April 29, 2004 SECY-04-0070

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-04-0070 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2004

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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T. Kim, OEDO

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04/29/04	05/03/04

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2004

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.
Contact: T. Kim, OEDO by E-mail: tjk3@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

South Texas Project - Issuance of Exigent License Amendment

By letter dated April 15, 2004, the staff issued license amendments for the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, in response to an exigent amendment request from the STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC). The amendments revise the technical specifications to allow use of alternate means to demonstrate that the requirements of Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 19, Control Room, are met when control room pressures are found to be at positive pressures relative to the adjacent areas, but less than the required differential pressure (1/8-inch water gauge). These amendments supersede Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) No. 04-6-001, which the NRC staff granted to STPNOC on March 23, 2004.

Meeting with General Electric (GE) on Power Uprate Issues

On April 19-20, 2004, the staff met with GE to discuss GE's plans for future Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) power uprate submittals and fuel utilization and to gain a better understanding of the GE's GESTAR accident and transient computer code analysis methodology. Discussions focused on the use of specific models and changes to the GESTAR computer code in performing thermal hydraulic analyses for power uprates. The staff identified areas where information will be needed to supplement the GESTAR analyses results under different fuel operating conditions. The meeting improved the staff's understanding of the computer code analysis methodology, which will be useful for the staff's reviews of future license amendment requests for BWR power uprates.

Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2004-06: Independent Survey of Power-Reactor Licensees

On April 16, 2004, the staff issued the subject RIS to inform all nuclear power reactor licensees that the NRC is conducting a survey to gain insights into the impact of its regulatory activities. The survey will afford licensees with an opportunity to voluntarily and anonymously provide feedback to an independent contractor regarding the NRC's regulatory process. The NRC is seeking survey input from licensee managers that have the most direct interaction with the NRC staff in each of the following areas: operational matters, engineering activities, licensing issues, and overall plant management. This voluntary survey will be available on the Internet at the following address, https://www.bnl.gov/nrr, from May 1-31, 2004; and may either be completed on-line, or downloaded and mailed to the contractor.

Meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

On April 20, 2004, staff members from the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) and the Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs (DRIP) met with representatives of the FAA, Division of the Aircraft Certification Service, Production & Airworthiness. The purpose of the meeting was to learn how FAA performs oversight of the FAA-approved Production Approval Holder and, specifically, how that oversight pertains to their suppliers. This meeting

was requested by NRC as a means of exploring existing oversight methods used by government agencies that might be applicable to the construction inspection program required by Part 52 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Public Meeting on Reactor Oversight Process (ROP)

On April 22, 2004, the DIPM staff hosted a monthly ROP public meeting to discuss: 1) proposed changes to the Significance Determination Process (SDP); 2) status of the proposed Mitigating System Performance Index (MSPI); and 3) process changes associated with ROP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Industry representatives presented a proposal to improve the performance indicator (PI) FAQ process. The staff discussed preliminary ideas and proposals from industry representatives to address the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Action Item associated with improvements to the Barrier Integrity PIs.

Regarding the MSPI, the staff stated that it would follow the Commission's direction to consider creative and practical approaches to find a risk-informed replacement for the Safety System Unavailability Performance Indicator PI -- which would be a modified version of MSPI or an approach different from MSPI. Industry expressed a desire to engage the staff on its concerns with MSPI and that it would like to try to revise MSPI to address the staff's issues before moving on to a different approach.

Update on License Renewal Program Activities

On April 19, 2004, the NRC issued the renewed operating license for H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, for an additional 20 years. Also, on April 23, 2004, the NRC issued the renewed operating license for V. C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1, for an additional 20 years. The staff completed the environmental and safety reviews in accordance with the requirements of Parts 51 and 54 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The staff's review for both Robinson and Summer license renewal applications was completed within 22 months of its receipt of the applications To date, the staff has issued renewed licenses for 25 units and is currently reviewing applications for 17 units.

