss Performance of Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant (3/29)
III-04-018	New Location for NRC Region III Office Beginning April 5 (3/30)
III-04-019	NRC to Meet with Exelon Generation Company to Discuss Performance of Clinton Nuclear Plant (4/1)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SRM on SECY-04-0044	4/1/04	Proposed Pilot Program for the Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Enforcement Program
Commission Voting Record on SECY-04-0044	4/1/04	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0049	3/26/04	SECY-04-0049 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 19, 2004
2. SECY-04-0045	3/17/04	Final Criteria for the Treatment of Individual Requirements in a Regulatory Analysis

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly, dated March 22, 2004, responds to request for information regarding the findings in an NRC special inspection report issued on December 22, 2003.
2. Letter to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, dated March 22, 2004, responds to request for information regarding the findings in an NRC special inspection report issued on December 22, 2003.
3. Letter to Senator Jeff Bingaman, dated March 17, 2004, responds to concerns about NRC's package certification requirements.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Mississippi Periodic Management Meeting

On March 30, 2004, the Regional State Agreements Officer (RSAO) met with management from the Mississippi Division of Radiological Health to discuss the status of the State's radioactive materials program. In addition, the RSAO and program management met with the Director for the Office of Health Protection to discuss the NRC's Agreement States program and the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP). Since the Division's realignment to the Office of Health Protection six months ago, management support for the program has improved. One vacancy in the radioactive materials section was filled in December 2003 and permission has been granted to fill the other vacancy. The Division anticipates that this position will be filled in the next few months. No performance issues were identified during the meeting. The next IMPEP review for the Mississippi program is scheduled for FY2005.

April 2, 2004

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of March 29 - April 2, 2004, the Regional Office held the NRC ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the H. B. Robinson, Surry and Vogtle nuclear plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Honeywell International, Inc.

On March 28, 2004, the Honeywell uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois, began ore preparation operations. The NRC had informed Honeywell on March 26, 2004, that the NRC had no objection to the restart of ore preparation operations based on the improvements made at the facility and the NRC's inspection results.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 2004

TXU Energy, Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station

Wes Taylor, the President of Production, TXU Energy, announced his retirement effective March 31, 2004. He will remain with the company in a consulting role through the end of this year. No replacement has been named.

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, Wolf Creek Generating Station

Wolf Creek Generating Station announced a significant organizational realignment involving two additional Vice President positions at the site. Britt McKinney, formerly Site Vice President, has been appointed Vice President Oversight. Donna Jacobs, formerly Plant Manager, has been appointed Vice President Operations and Plant Manager. Mark Larson, formerly Controller-Treasurer, has been appointed Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer.

Entergy Operations, Inc., Arkansas Nuclear One

On April 1, 2004, the NRC Region IV Regional Administrator traveled to Arkansas Nuclear One to present NRC license certificates to recently licensed reactor operators and senior reactor operators.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference Roetech, LLC

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, and selected Region IV and headquarters staff members conducted a closed Predecisional Enforcement Conference on April 1, 2004, in Sheridan, Wyoming. The conference was held with Roetech, LLC., President and Owner to discuss one apparent violation of NRC requirements and to determine whether enforcement action is warranted.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 2, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 52

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Long	04/07/04 SD-342	2:00	Senators Stabenow/Thomas, Federal Bureau of Prisons, GSA, and others	S.346-Establishing a Government-wide Policy Requiring Competitive Bidding in Procurements from Federal Prison Industries	Senators Fitzgerald/Akaka Financial Management, the Budget and International Security Governmental Affairs
Gerke	TBA	TBA	DOE	Final Report by U.S. - Canada Power System Outage Task Force	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Keeling	late April 2154 RHOB	TBA	GAO	GAO Report on the Lack of Continuity of Operations Planning by Federal Agencies	Reps. Davis/Waxman Government Reform
Portner	TBA	TBA	NRC Commissioners and IG	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

Note: Congress is in its Spring recess, reconvening on April 19.