Public Meeting on Grid Reliability Issues

On April 15, 2004, representatives from NRR and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and other industry representatives and licensees in a Category 2 public meeting to discuss the results of a recent NEI-sponsored survey on grid reliability. NEI presented the results of a six-question survey, as well as additional industry responses to staff questions posed at a previous public meeting on March 4, 2004. NEI indicated that 43 units responded to its survey, of which 16 of the respondents indicated that their units had experienced loss-of-offsite-power (LOOP) events.

INPO presented a summary of INPO's Significant Operating Experience Report (SOER) 03-1, "Emergency Power Reliability." While many aspects and recommendations of this SOER are partially addressed in earlier SOERs as well as other industry and regulatory guidance documents, a key point of SOER 03-1 is that emergency power system failures have continued against the backdrop of increased challenges to electrical grid system stability. The SOER

recommends that existing emergency power system design, operation and maintenance practices be reviewed for common-cause and common-mode failure vulnerabilities, and that emergency power system modification processes apply rigorous controls. INPO also updated the staff on revisions it is considering to SOER 99-1, “Loss of Grid.”

EPRI presented the results of its review on LOOP events at U.S. nuclear power plants and the results of its 2003 survey of configuration risk management (CRM) practices at U.S plants. Conclusions from the CRM survey are that: (1) CRM has been primarily focused on managing risk due to planned or unplanned changes in plant conditions (e.g., operators placing plant components out of service for maintenance); (2) grid reliability issues are addressed in the CRM model; and (3) risk calculations are usually triggered by changes to in-house plant equipment operational or availability status, and not by changes in grid status.

The NRC staff will review this information as part of its effort in developing a grid reliability action plan.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Meeting with Humboldt Bay Licensee

Staff from the Decommissioning Directorate of the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection conducted two public meetings involving the NRC staff and licensee representatives from Humboldt Bay (PG&E) and the licensee's technical support vendors. On April 20, 2004, the licensee and its vendor, HOLTEC, presented information to the staff on a crane design that will be used for lifting and handling spent-fuel dry-cask storage containers. The licensee plans to submit a license amendment request for use of the crane in July 2004. On April 21, 2004, the licensee and the its vendor, AAR, presented information to the staff related to blistering observed on Boral cans used for criticality control in the Humboldt Bay spent fuel pool. Both the licensee and AAR emphasized that the blisters on the Boral cans were not safety-significant. The meeting provided detailed characterization of the blistering and AAR's understanding of the causal mechanism involved. The staff is interested in the phenomenon because of the wide range of Boral applications.

Public Workshop with the Department of Transportation on Recent Revisions to 10 CFR Part 71 and 49 CFR

On April 15, 2004, the Spent Fuel Project Office participated in a joint Public Workshop with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on the recent revisions to 10 CFR Part 71 and 49 CFR. The "Implementation of the New Transportation Regulations" workshop was conducted at NRC Headquarters and provided an opportunity for participants to discuss operational concerns regarding implementing the recently revised transportation regulations. Approximately 100 persons attended the workshop which involved presentations by DOT and NRC staff, as well as roundtable discussions involving representatives from industry and public interest groups. The morning session concentrated on implementation of the recently revised regulations, which become effective on October 1, 2004. A number of implementation questions and concerns emerged and both NRC and DOT committed to providing additional clarification. The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the Part 71 Change Authority issue. In general, there was little support for Part 71 Change Authority, as proposed. The transcript of the workshop will be reviewed by the NRC staff to assist them in providing the Commission its recommendations on the path forward for this issue.

Pre-Application Meeting with Department of Energy to Discuss a New High-Enriched Uranium Transportation Package

On April 16, 2004, the Spent Fuel Project Office met with the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration to discuss the design of Model No. ES-3100, which is a new transport package. ES-3100 is being designed to replace the Department of Transportation Specification 6-M package. DOE plans to submit the Model ES-3100 Safety Analysis Report in September 2004.

Meetings with U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc. Regarding Gas Centrifuge Facilities

On April 13, 2004, staff from both the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response met with representatives from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc., (USEC), and the DOE, in a closed meeting at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site (PORTS) in Piketon, Ohio, to discuss International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards obligations and compliance activities.

On April 15, 2004, staff representatives from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of Enforcement, and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met in a public meeting with representatives from USEC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss USEC's application for its commercial gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility (American Centrifuge Plant), to be sited at the PORTS site in Piketon, Ohio. During the meeting, USEC briefly provided a status of its gas centrifuge deployment effort and described the American Centrifuge Plant application it intends to submit in August 2004. Following the meeting, NRC and USEC addressed questions from a reporter and a DOE official. USEC representative had also brought three boxes to the meeting, containing over 8000 letters of support for the proposed American Centrifuge Plant.

Workshop on the Need of Integral Critical Experiments with Low-Moderated Mixed-Oxide Fuels in Paris, France

On April 14-15, 2004, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards attended the Nuclear Energy Agency/Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (NEA/OECD) Workshop on the Need of Integral Critical Experiments with Low-Moderated Mixed-Oxide (MOX) Fuels at OECD Headquarters in Paris, France. Staff presented a paper on "Licensing Issues Associated with PuO_2 and Mixed Oxide Powder Processes" and participated in the final panel discussions on specific experimental programs to address the apparent deficit in MOX critical benchmarks. Several proposed experimental programs were discussed. The workshop ended without specific recommendations on the proposed experimental programs, deciding instead to focus on developing criteria for evaluating the programs in future meetings.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

ACRS Briefings on Policy Issues Related to Licensing Non-light Water Reactor Designs and Stabilizing the Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Quality Expectations and Requirements

On April 15, 2004, RES staff briefed the ACRS to request a letter endorsing the staff's recommendations proposed in the staff's draft SECY paper on "Policy Issues Related to Licensing Non-light Water Reactor Designs," dated March 28, 2003. The staff summarized the proposed options on integrated risk, and the staff's recommendations. During the briefing, another option was suggested by some of the ACRS members where each reactor module would have to meet the accident prevention risk guideline (i.e., core damage frequency) based on the number of modules, not just the site. The ACRS indicated that it will prepare a letter providing its views on the staff's recommendations.

Also on April 15, 2004, staff members from RES and NRR briefed the ACRS to request a letter endorsing the staff's draft action plan for the phased-approach introduced in the Staff Requirements Memo (SRM) (COMNJD-03-0002 "Stabilizing the PRA Quality Expectations and Requirements"). The ACRS indicated that it will prepare a letter providing its views on the staff's approach.

NRC's Model Boiler Test Facility Fully Operational

A unique model boiler test facility has been commissioned for the NRC international research program on steam generator tube integrity at Argonne National Laboratory. Pre-operational tests confirmed precise control of the facility and operations within design parameters. This facility was designed to produce prototypical operating steam generator secondary side thermal hydraulic and chemistry conditions. Stress corrosion cracking in crevice areas at: a) tube support plates, b) tube sheet, c) under sludge piles, and d) under scales, is a major degradation mode on the secondary side of operating steam generators for those areas where trace chemicals from the bulk water can concentrated by up to 100 million times. Research using the model boiler will provide quantitative information on the physical (water, steam) and chemical conditions in crevices under different heat transfer conditions that exist at various locations in operating steam generators. This information will then be used to conduct stress corrosion crack initiation and growth tests for Alloy 600 and replacement Alloy 690 steam generator tubing under appropriate and realistic environmental conditions experienced in steam generators in the field. Correlations developed from these results, coupled with service degradation experience for Alloy 600 tubing will be used to develop a predictive capability for future service cracking of both current and replacement steam generator tubing materials. This capability will allow NRC to develop regulatory guidance to proactively address the potential cracking of steam generator tubing, particularly the replacement Alloy 690 material.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Solicitation of Proposed Changes (Part 71)

On April 23, 2004, a document soliciting proposed changes to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material (referred to as TS-R-1) was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 21978). The NRC and the Department of Transportation will evaluate the suggestions provided as part of the process for formulating the changes the United States will propose to IAEA as part of the current review cycle. The closing date for submitting proposed changes is June 7, 2004.

Acquisition Training for Project Managers

On April 22, 2004, the Division of Contracts conducted the Overview Refresher course for 29 participants. This half-day workshop satisfies the requirement that Project Managers receive refresher training every three years to maintain their Contract Project Manager certification. Guest presenters included staff from the Office of Administration, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights, and the Office of the Inspector General.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

E-Gov-Line of Business (LoB) Task Force Launched

OMB has initiated a government wide analysis of five lines of business supporting the President's Management Agenda to expand Electronic Government. The five Lines of Business covered by the task-force are: Financial Management, Human Resource Management, Grants Management, Federal Health Architecture, and Case Management. The intent of the task force is to develop business cases for inclusion with the FY 2006 budget submissions. Agencies have been advised to avoid IT investment that might overlap with the LoB program.

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of April 16 through April 22, 2004:

Security clearance records on named individual, 1992-1998	FOIA/PA-2004-0209
Vacancy Announcement RII-2004-001, Candidate Evaluation, & Selection Record (CERT), Executive Resources Board (ERB) records, ERB EEO Review Group members, records, charter; records of one named applicant	FOIA/PA-2004-0210
SECY-99-006, December 17, 1998 comments from ASLBP to general counsel & January 19, 1999 comments from ASLBP to the Commission re hearing process & Atomic Energy Act	FOIA/PA-2004-0211
Vacancy announcements for GG-15 positions FY 02, 03, & 04, records regarding review of selection packages for all GG-15 and SES positions by Executive Resource Board	FOIA/PA-2004-0212
EEO and Diversity Task Force objectives per SECY-03-0203 dated 11/20/03	FOIA/PA-2004-0213
TMI-2 Pressure Vessel Investigation Project, findings & conclusions	FOIA/PA-2004-0214

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Arrivals		
Eliot B. Brenner	Director, Office of Public Affairs	OPA
Daniel Forsyth	Nuclear Safety Intern	RES
Michael Norris	Emergency Response Coordinator	NSIR
Gerald Toms	Consultant	NSIR
Departures		
Renee Ellis	Secretary (OA)	OGC
Dorothy Gauch	Attorney	OGC

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Media Interest

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

The discovery that two fragments of a spent fuel rod were potentially missing at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

The potential for patients who receive radioisotopes during treatment to trigger radiation detection devices that are increasingly used to guard against radiological terrorism (Wall Street Journal article).

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA staff assisted at public meetings regarding Browns Ferry, Sequoyah, Byron and Point Beach nuclear plants, as well as meetings on the Nuclear Fuel Services and Honeywell fuel cycle facilities.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
04-043	NRC Renews License for H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, for an Additional 20 Years (4/19)
04-044	NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Pilot Program for Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (4/20)
04-045	NRC Names Directors of Communications and Office of Public Affairs (4/21)
04-046	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on May 19 Regarding Draft Generic Letter on Containment Sump Issue (4/22)
04-047	NRC Renews License for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1, for an Additional 20 Years (4/23)
Regions:	
I-04-021	NRC Proposes $3,000 Fine Against W.Va. Firm for Failing to Maintain Control of Nuclear Gauge (4/21)
I-04-022	NRC to Discuss Annual Performance Assessment of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant (4/21)
I-04-023	NRC to Conduct a Special Inspection at Vermont Yankee to Look Into Potentially Missing Spent Fuel Segments (4/22)

II-04-033	NRC Approves Restart of Final Stage in Uranium Hexafluoride Process at Honeywell Plant in Illinois (4/17)
II-04-034	NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference to Discuss Apparent Violation at Browns Ferry (4/19)
II-04-035	NRC to Meet with Duke Energy Officials to Discuss Safety Performance at Catawba Nuclear Power Plant (4/19)
III-04-025	NRC to Meet with Exelon Generation Company to Discuss Performance of Quad Cities Nuclear Plant (4/22)
III-04-026	NRC Issues Letter on Performance Improvement Plans for Point Beach Nuclear Power Station (4/23)
IV-04-019	NRC to Meet with Nebraska Public Power District to Discuss Recent Inspection at Cooper Nuclear Station (4/20)

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Memorandum of Understanding

On April 20, 2004, on the margin of the 14th Meeting of the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA) in Tokyo, Japan, Chairman Diaz met with Ms. Linda Keen, President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and exchanged letters to extend the Memorandum for the Exchange of Classified Information Between the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (formerly with the Atomic Energy Control Board) and the NRC.

Renewal of NRC-China NNSA Safety Protocol

On April 23, 2004, NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz met with Vice Minister Wang Yuqing of the China State Environmental Protection Agency, and Director General Li Ganjie of the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), and signed the five-year renewal of the Protocol between the NRC and the NNSA on Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Matters.

Visit of French Parliamentarians

On April 19, 2004, Claude Birraux and Christian Bataille, members of the Parliamentary Office for the Assessment of Scientific and Technological Options, met with Commissioner McGaffigan and senior members of NRC management. The Parliamentarians are visiting the U.S. to update themselves on the U.S. program of high level waste disposal. The discussions at NRC addressed the NRC role in the Yucca Mountain licensing process.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-04-0055	04/07/2004	Plan for Evaluating Scientific Information and Radiation Protection Recommendations
Information Papers		
1. SECY-04-0053	04/06/2004	Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment for Calendar Year 2003
2. SECY-04-0052	04/06/2004	FY 2003 Results of the Industry Trends Program for Operating Power Reactors and Status of Ongoing Development
3. SECY-04-0056	04/07/2004	Semi-Annual Report on Status of Staff Information Technology/Information Management and Business Process Activities in Preparation for the High-Level Waste Repository Proceedings
4. SECY-04-0063	04/19/2004	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending April 9, 2004
Memoranda		
1. M040421	04/21/2004	Affirmation Session: I. SECY-04-0061-Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2), Duke's Appeal of LBP-04-04 (Board Ruling on Standing & Contentions) & the Board's Certified Questions on a Security Contention

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Jim Saxton, dated 04/14/2004, responses to request for information related to NRC's license renewal process.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

2. Louisiana Energy Services, L.P., Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

3. Proposed Rule to Amend 10 CFR 9, Subpart A, Freedom of Information Act Regulations and Subpart B, Privacy Act Regulations - Request for Comments.

4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (5/5/04).

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Commissioner Merrifield Visit to Yankee Rowe

On April 22, 2004, Commissioner Merrifield toured the decommissioning Yankee Rowe Atomic Power Plant in Rowe, Massachusetts, as well as the onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The ISFSI contains 16 shielded canisters of spent fuel and other radioactive waste produced by 31 years of commercial electric power generation. Bruce Kenyon, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC) and Richard Kacich, President of YAEC, discussed the status of decommissioning, offsite waste shipments, and project funding. The Commissioner was accompanied by his Technical Assistant and a member of the Region I Division of Materials Safety Staff. The Director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and a member of his staff were also present.

Vermont Yankee - Special Inspection

A special inspection at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant has been initiated to followup on the issue of potentially missing spent fuel rod segments at the facility. Entergy notified the NRC on April 21, 2004, that two short spent fuel rod segments were missing from the designated location in the spent fuel pool. The segments are about seven inches long and 17 inches long. Both are approximately the diameter of a pencil. These segments had been placed in a special container at the bottom of the spent fuel pool in 1980.

In response to the NRC Resident Inspectors questions about certain aspects of the Entergy's procedure for the annual inventory check of special nuclear materials, Entergy performed a detailed inspection of the location that, according to the Entergy's inventory document, contained the two fuel rod segments. During this inspection, Entergy discovered that the two fuel rod segments were missing from the designated location in the spent fuel pool. Entergy has initiated a detailed search of the spent fuel pool and a review of inventory records.

NRC's Resident Inspectors at Vermont Yankee have been closely following the licensee's efforts through onsite inspection. In addition, a Regional inspector has been dispatched to the site.

The Region has been responding to requests for information from the media, as well as the local, state, and other federal government officials.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. - Licensee Performance Review

On April 20, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator attended a management meeting at the Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS), in Erwin, TN. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the NRC's assessment of the licensee's performance covering the period from January 20, 2003, to January 23, 2004.

Management Meeting with Honeywell International, Inc.

On April 21, 2004, the Deputy Regional Administrator and Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, were at the Honeywell International, Inc., in Metropolis, IL, to attend a public meeting to discuss efforts to improve operational safety performance and emergency preparedness implementation at the Honeywell facility.

Progress Energy Company - Brunswick Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART) Meeting

On April 21, 2004, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, accompanied by the Director of NRR, attended an informational meeting with the licensee management at the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant in Southport, NC, regarding the upcoming OSART.

Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Annual Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 19-23 2004, the Regional staff conducted ROP Annual Assessment Meetings for the Browns Ferry and Sequoyah nuclear plants. The meetings were held at or near the nuclear plants and were open to the public.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Shearon B. Harris Public Meeting

On April 20, 2004, representatives from Carolina Power and Light Company, the licensee for the Shearon B. Harris Nuclear Plant, were in the Regional Office to attend a public meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Regional management with an update of the status of the Harris fire protection program.

Meetings with Representatives from States of North Carolina and South Carolina

On April 20-21, 2004, the State Liaison Officer, accompanied by representatives of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response and the NRR Emergency Preparedness Project Office, met with senior State officials in Raleigh, NC and Columbia, SC. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss items of mutual interest with respect to Federal and State incident response activities.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

End-of-Cycle Performance Assessment Meetings

During the week of April 19, 2004, the Regional Administrator and members of the regional staff held end-of-cycle performance assessment meetings for the Perry and Point Beach nuclear power plants. The meetings, which were open to the public, were held in the vicinity of each of the plants.

Point Beach Confirmatory Action Letter

On April 21, 2004, Region III issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to Nuclear Management Company, documenting the company's performance improvement program for the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station and describing the agency's plans to inspect and evaluate the implementation of the improvement program.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

Diablo Canyon - County Board of Supervisors Approve Fuel Storage Facility Plan

On April 20, 2004, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approved plans to build an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) facility at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The NRC issued a license authorizing the ISFSI on March 22, 2004. Several appeals had been filed against the ISFSI, citing lack of public access, seismic, and terrorism concerns. Following the board's decision, the Mothers for Peace announced that they would appeal the decision to the state Coastal Commission.

South Texas Project (STP) Unit 2 - Emergency Diesel Generator Restoration

On April 22, 2004, the licensee restored the inoperable emergency diesel generator at STP Unit 2 to an operable condition, following successful completion of a special sequence of tests performed to demonstrate operability. The engine had suffered a major failure on December 9, 2003, when a connecting rod failed, resulting in significant collateral damage. A Technical Specification amendment had been issued, allowing continued operation of STP Unit 2 with compensatory measures in place until the emergency diesel generator was restored to an operable condition.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 23, 2004

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 55					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	04/27/04 2165 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Security of DOE Nuclear Facilities	Reps. Souder/Cummings Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Government Reform
Long	04/28/04 SD-342	10:00	TBA	Government Purchase Cards	Senators Collins/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Portner	TBA	TBA	NRC Commissioners and IG	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works